



Congressional Record

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House of Representatives

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No. 35

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo called the session to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The session is called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Please rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

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

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mme. Speaker, may I move for the deferment of the calling of the roll.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.
The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we now proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 3929, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ZAMBOANGA CITY STATE POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lobregat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3930, entitled:

“ANACTESTABLISHINGADRUGREHABILITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF AMLAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE NEGROS ORIENTAL REHABILITATION CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sagarbarria

TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 3931, entitled:

“ANACTCREATINGTHE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND DEFINING ITS FUNCTIONS”

By Representative Sagarbarria

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3932, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, LOCATED IN BARANGAYS BUNOG, IRAAN, PUNTA BAJA, CAMPONG ULAY ANDRANSANG OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF JOSE P. RIZAL, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, AS AGRICULTURAL LAND OPEN TO DISPOSITION FOR AGRICULTURAL, COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES”

By Representative Abueg
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 3933, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING DEVELOPERS OF PROPOSED CONDOMINIUM PROJECTS TO DEVELOP AN AREA FOR SOCIALIZED HOUSING, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4726 ENTITLED ‘THE CONDOMINIUM ACT’ ”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 3934, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994 OR THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 3935, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BALUNTAY - DOMOLOK - TAMBAN - NAGPAN ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ALABELAND MALUNGON, PROVINCE OF SARANGANI INTO A NATIONAL SECONDARY ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Pacquiao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3936, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ON-SITE, IN-CITY OR NEAR-CITY RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM FOR INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES, AND IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MANDATING THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS PROVIDE LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE AND OTHER BASIC SERVICES, AMENDING FOR THE

PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992’ ”

By Representative Bag-ao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 3937, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A SYSTEM OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR ADDRESSING THE NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE PROVIDING FOR ITS PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Bag-ao
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

House Bill No. 3938, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Bag-ao
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

House Bill No. 3939, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, RENAMING IT AS THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE COUNSEL, REDEFINING, EXPANDING, RATIONALIZING AND FURTHER PROFESSIONALIZING ITS ORGANIZATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Fortun
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3940, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF PHILIPPINE PASSPORT TO TEN (10) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996’ ”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 3941, entitled:

“AN ACT DEVOLVING THE REGULATORY AND FRANCHISING POWERS OVER THE OPERATION OF MOTORCYCLE-FOR-

HIRE, OR HABAL-HABAL TO CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 447 AND 458 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Durano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 3942, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A REVISED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE CHAPTERS I AND II OF TITLE II OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Salon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 3943, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE IMPORTATION, MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF CHILDREN’S TOYS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES, CHILDCARE ARTICLES AND OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS CONTAINING HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Salon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 3944, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ILIGAN CITY NATIONAL SCHOOL OF FISHERIES (ICNSF) INTO THE ILIGAN CITY POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE (ICPSC) DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Siao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 3945, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND DEFINING ITS FUNCTIONS”

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

House Bill No. 3946, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO GMA NETWORK, INC. (FORMERLY REPUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC.) UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7252 ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE REPUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES’ FOR TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT”

By Representative Enverga
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 3947, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE COCONUT RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION CENTER IN THE SOUTHERN LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Enverga
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 3948, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING ADDITIONAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO ALL BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Enverga
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3949, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING LOCAL HEALTH BOARDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 102 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Enverga
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 3950, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO INFORMATION ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN GUARANTEED UNDER SECTION SEVEN, ARTICLE THREE OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION AND THE STATE POLICY OF FULL PUBLIC

DISCLOSURE OF ALL ITS TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING PUBLIC INTEREST UNDER SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT, ARTICLE TWO OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 3951, entitled:

“AN ACT ENSURING THE FUNDAMENTAL EQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN RELATING TO MARRIAGE AND FAMILY RELATIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 14, 96, 124, 211 AND 255 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Aglipay-Villar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 3952, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISPLAY OR ADVERTISEMENT OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS’ NAMES AND PHOTOS IN ALL GOVERNMENT PROJECTS, SERVICES AND VEHICLES”

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

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 436, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINA JIU-JITSU GOLD MEDALISTS MARGARITA OCHOA AND ANNIE RAMIREZ FOR CAPTURING GOLD MEDALS ON THE ON-GOING 2016 ASIAN BEACH GAMES (ABG) IN DANANG, VIETNAM”

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

House Resolution No. 437, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS TO LAY DOWN THE GENERAL GROUND WORK FOR A NATIONAL TEN-YEAR FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Resolution No. 438, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TO MAP OUT INSTITUTIONALIZED ALTERNATIVE ACADEMIC AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 439, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE NDRRMC, PAGASA AND PHIVOLCS TO SUBMIT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES A JOINT COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON THE NATION’S PREPAREDNESS FOR NATURAL CALAMITIES BEFORE AND AFTER THEIR OCCURRENCES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING AN EFFICIENT AND SYSTEMATIC NATIONAL SCHEME OF REDUCING RISKS TO LIVES AND PROPERTIES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 440, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF ATTY. SANTIAGO P. RESPICIO, FORMER VICE-GOVERNOR OF ISABELA PROVINCE AND THIRD DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE”

By Representatives Albano and Garcia-Albano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 441, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY AND INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10586, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING ACT OF 2013, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PURSUING ITS FULL AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION”

By Representatives Suansing (H.) and Suansing (E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 442, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN

INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED NEED TO SUPPORT THE LIFTING OF QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON RICE TO BETTER ATTAIN NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND TO REVIEW FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8178, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE AGRICULTURAL TARIFFICATION ACT OF 1996”

By Representatives Suansing (H.) and Suansing (E.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 443, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING SPEAKER PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ THROUGH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KARLO B. NOGRALES TO RESTORE THE BUDGET OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS (NCCA) TO THE 2016 LEVEL WITH AUGMENTATION FOR ADDITIONAL THIRTY-ONE (31) PERMANENT POSITIONS”

By Representatives De Venecia, Singson (E.), Castro (F.L.), Quimbo, Cayetano, Garcia (G.), Garin (S.), Macapagal-Arroyo, Sema, Andaya, Suarez, Marcos, Atienza, Relampagos, Lagman, Ocampo, Limkaichong, Escudero, Alonte-Naguiat, Salo, Vergara, Ortega (V.), Elago, Bagatsing, Martinez, Garcia (J.), Herrera-Dy, Lazatin, Violago, Aggabao, Abad, Arcillas, Chavez, Romero, Bondoc, Roa-Puno, Abayon, Palma, Acharon, Tiangco, Lopez (M.), Bataoil, De Vera, Pichay, Sacdalan, Pacquiao, Suansing (H.), Dimaporo (M.), Teves, Deloso-Montalla, Gonzales (A.D.), Del Mar, Salceda, Lopez (B.), Savellano, Ty, Defensor, Ferrer J., Yu, Labadlabad, Nava, Dalipe, Garbin, Campos, Bautista-Bandigan, Ungab, Acosta-Alba, Antonio, Ferriol-Pascual, Ong (H.), Roque (H.), Gullas, Eriguel, Ortega (P.), Go (M.), Belmonte (J.), Malapitan, Maceda, Belaro, Ermita-Buhain, Noel, Castelo, Fernando, Sagarbarria, Gonzales (A.P.), Hofer, Crisologo, Mercado, Bordado, Suansing (E.), Bolilia, Bag-ao, Sarmiento (E.), Romualdez, Casilao, Tinio, Velasco, Erice, Cagas, Lopez (C.), Zubiri, Calixto-Rubiano, Acop, Nieto, Mangaoang, Cortuna, Dimaporo (A.), Tugna, Vargas-Alfonso, Cua, Roman, Santos-Recto, Bertiz, Sy-Alvarado, Estrella, Robes, Rodriguez (I.), Ramirez-Sato, Baguilat, Biazon and Romualdo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Resolution No. 444, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SCHOOL-BASED IMMUNIZATION OF TETRAVALENT DENGUE VACCINE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC”

By Representative Tan (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 445, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO IMMEDIATELY DIRECT MANILA WATER COMPANY AND MAYNILAD WATER TO SPECIFY WATER CONSUMPTION CORRESPONDING TO THE AMOUNT OF BASIC CHARGE AS A PROTECTION FOR THEIR CUSTOMERS/ CLIENTS/END-USERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 446, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SUBMIT ITS FINAL PROPOSAL ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS’ PROBLEM OVER LAND TITLES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 447, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING HOUSE COMMITTEES ON TRANSPORTATION AND GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO JOINTLY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, DIRECT THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE AND LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD TO DRAW UP AND SUBMIT URGENT AND ULTIMATE PLAN OF ACTION ON THE PERENNIAL GRIDLOCK AT EDSA AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES BY BUS OWNERS OR COMPANIES INIMICAL TO PUBLIC INTEREST AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 448, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO ISSUE AN APOLOGY FOR THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY ITS MILITARY FORCES AGAINST THE FILIPINO PEOPLE DURING THE PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR OF 1899-1901 AND THE IMPOSITION OF U.S. COLONIAL RULE”

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

House Resolution No. 449, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CREATING A COMMITTEE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 450, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THE KALAPATI FESTIVAL OF BARANGAY HOLY SPIRIT, QUEZON CITY”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Resolution No. 451, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MMDA) TO BARE MASTERPLAN TO RENDER THE METROPOLITAN PREPARED FOR THE IMMINENT MEGA-QUAKE AS FORECASTED BY PHIVOLCS DECLARING THAT THE WEST VALLEY FAULT TRAVERSING ACROSS METRO MANILA IS RIPE FOR A POSSIBLE STRONG EARTHQUAKE”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 452, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN ONSITE INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, REGARDING THE MULTIPLE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT RESULTING FROM THE ENCAMPMENT OF THE ELEMENTS OF 50TH INFANTRY BATTALION-PHILIPPINE ARMY IN THE ANCESTRAL DOMAIN OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY IN

AG-AGAMA, WESTERN LUBUAGAN, KALINGA”

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

House Resolution No. 454, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO RATIONALIZE, STREAMLINE AND EXPEDITE THE REQUIREMENTS AND FEES FOR INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Resolution No. 455, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO PROBE INTO POSSIBLE MASSIVE ECONOMIC EMPLOYMENT IN THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE (PCSO) SMALL TOWN LOTTERY PROGRAM FOR SURRENDERED DRUG USERS”

By Representatives Suarez, Atienza, Arcillas, Bertiz, Bravo (A.), Campos, Cortuna, Del Rosario, De Vera, Eusebio, Lee, Ferriol-Pascual, Roque (H.) and Salon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 456, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN URGENT INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADING ACTIVITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE”

By Representative Jalosjos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 457, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE LTFRB TO CONDUCT THE IMMEDIATE RECALIBRATION AND RESEALING OF TAXI-METERS NATIONWIDE PURSUANT TO ITS CONSOLIDATED DECISION DATED MARCH 08, 2016”

By Representative Laogan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Resolution No. 458, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE SENSELESS MURDER OF ENGR.

MAXIMO S. ROXAS, JR., GENERAL MANAGER OF DAVAO DEL NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., AND DIRECTING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION THEREON”

By Representatives Velasco and Uybarreta
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER
AND SAFETY

House Resolution No. 459, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF HONORABLE VICTORIA HERNANDEZ REYES, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE THIRD DISTRICT OF BATANGAS DURING THE TWELFTH, THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH CONGRESSES”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas, Suarez and Collantes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 460, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF HONORABLE SANTIAGO P. RESPICIO, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE THIRD DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA DURING THE EIGHT, NINTH AND TENTH CONGRESSES”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas, Suarez and Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Reps. Salvio B. Fortuno, Ronald M. Cosalan, Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D., Eric D. Singson, Francisco Jose F. Matugas II, Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo, Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso, Milagrosa “Mila” T. Tan, Danilo E. Suarez, Isidro S. Rodriguez Jr., Benjamin C. Agarao Jr., Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta, Jesus “Boying” F. Celeste and Johnny Ty Pimentel for House Joint Resolution No. 4;

Rep. Juliette T. Uy for House Bills No. 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 1159, 1161, 1163, 1165 and 1166;

Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr. for House Bill No. 3112;

Rep. Makmod D. Mending Jr. for House Bills No. 3556, 3557 and 3632;

Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe for House Bills No. 153, 583, 1171 and 1520;

Reps. Rodolfo C. Fariñas and Lucy T. Gomez for House Bill No. 1894;

Rep. Teodoro “Ted” G. Montoro for House Bills No. 3392 and 3655;

Rep. Ronaldo B. Zamora for House Bills No. 516 and 1859;

Rep. Benjamin C. Agarao Jr. for House Bills No. 475 and 1208 and House Resolutions No. 16 and 17;

Reps. Christopher “Toff” Vera Perez De Venecia, Len B. Alonte-Naguiat, Victoria Isabel G. Noel, Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Sandra Y. Eriguel, M.D., Pablo C. Ortega, Anna Katrina M. Enverga, Lianda B. Bolilia, Rosanna “Ria” Vergara, Ron P. Salo, Mark O. Go, Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Divina Grace C. Yu and Ana Cristina Siquian Go for House Bill No. 139;

Reps. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Sandra Y. Eriguel, M.D., Pablo C. Ortega, Mark O. Go, Ron P. Salo, Anna Katrina M. Enverga, Lianda B. Bolilia, Len B. Alonte-Naguiat, Vilma Santos-Recto, Glona G. Labadlabad, Ana Cristina Siquian Go, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma and Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez for House Bill No. 2576;

Rep. Pablo C. Ortega for House Bills No. 533, 534, 535, 2774, 2775 and 2926;

Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento for House Bills No. 533, 534, 535, 2775 and 2926;

Reps. Arlene B. Arcillas, Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta, Elisa “Olga” T. Kho and Emmanuel A. Billones for House Bill No. 1859;

Rep. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles for House Bills No. 3351 and 3353;

Rep. Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga for House Bills No. 3518, 3519 and 3520;

Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. for House Bills No. 1859 and 3420 and House Resolution No. 328;

Rep. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy for House Bill No. 3317 and House Resolution No. 393;

Reps. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Juliette T. Uy and Orestes T. Salon for House Bill No. 555;

Reps. Antonio R. Floirendo Jr., Johnny Ty Pimentel, Robert Ace S. Barbers, Manuel F. Zubiri, Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon, Roger G. Mercado, Mauyag “Jun” B. Papandayan Jr. and Jericho Jonas B. Nograles for House Bills No. 2691, 2692, 2693, 2694, 2695 and 2696;

Rep. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr. for House Bills No. 2691, 2692, 2694 and 2695;

Rep. Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño for House Bill No. 1859 and House Resolution No. 393;

Rep. Micaela S. Violago for House Bill No. 3218;

Reps. Francis Gerald A. Abaya and Alex “AA” L. Advincula for House Bills No. 3419 and 3420;

Rep. Kaka J. Bag-ao for House Bill No. 3420;

Rep. Roger G. Mercado for House Bills No. 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bill No. 3815;

Rep. Arnel U. Ty for House Resolution No. 393;

Rep. Richard C. Eusebio for House Bills No. 208, 209 and 1916;

Rep. Roy M. Loyola for House Bill No. 3185;

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas for House Bill No. 3955;

Rep. Napoleon S. Dy for House Bills No. 1859, 3457, 3458, 3459 and 3509 and House Joint Resolution No. 4;

Reps. Dale “Along” R. Malapitan, John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto and Ramon C. Nolasco for House Bill No. 3777;

Reps. Roger G. Mercado, Ann K. Hofer, Vincent “Bingbong” P. Crisologo, Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr., Victoria Isabel G. Noel, Gerald Anthony “Samsam” V. Gullas Jr., Arnel U. Ty, Alexandria P. Gonzales, Johnny Ty Pimentel, Francisco Jose F. Matugas II, Len B. Alonte-Naguiat, Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Christopher “Toff” Vera Perez De Venecia, Benhur B. Lopez Jr., Michael L. Romero, Ph.D., Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III, Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Ron P. Salo, Salvador B. Belaro Jr., Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno, Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Eugene Michael B. De Vera, Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D., H. Harry L. Roque Jr. and Luis Jose Angel N. Campos Jr. for House Bill No. 3955;

Rep. Delphine Gan Lee for House Bill No. 3312; and

Rep. Jerry P. Treñas for House Bill No. 51.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letters dated September 16, 20 and 23 and October 5, 2016 of Roger E. Dino, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas issuances, to wit:

1. Circular No. 924 dated 7 September 2016;
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2016-075 dated 5 September 2016;
3. Circular No. 925 dated 13 September 2016;
4. Circular Letter No. CL-2016-076 dated 8 September 2016;
5. Memorandum No. M-2016-012 dated 8 September 2016;
6. Circular No. 926 dated 13 September 2016;
7. Circular Letter No. CL-2016-077 dated 14 September 2016;
8. Circular Letter No. CL-2016-078 dated 22 September 2016;

9. Circular Letter No. CL-2016-079 dated 22 September 2016;

10. Circular Letter No. CL-2016-080 dated 23 September 2016; and

11. Memorandum No. M-2016-013 dated 27 September 2016.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated September 26, 2016 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson, Commission on Audit, transmitting copies of the 2015 Annual Audit Reports (AARs) and Managements Letters (MLs) on the following government agencies:

A. Consolidated AARs:

1. Department of Public Works and Highways;
2. Road Board (MVUC Funds);
3. Department of Transportation and Communications; and
4. Department of Tourism.

B. Individual AARs:

1. Energy Regulatory Commission;
2. Intramuros Administration;
3. National Parks Development Committee;
4. Toll Regulatory Board;
5. Philippine Coast Guard;
6. Civil Aeronautics Board;
7. Office of Transportation Cooperatives; and
8. Office of Transportation Security.

C. Management Letters:

1. Maritime Industry Authority; and
2. Department of Energy.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated September 28, 2016 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson, Commission on Audit, transmitting a copy of the 2015 Annual Financial Report for the Government-Owned and/or Controlled Corporations (Volumes I and II).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated September 29, 2016 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson, Commission on Audit, transmitting a copy of the 2015 Annual Financial Report for the National Government (Volumes I and II).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Dep. Majority Floor is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I now move that we acknowledge the presence of our guests from the municipality of Diadi, province of Nueva Vizcaya, the Municipal Mayor Norma U. Miguel, ABC President Salvacion Gile, and their contingent.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). We also have other guests, Mme. Speaker. May we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D. from the COOP-NATCCO Party-List. They are the officials and employees of the Cooperative Development Authority and members of various cooperatives in the country.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Welcome to the House of Representatives as you visit to hear the privilege speech of Congressman Bravo. *(Applause)*

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, with leave of the House, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I now move that the Gentleman from the Party-List COOP-NATCCO, the honorable Rep. Anthony M. Bravo, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Hon. Anthony Bravo is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BRAVO (A.)

REP. BRAVO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Dep. Majority Leader.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, I rise today to honor the men and women of the Philippine cooperative movement as we commemorate the National Cooperative Month with the theme, "Cooperatives: The Catalyst of Change Through Poverty, Eradication and Social Transformation."

Cooperatives have always been a partner of the government in fighting poverty and inequality. For more than 100 years now, since the first cooperative law was enacted, cooperatives have been operating in every corner of the archipelago, Mme. Speaker. The promotion of cooperatives may not have been a top priority of the past administrations, but the cooperative sector has been autonomously working towards the growth and development of cooperatives through the years.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, we acknowledge and appreciate the new administration for recognizing the role and the potential of the cooperative sector. On June 28, 2016, right after assuming office, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Executive Order No. 1, which placed 12 agencies, including the Cooperative Development Authority, under the Office of the President, to enhance programs aimed at reducing poverty in the country. The cooperative movement is elated by this action of the President, as we believe that the government sees the relevance of our cooperatives as a significant driver of the 10-Point Socio-economic Agenda of the Duterte Administration. Hence, this humble Representation believes that the cooperative sector must be strengthened through the infusion of various government support mechanisms, including legislative policies conducive to cooperative growth and development.

Mme. Speaker, a cooperative, as defined in Article 3 of Republic Act No. 9520, otherwise known as the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008, is:

an autonomous and duly registered association of persons, with a common bond of interest, who have voluntarily joined together to achieve their social, economic, and cultural needs and aspirations by making equitable contributions to the capital required, patronizing their products and services and accepting a fair share of the risks and benefits of the undertaking in accordance with universally accepted cooperative principles.

In other words, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, our cooperatives are member-owned enterprises that are not after maximizing profits but rather, are operating to address the social, economic and cultural needs of the members. Cooperatives offer a business model that contributes to the socio-economic development of every member-owner and the community. The success and sustainability of a cooperative depends on a strong and abiding relationship with its member-owners, thus, cooperatives are underpinned by the values of democracy, honesty, equality and solidarity. As of June 2016, there are about 26,243 cooperatives registered with the Cooperative Development Authority, with a massive membership of 13.7 million, Mme. Speaker. These cooperatives are spread in all 18 regions.

I believe, Mme. Speaker, that some of our colleagues in this honorable assembly are members of cooperatives. Many of our employees in the House of Representatives are members of the House of Representatives Multi-Purpose Cooperative or HRMC. The HRMC has a very good financial standing, Mme. Speaker, with total assets of P200 million and loan portfolio of P116 million. It plans to put up a business center inside the Batasan Complex, and I firmly hope

that the Congress leadership will be supportive of this endeavor. The HRMC is just one of the thousands of cooperatives enjoying tax privileges, Mme. Speaker. That is why loan interests offered by cooperatives are way lower compared to loan interest rates in commercial banks and of course, those loan sharks that sipped the money of our poor people.

The CDA reported that the total assets of reporting cooperatives as of December 2015, Mme. Speaker, amounts to P278.3 billion. This amount only represents the assets of 9,926 reporting cooperatives as of December 2015. Mme. Speaker, cooperatives that transact only to its members and those with accumulated reserves and undivided net savings of not more than P10 million may be tax exempt, but cooperatives help the government in its tax collection efforts. In fact, cooperatives withheld taxes amounting to P3.9 billion in 2015 and this went to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Cooperatives promote economic activity and contribute to the food security of Filipinos. We are present in different sectors: in agriculture, cooperatives operate as producers cooperatives, dairy cooperatives, agrarian cooperatives, farmers cooperatives, fishermen cooperatives, and marketing cooperatives. This type of cooperation helps individual farmers, fisherfolk and small entrepreneurs in addressing economies of scale, thus, reducing their production costs and enhancing value-chain participation.

The Cooperative Development Authority or CDA reported out that there are 7,421 agricultural cooperatives in the country. Most of their members are farmers and fisherfolk who are deprived of livelihood and economic opportunities. These are the sectors that belong to the poorest of the poor, Mme. Speaker. Cooperatives are also present in the service and utility sectors. We have housing, water service, labor service, transport service, electric and health service cooperatives providing cheaper alternative but quality services to our countrymen, most especially in the rural areas. While majority of our cooperatives provide credit and other financial services to their members, we have 6,770 multi-purpose cooperatives that offer a wide range of products and services. As they say, cooperative services range from womb to tomb. Cooperatives run hospitals, schools, cooperative banks, pharmacies and even funeral care services, as such, from womb to tomb. Guided by cooperative values and principles, the cooperative movement builds communities, develops skills and expertise, provides employment and develops local leadership in rural and urban areas. According to the CDA data for 2015, cooperatives directly employed 520,758 Filipinos and generated indirect employment of 1,923,047 individuals.

Cooperatives support and empower the most vulnerable sectors of our society such as women, youth and persons with disabilities to participate

in economic activities, Mme. Speaker. To sum up the significance of cooperative enterprises, Mme. Speaker, I am proud to say that our cooperatives serve as catalysts for local and national development and as instruments for people empowerment. The cooperative movement continues to work together to promote cooperativism in the country. Convergence efforts are done to address the pressing issues faced by the sector. Every year, a National Cooperative Congress is initiated by the CDA. This is a government-led coop congress. The cooperative movement led by the Philippine Cooperative Center also initiates a National Cooperative Summit every three years. Meanwhile, the Philippine Cooperative TEAMshop is conducted by the Cooperative Development Councils every two years. These cooperative convergences, Mme. Speaker, provide venues for cooperatives, government and other stakeholders to collectively address the various concerns and challenges faced by the sector as well as to celebrate milestones.

While vital factors in cooperative success such as access to capital, networking and linkages, and improvement of cooperative governance are addressed in these forums, Mme. Speaker, several challenges still confront the sector, and this humble voice of the cooperative movement believes that this is because of the lack of supportive legal framework for cooperative growth and viability. One glaring problem is the fact that majority of our cooperatives remain in the category of micro and small. In the CDA Vision 2020, an integrated and comprehensive plan for cooperatives, it states that there is imbalanced cooperative development. While 91 percent of our cooperatives are micro and small, they only own 13 percent of the aggregate assets of the cooperative sector, while the nine percent medium and large cooperatives control the 87 percent of cooperative assets. To simply illustrate, Mme. Speaker, billionaire and millionaire cooperatives are only a few but they control the biggest chunks of cooperative resources. This is no different with the socio-economic structure in the country.

While this august Body already amended the implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act No. 9520 in the previous Congress and allowed the streamlining of reportorial requirements for cooperatives and training requirements for cooperative officers for micro and small coops, I still believe that we need a comprehensive policy reform that will promote upscaling of micro and small cooperatives. Another challenge faced by cooperatives, Mme. Speaker, is the difficulty in securing a Certificate of Tax Exemption from the BIR since the passage of the law.

My office has been receiving several complaints from the cooperatives that their application for CTE or Certificate of Tax Exemption remains pending with the agency because of numerous requirements being asked by the BIR when, in fact, these cooperatives

have already complied with the requirements set forth in the Joint Rules and Regulations implementing Articles 60, 61 and 144 of Republic Act No. 9520 or the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008 in relation to Republic Act No. 8424, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code such as: a) certified true copy of the Certificate of Registration issued by the CDA under the new Cooperative Code; b) a certified true copy of the Articles of Cooperation and By-Laws of the Cooperative; c) certified true copy of the current Certificate of Good Standing from the CDA; and d) a copy of the BIR Registration of the Cooperative.

There are only four documentary requirements being required as defined by the Implementing Rules and Regulations but unfortunately, Mme. Speaker, the BIR required some more in addition to this. Mme. Speaker, the BIR regional offices have different interpretations of the tax provisions of the law and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. The BIR is making it difficult for our cooperatives, and I would like to believe that some opportunistic employees of the agency purposely impede the issuance of the CTE so they could engage in red tape and corrupt practices and we have documents to attest to this claim, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, we in the cooperatives sector believe that the Duterte administration is serious in its anti-corruption stance in the government. We hope that the red tape in the BIR will stop so our cooperatives could do their business well. Another threat to cooperatives is the imminent plan of the government to repeal the tax exemptions of cooperatives, Mme. Speaker. The rationalization of fiscal incentives is one of the priorities of the government, according to Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez. The Fiscal Incentives Bill is in fact re-filed both in the Senate and in this assembly. While this proposed measure, Mme. Speaker, honorable colleagues, has good intentions, the specific provision that seeks to repeal Articles 60 and 61 of the Philippine Cooperative Code or Republic Act No. 9520 will affect the well-being of the cooperatives and threatens their sustainability.

We oppose such provision as we believe that the tax treatment of cooperatives should not be the same as that for usual businesses. I reiterate, Mme. Speaker, cooperatives are people-based enterprises. Cooperatives are not profit-driven. Whatever earnings obtained by the cooperatives are given back to the members, who are the owners, in the form of dividends. Cooperatives deserve to be exempted from government-imposed taxes to level the playing field to ensure sustainability and to contribute to inclusive growth.

Mme. Speaker, the full development of the cooperative sector is hindered by the lack of budgetary support to the CDA through the years. The CDA is the sole government agency mandated to regulate cooperatives, Mme. Speaker. Since the passage of the

new Cooperative Code of 2008, wherein the agency was mandated to re-register all cooperatives and perform enhanced regulatory and supervisory functions, the appropriations for the CDA remain dismal.

In 2010, the agency was appropriated P267.5 million. It was decreased to P257 million in the following year. The CDA budget from 2012 to 2016 increased a bit: P321 million in 2012; P332 million in 2013; P320 million in 2014 and 2015; and P329 million in 2016. This amount, Mme. Speaker, is so meager given the volume of functions it has to perform to make sure that the operations of cooperatives are sound and they remain financially stable and socially responsive. For Fiscal Year 2017, Mme. Speaker, the CDA originally proposed an P838-million budget but the DBCC only approved P429 million.

While the CDA is very passionate to perform not only its regulatory services but also its developmental services, this amount, Mme. Speaker, is not enough to meet the targets of the agency. That is why this Representation proposed during the deliberations on the CDA budget that it should be increased by at least P200 million. These are the challenges the sector currently faces, Mme. Speaker.

May I therefore appeal to this august Body, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues. The cooperative sector has a huge potential to uplift the quality of life of Filipinos and to contribute to the social transformation and nation-building, but as long as there is minimal support from the government, these problems will persist.

The ASEAN economic integration brings opportunities as well as challenges for the cooperative sector. It brings fresh opportunities for the sector to play a major role in the supply and value chain not only in the Philippines but also in ASEAN countries, Mme. Speaker. However, the challenge is how our cooperatives, majority of them micro and small, could compete with large businesses.

Recently, President Duterte was elected Chairman of the ASEAN 2017 in Laos. In his acceptance speech, he said that the Philippines' chairmanship would highlight the association as a model of regionalism and a global player with the interest of the people at its core. Next year, our country will host the ASEAN Summit. We are hopeful that supportive policies to make growth inclusive for micro, small and medium enterprises, including cooperatives, will be tackled in the Summit.

At this point, Mme. Speaker, I urge the government to implement a comprehensive policy framework towards the viability and sustainability of our cooperatives. Toward this end, I strongly recommend the following:

First, I call on President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to strengthen the Cooperative Development Authority. Since it is already under the direct supervision of the

President, I hope that the flow of budgetary support will impact the cooperative movement. The sector would be happy if the President appoints a presidential adviser for cooperatives who would come from the cooperative sector itself.

Second, I appeal to this august Chamber to support the inclusion in the General Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2017 our proposed amendments to the General Provisions and Special Provisions on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Philippine Coconut Authority, National Irrigation Administration, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and Department of Trade and Industry on the preferential treatment of cooperatives as enshrined in Article 62 of Republic Act No. 9520, which only one agency, the Department of Education, was able to comply with. I commend the Department of Education for giving cooperatives the preferential treatment in the procurement of basic educational facilities.

Third, I encourage Congress to pass a legislation that will warrant the creation of a cooperative apex body which will serve as a unifying force for the cooperative sector. The cooperative apex body will be similar to the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and will be the official body recognized by the government on matters of policy and support programs of the government.

Fourth, I likewise encourage Congress to pass proposed legislations such as the Cooperative Development Charter Act, the mandatory appointment of cooperative officers in every local government unit, the cooperative representation in the Board of the Land Bank of the Philippines, and the Cooperative Banking Act.

Fifth, we need to strengthen our agricultural cooperatives as much as we want our farmers and fisherfolk be taken out of subsistence poverty. Mme. Speaker, honorable colleagues, I encourage you to support the proposed measures that seek to provide free irrigation services to farmers and higher indemnity rates for crop insurance.

Sixth, Congress should investigate the noncompliance of BIR to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9520 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Lastly, Mme. Speaker, for and in behalf of the cooperative movement, I would like to register our strong opposition to repeal the cooperative tax exemption and other privileges stipulated in Articles 60 and 61 of the Cooperative Code. Such provisions should be scrapped from the proposed Fiscal Incentives Bill.

This administration wants to take nine million Filipinos out of poverty after six years. Cooperatives, as a partner in poverty alleviation, would gladly participate in this thrust of the government, Mme. Speaker, honorable Members of this Chamber.

Thank you very much and good afternoon to everyone.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The speech is referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, next to be recognized is the Gentleman from the First District of Camarines Sur, the honorable Rep. Rolando G. Andaya Jr., to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Congressman Andaya is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ANDAYA

REP. ANDAYA. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker. Allow this Representation, my dear colleagues, to deliver a short reminder to everyone this very dark and dreary afternoon.

This Representation took the floor a week ago when an executive order was signed by the President increasing the combat allowance of our police and military to P3, 000. A little math would translate that to P12 billion next year. Much to the dismay of this Representation, after checking with the DBM, I found out that the P12 billion for next year is not part of the NEP. So, wala ho doon. We signed the executive order to give P12 billion to our soldiers and policemen, but it is not actually there in the 2017 proposal. Okay lang ho iyon. What is P12 billion amongst coequal bodies? Maybe you can scrounge for it, find it somewhere, the P12 billion. But it happened again.

Yesterday, I heard the news, I heard our President saying that on his trip to China, he will be seeking for funding, which I agree he should do, from the Chinese government for educational or infrastructure projects and school buildings. That is good. The problem is, if our President is successful and he brings home the goodies, he will not be able to spend the money because I have checked again our NEP and it is not there. I have been calling the DBM the whole day to ask them if it is there, but what I got was a deafening silence. Kapag ganoon ho iyong sagot, ibig sabihin noon, wala iyon doon.

Ang problema ho rito, it is becoming a practice that a lot of projects, or two now to my count, have been announced or will be implemented without even as much as a notification to Congress, na akala ko

ba, tayo ho iyong nag-aaprub ng badyet. Nakadalawa na ho. Sabagay, okay naman lang ho iyon. Walang problema ho iyon, but if there is something we could learn from recent history, ganito rin ho iyong nangyari noong nakaraan e, mga five years ago. May project na-i-implement dito, walang may alam. May project na-i-implement doon, walang may alam, until suddenly, it got so big and somebody brought that case to the Supreme Court and it was declared unconstitutional.

The same thing is happening now.

Hindi ko naman ho sinasabing unconstitutional iyong nangyari ngayon. Ang hinihingi ko lamang ho, Mme. Speaker, ay bigyan naman ho ng kaunting pagtingin iyong Kongreso. Nasa atin pa naman ho iyong budget, hindi pa natin naaaprubahan. But twice it has happened that major programs are to be implemented next year which were not planned, which were not even thought of when the budget was being crafted—maybe, a simple letter or a notification, through the Committee on Appropriations, on how these projects will be implemented.

Let me now jump, Mme. Speaker--force of habit ho kasi—to the other side of the fence. Allow me to express my support to my former boss, our present Secretary of Foreign Affairs Perfecto Yasay. He was my former boss, and I agreed with him fully when he stated that alliances cannot be carried out with the perpetual dependence on another country. Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues, I have had the chance to deal with the different international funding agencies. Let me share with you where our Foreign Affairs Secretary is coming from. There are different kinds of aid that we receive, and one is a program loan. Lahat ho iyan, incidentally, dumadaan sa budget; wala ho diyan ang hindi dadaan sa budget. Everything that comes in, whether foreign or local, goes through the budget.

A perfect example of a foreign or program loan is the CCT. Originally, iyong CCT ho ang tawag diyan, Ahon Pamilyang Pilipino. That was, if I am not mistaken, implemented on a very small scale as compared to its present funding. Its initial funding was around P50 million which, if I am not mistaken, covered only two provinces and a few municipalities. We were given by the World Bank an ADB funding for the CCT. What is not known to everyone was, at the same time when we were experimenting with the CCT as a noble idea, the most developed country in the world and our ally, the United States of America, was also experimenting with the very same concept of CCT and that was in New York City under the stewardship of Mayor Bloomberg. The only difference was, he refused to use public funds.

New York's version of the CCT or Ahon Pamilya was called Opportunity NYC. They experimented with the same system that we adopted. While we were experimenting, here comes our good friend, the World Bank, whose biggest donor is the United States of

America, offering us x amount in millions or billions of pesos to fund the CCT while New York City refused to even fund it using public funds. They wanted to experiment using private funds, which they did. After three years, they stopped. To quote Mayor Bloomberg at that time, his assessment of Opportunity NYC, in very general terms, he said "It was a failure." They had so many studies about it, recommendations, but until now they have not revived the conditional cash transfer in New York City.

Anong koneksiyon ho sa atin niyon? Iyon palang panahon na alam na ng World Bank na palpak iyong sistema sa NYC, bakit pa ho pinalaki nang pinalaki pa iyong utang para sa atin? Bakit hindi man lang tayo sinabihan na, "Hoy, dito sa bansa mismo namin kung nasaan iyong headquarters namin, palpak pala ang CCT. May mga challenges pala na kailangang malampasan." What were the challenges? The first one that Mayor Bloomberg said was, "It was just too complicated." That is the very same reason that the Commission on Audit is saying now. There are so many unliquidated funds. Hindi ko ho sinasabing nawala o ninakaw iyong pondo. Sinasabi ko lang, mahirap iyong sistema. Kung alam mo na palang mahirap, bakit hindi mo sabihan iyong taong pinapautang mo na mayroon palang problema? Hindi e. Alam naman ho natin, even if it is called program loan, sa Tagalog ang tawag sa program loan, utang. Kapag may utang, may kumikita.

So, iyon ho ang sistema roon. That is the perfect example of CCT. Saan naman ho kayo, ngayon, nakakita na utang iyan at babayaran natin ho ng napakatagal, hindi pa ho bayad iyong utang, ha, at babayaran pa natin iyan sa mga darating na taon. Pero ngayon, iba naman ang sinasabi ng World Bank na, "Uy, para makabayad kayo ng utang, kailangan ayusin ninyo iyong tax system ninyo, kailangan taasan ninyo iyong buwis ninyo sa gasoline, kailangan taasan ninyo ang VAT at kailangan tanggalin ninyo ang exemption sa mga senior citizens at sa mga taong may kapansanan o mga PWD."

Bakit ganoon? Parang baliktad yata. Kapag utang na galing sa kanilang pagkakakitaan, okay lang na ipamigay mo iyong pera sa naghihirap, ke matanda siya, ke bata--"bigyan mo ng pera. Utang iyan, e, babayaran naman tayo niyan. Pero kapag babayaran ninyo kami at kukuha kayo ng pambayad para sa amin, walang mahirap dito, walang senior citizen dito. Lahat kayo magbayad ng buwis dahil babayaran ninyo kami sa pagkakautang ninyo sa amin." Tama ba iyon, Mme. Speaker?

That is an example of how one country perpetuates dependence on another. Isa pa hong ehemplo, project loans. Project loans are loans which are supposed to be for the construction of major infrastructure projects na hindi ho—sana o daw—kaya ma-implementa ng mga local contractor. Alam ninyo ba, Mme. Speaker, these are loans na babayaran ng Pilipino pero ang puwede

lang mag-participate sa mga proyekto na ito ay mga banyagang kompanya. In these loan agreements, only foreign companies are allowed to participate. Hindi puwede ang Pilipino. Bakit? Ang sabi ho nila, dahil iyon daw mga Pilipino contractors, iyong mga engineers daw na mga Pilipino, mga arkitekto na mga Pilipino, mahinang klase raw. E bakit ho may mga BPO na ngayon dito? Bakit ho iyong mga arkitekto at inhinyero na mga Pilipino, iyon po ang ginagamit ngayon ng mga foreign companies? Kinikilala iyong galing ng ating mga arkitekto, mga engineer. Pero pagdating ho sa pag-implementa ng mga utang, e, “Wala kayo, mahina kayo.” At papaano naman ho lalaban iyong mga local contractor e sa pag-import lang ho ng mga makinarya, ang laking buwis ang binabayaran natin? Pero iyong mga foreign contractor, ayon po sa kasunduan, ay VAT-exempt or tax-exempt ang kanilang mga equipment. Kaya hindi talaga ho magiging pantay, at hindi po talaga ho kahit kailanman magiging kapantay ng mga Pilipino ang mga banyagang korporasyon kung ganyan ang papairalin na patakaran. Pangalawa, at malamang kakaunti lang din sa inyo ang mga may alam, alam ninyo ba ang sistema ng pag-bid ng project pagdating sa foreign-assisted projects? Ang alam natin at pinaka-praktikal na pamamaraan ng pagbi-bid, siyempre, iyong pinakamababang presyo at pinakamagandang kalidad, iyon ang nananalò. Natural, hindi ba? Sa kanila, baliktad. Kahit pinakamataas ka, puwede kang manalo. Now, in my almost 50 years—hindi, 45 years lang pala—of existence, hindi ko pa rin makuha iyong logic noon. Until now, I do not see the logic on how you can award the contract to the highest bidder. Mahirap ho iyon. I still cannot, at this point in time, hindi ko pa din ho makuha.

Lastly, the other kind of aid we receive is called G-to G contract which is a government-to-government contract. An example would be ito pong nakukuha natin na mga surplus, ukay-ukay na mga military equipment galing po sa ating Big Brother—the United States of America. Okay ho iyon. Ang hindi ko lang maintindihan, bakit binibigay sa atin lagi iyong luma at karag-karag na? Kung talagang kayo ho, magkapatid tayo at kuya ka, iyong mas nakakabata mong kapatid, kapag ibinigay mo naman siguro iyong lumang t-shirt mo sa kanya dahil napaglumaan mo na, hindi mo naman siguro pinapabayad pa iyong kapatid mo.

Ganoon ho ang nangyayari rito e. This military hardware, in accounting parlance, nag-depreciate na ho many times over. Ang value nito sa libro, zero, na-depreciate na; year in and year out, na-depreciate na ho iyan. Wala na hong balor iyan sa libro nila. Bakit pagkakakitaan pa? Kung talagang magkakampi tayo, bakit pagkakakitaan mo pa kung talagang gusto mong tulungan ang iyong nakaliliit na kapatid? At saka kung tutulungan mo siya, bakit iyong luma ang ibinigay mo? Bigyan mo na lang ng armalite na bago. Tingnan mo

iyong mga baril ng ating sundalo at pulis—luma, kulang. Bakit ba pinipilit ninyo iyong mga tangke at barkong luma na hindi naman kailangan iyon? So, maybe, from that point of view, I agree with the sentiments of our President and I agree with the statement of our Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay.

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. ATIENZA. We would like to ask some questions from the Gentleman who is very knowledgeable on the topic that he has brought up, but we feel, marami po siyang hindi masyado pang naipaliwanag. Para po naman sa kaliwanagan ng isipan ng lahat ng mga Miyembro natin, with his permission, Mme. Speaker, the Floor Leader, we would like to interpellate.

REP. ANDAYA. Kung papayag ho iyong dating boss natin. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). If the Gentleman from Camarines Sur will agree.

REP. ANDAYA. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Gentleman from the Party-List BUHAY is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat po. Ang kagalang-galang na Kongresista na nagbigay sa atin ng napakahalagang impormasyon ay tatanungin ko lang ng ilang katanungan sapagkat naniniwala ako sa kanyang kaalaman. He is an expert on all of these matters that he has brought out in the open, and it is time that we in Congress look into his allegations.

Ito po bang mga conditionalities sa mga perang supposedly ibinigay o ipinautang sa atin ay, sa tingin ninyo, detrimental to national interest?

REP. ANDAYA. Not necessarily detrimental ho, Mme. Speaker, but I think that at this point in time, we could have have a better deal, a fair share, shall we say. We have been overly dependent on these traditional funding institutions. Alam ninyo ho, sa sobrang daming beses na nating lumuhod sa kanila at humingi ng pondo—I am sure the former DENR Secretary has had the chance to visit World Bank and IMF, and I am sure when you got there, iyong kausap mo, hindi iyong secretary ang kakausapin mo o kung sino lang

na opisyal. Hindi mo man lang nakausap, sigurado ako, Mme. Speaker, iyong kapwa mo Cabinet Secretary. Totoo ba iyon?

REP. ATIENZA. Sa pagtugon ko ay aaminin ko na mayroon talagang provisions ang anumang salapi na gagamitin natin na nanggagaling lalo na sa World Bank. From my own personal experience, tama po iyong sinabi ninyo. The highest bidder, many times, is awarded the contract. Even if you object, they will insist.

REP. ANDAYA. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. You might even get a call from Washington informing you of their decision. In other words, nari-reverse iyong ating batas—the lowest bidder should be winning, especially if they are offering better equipment—pero sa kalakalan ng salapi na nagmumula sa mga ahensiya, ito ay baligtad. Maski na pinakamataas iyong bid, kapag ito ay hindi ninyo inaprubahan, hindi naman mari-release iyong inyong salapi na pambayad doon sa inyong proyektong iyon, kaya ko nasabing against national interest. Biro ninyo ...

REP. ANDAYA. If I may, if you would recall, the bidding process is actually done at the local level but kung sino man ho iyong nanalo, the term is, it is up for confirmation ng World Bank. Kung hindi nila na-confirm iyong nanalo sa sina-suggest po ng local department ay wala rin hong mangyayari.

REP. ATIENZA. Kaya nga po, hindi po ba talagang iyan ay frontal violation of our bidding laws and procurement laws, and also detrimental to our government policies noong nakaraang administrasyon where you and I played major roles. Marami pong pagkakataon na nakausap ko kayo at sa palagay ko, naisumbong ko sa inyo iyong isang kaso na ang nanalo iyong highest bidder. Ang nanalo, of course, iyong lowest bidder pero hindi po inaprobahan ng World Bank. They insisted that we get the highest bidder simply because it was an American company.

So, I am concurring with you, Honorable Andaya, that this is against national interest. Bakit pa tayo magpapatumpik-tumpik? Pinag-uusapan natin nang hayagan ay violation po ito ng ating mga batas at violation ng ating kagalingan. Imagine, we are paying for the highest bidder simply because it is dictated by the lending authority or the lending fund, the World Bank. Sabi nga ninyo, baka hindi kayo makausap ng hepe. In my case, no. I got a call from Washington telling me that they would rather that this particular bidder be awarded the contract which they have supported with funds. Palagay ko, naisumbong ko sa inyo iyan e noong one of our Cabinet meetings and you said, “Wala tayong magagawa diyan.” So, that is why I appreciate

it that you have taken up this issue on the floor of the Philippine Congress. It is time that we wake up. We cannot continue relating with any lending authority, institution or country, for that matter, if they are not in favor of us following our own laws. Iyon po ba ang inyong pinupunto which I would like to support?

REP. ANDAYA. Opo. Idadagdag ko lang ho, noong panahon ng administrasyon ho ng ating Chair ngayon, pinilit ho natin na i-adopt ng World Bank iyong atin pong batas on procurement reforms. Pinipilit ho natin sa kanila, in fact, kung may kaunting patakot pa tayo noon, na hindi tayo kukuha ng loan sa kanila kung hindi ho susunod sa ating mga alituntunin. Nagkaroon tayo ng kaunting compromise noong panahon na iyon. They agreed that contracts worth P500,000 and below, kahit po pondong galing sa kanila, pumapayag na sila na gamitin ho iyong Procurement Act ng gobyerno. Ewan ko lang ho ngayon, after 15 years, mukhang wala na. Pati yata ang P500,000, wala na. Balik na naman ho tayo sa dating sistema na kahit pinakamataas kang bidder, puwede kang manalo.

Siguro, it is about time that the whole Congress be aware collectively of this and then push our Executive Department for a reversal. Nagawa na ho ito sa ibang bansa na pumayag ho sila na sa paggugol ng pondo ng bayan, i-adopt iyong batas noong recipient country. Ano ba ang napaiba sa atin? Pareho din naman tayo sa kanila, nagbabayad din naman tayo ng utang. So, I think it is about time na itulak na ho natin. At totoo na noong panahon hong naisangguni ninyo sa akin ito, ang sagot talaga doon is “Wala tayong magagawa dahil hindi po sila sakop ng ating Procurement Act.”

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, I join the Gentleman from Camarines Sur in his efforts to disengage from this kind of relationship that our President seems to be now trekking on and reflected in the statements of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs. This may be the best time for the Philippine Congress to consider that when we are borrowing, we should not allow our country to be subservient to the agenda of the institution lending the money, whether it is coming from Europe or coming from the United States. Dahil ito pong conditionality na binabanggit ninyo, aside from the financial consideration, ay mayroon pong napakalaking mapanira o insidious conditionality on every loan that we are given by the World Bank and other institutions controlled by the Western world. Mayroon pong conditionality na hindi tayo bibigyan ng pera kung wala pong birth control component iyong programa.

You talked about program to program. One of the major provisions of any program for us to get the money is for us to include a population control component. Nabanggit ninyo iyong CCT, yes, we are getting money

from them, but one of the major conditions of this fund is for the Philippine government to push, promote and even force our women to commit to birth control. Otherwise, there is no continuation of negotiations.

Kaya po, kung pag-aaralan po natin ang mga pera ngayong ginagamit natin sa CCT at kung papaano ginagamit ito ng Social Welfare office ngayon, ang major component nito ay turuan ang mga inang mahihirap na huwag nang magbubuntis sapagkat sila ay patuloy daw na maghihirap kung hindi sila magkokontrol ng dami ng anak.

I say it is insidious because this is not only against national interest, but it is also against the future of our country. If every cent that is allowed to come into the country will force a mother to learn how to use contraceptive materials, even those damaging to her good health like Implanon, like all of these pills which cause abortion to women, Filipino women, e hindi po tayo talaga makikinabang dito sa ganitong uring relasyon.

So, I join you in your call for a greater awareness on our part when we borrow money, even money for the poor like the CCT funding which has a very strong, forceful component, that if the Philippines does not promote birth control, the money will not flow in.

Kaya nga po, ngayon, ang bawat benipisyaryo ng CCT ay kinakailangang dumaaan sa isang seminar daw kung saan tuturuan sila na gumamit noong Implanon which is damaging to the good health of our women. This is for the knowledge of all our women Members of Congress. Let us not allow the poor women or women coming from the poor sections to be victimized by this kind of conditionality. Kung magpapautang, magpautang. Huwag silang magbibigay ng kondisyon na kailangan a-atend sila sa seminar, magre-report sa local Social Welfare office, at kung hindi—ito pa ang pinakamalaking milagro—ay babawasan ang kanilang mga benipisyo.

I asked on the floor and I asked in the committee meetings, saan napupunta itong mga so-called “fines” na ito? Alam ba ninyo na kapag hindi nag-atend ang isang babaeng benipisyaryo, P500 ang ibinabawas agad? Five hundred pesos out of P1,500 due the beneficiary is one-third; and when you ask the Social Welfare people, saan napupunta itong mga fines na ito, ay wala pong maisagot kung hindi “kokompiyutin po namin.” Iyan ang pinanggalingan din ng corruption, Mme. Speaker. They are destroying the good health of our mothers and women and at the same time, causing corruption within the ranks of the Social Welfare office of the nation.

Kaya sasamahan ko kayo dito sa ating paggising sa ating bansa at sa pagtulong sa bagong direksiyon ng ating gobyerno—huwag tayong tatanggap ng pera na mayroong conditionality na hindi po tugma sa magandang kinabukasan ng ating bansa, bagkus, salapi na ipinautang sa atin ay bumabalik din sa kanila.

I want everybody to know that there is such a thing as a program, a national agenda, coming from the United States Department and that is to control the growth of the Philippine population. Iyan po ay nakatala sa isang dokumento na kung tawagin ay National Security Study Memorandum. Ang sinumang interesado ay bibigyan ko ng kopya para po naman kayo ay mabigyan ng additional information sa inilahad ng ating Congressman from Camarines Sur. Gumising tayo sa katotohanan. Tayo ay—hindi lamang tayo pinagluloloko, ginugulangan at ginagago sa ating pag-asa sa kanilang salapi.

Let us look at other sources and countries which will not put in conditionalities wherein the highest bidder should win the award and for us to kowtow and follow their program of destroying the foundations of the Philippine society— a strong family and a growing population. Iyan po ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa, iyan ang magdadala sa atin sa tagumpay ng ating ekonomiya, not from the World Bank, but coming from our own efforts and our own resources.

Congratulations, Congressman Andaya. I believed in you then; I believe in you even more. Congratulations.

Salamat po, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ANDAYA. Maraming salamat po. Just to close that point ...

REP. MARCOLETA. Mme. Speaker.

REP. ANDAYA. Honorable Atienza, tama ho iyong ano ninyo, iyong may masasama hong intensiyon, hindi ho nagtatagumpay iyan, katulad ng sinasabi ninyo. Dahil noong panahon ho natin, kung naaalala ninyo, iyong mga pinadalang contraceptive, lalo na iyong condom ho na pinapadala noon, iyong mga pinadala sa lalawigan ng Laguna dito ho kay Congressman Chipeco, ang reklamong nakaabot sa amin, hindi rin ho napakinabangan ng mga gumamit dahil masyadong malaki ho, dahil galing Germany iyong mga condom na pinadala. Hindi rin ho napakinabangan, so, wala rin hong nangyari. Hindi nagamit. Pero para hindi ho masayang, sinukat ho namin sa lahat ng probinsiya at sa amin lang pong mga Bicolano nagkasya iyong galing Germany na mga condom. Iba ho kasi, parang—alam ninyo, sa Germany, schublig ho diyan. Sa ibang lugar ho, Vigan longanisa kaya hindi ho nagkasya pero sa amin ho, nagkasya. Ang punto ko ho, totoo iyong sinasabi ninyo, may kondisyon na kalakip ang pera na iyan, pero sa pagkakataon na iyon, hindi po nagamit dahil masyadong maluwig iyong pinadala nilang mga contraceptives.

REP. ATIENZA. Nandito na rin lang tayo, Mme. Speaker, I would like to stress also, noong panahong nakaraan, ...

REP. ANDAYA. Tootoo iyan.

REP. ATIENZA. ... when you and I were playing roles in the administration of the former President, who is now our Presiding Officer, we were fortunate because the President then was not pushing for the destructive practice of condom distribution or using pills, or the distribution of any other abortifacient materials.

Mapalad po ang bansa noong siyam na taon na ang ating Pangulo ay hindi naniniwala na ang bilang ng Pilipino ang sanhi ng kahirapan. Kaya ang akin pong pangamba ngayon, habang tayo ay nagtatalakayan ng ganito, ang ating Pangulo ay naniniwala—ang Pangulo ngayon—naniniwala siya na kapag kumaunti na ang bilang ng Pilipino ay uunlad daw tayo. Hindi po totoo iyon. Hanggang marami po tayong drug addicts, drug pushers, at Secretary of Justice na namumuno sa manufacturing and marketing of drug products, at mayroon po tayong patuloy na corruption ay hindi po magtatagumpay ang sinasabi nila. Maski na dadalawa na lang po tayo ditong natitira, kung nagnanakaw pa ang isa sa atin ay hindi pa rin uunlad ang ating samahan.

Ang kailangan po natin ay tamang pamamahala, tamang programa at matuwid na pangangatwiran dito. Katulad po ng iyong tinuran na huwag tayong paloloko, sapagkat ang panloloko kinakailangang suklian din ng panloloko. Hahantong tayo na puro tayo luko-luko.

Salamat po.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mme. Speaker.

REP. SANDOVAL. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Gentleman is recognized.

REP. SANDOVAL. Will the Gentleman from Camarines Sur yield to some questions?

REP. MARCOLETA. Mme. Speaker.

REP. ANDAYA. Yes, yes.

REP. MARCOLETA. I thought, I was the one—the Majority Leader already recognized me, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Yes.

REP. SANDOVAL. I yield to the Gentleman, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). I will recognize Congressman Marcoleta first. Congressman Rodante D. Marcoleta is recognized.

REP. MARCOLETA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. May I know, Mme. Speaker, if the great Representative from Bicol Region is still in a position to yield to some questions?

REP. ANDAYA. Yes, willingly, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Congressman Marcoleta may proceed.

REP. MARCOLETA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Mme. Speaker, when you were speaking about the CCT experiment in New York City, I was listening intently. You were saying that after the program was instituted in New York City under the leadership of then Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, it was a total failure.

REP. ANDAYA. In his words, Mme. Speaker, it was.

REP. MARCOLETA. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, that was the point. Then it seems that you were bellyaching because despite the fact that it was a failure, the program is a failure in New York City, the World Bank still initiated some kind of a program to lend the Philippines some money in order to try the CCT in this country. Kaya medyo naghihinakit po kayo, alam na alam naman po pala nila na hindi naman pala nagtagumpay sa kanila, e bakit sa atin ngayon ipagpipilitan. Hind po ba iyon ang sinasabi ninyo, Mme. Speaker?

REP. ANDAYA. Iyon ang punto ko. Tama po kayo.

REP. MARCOLETA. Ang ibig po ba ninyong sabihin, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, the Philippines and New York City are two places with similar landscape, meaning to say, New York City is comparable, substantially, to our country. Is that the assumption, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. ANDAYA. In terms of poverty level, one out of five New Yorkers is below the poverty threshold. In that aspect, pareho ho tayo. Halos pareho tayo.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, alam naman po ninyo, at nakailang beses na rin kayong nakapunta ng New York City, na iyong mahirap po sa New York City, hindi po kagaya ng mahirap dito sa atin. Ang ibig ko sabihin, sa New York City, dahil napakarami po at napakamura ng pagkain, kahit na mahirap na mahirap sila, ay talagang kakain pa rin sila. Hindi po puwedeng hindi sila makakain dahil may libre po doon. May mga kupon. Dito sa bansa natin, wala po iyon. That is the basic difference.

Ngayon po, siguro, hindi ko naman po kinakampihan ang World Bank. Kung hindi man nagtagumpay sa kanila, hindi talaga sila mahirap. Ipahiram nga natin ito, baka sakaling magtagumpay sa isang bansa na talagang mahirap naman. Tingnan natin, kung talagang hindi magtatagumpay, tigilan na natin. Doon po siguro dapat tayong maghinanakit.

Kaya lamang po, when you were interpellated by our colleague awhile ago, he was mentioning some conditionalities like the control of population being initiated in the CCT, parang wala naman pong ganoon yata. What I know about the CCT is that there are only two conditionalities, iyon po yata ang pinagmumulan nito, iyong Millennium Development Goals. This is the program which was signed by this Republic way back in September 2000. Ang tawag po noon, Millennium Development Goals, na ngayon na po ay Sustainable Development Goals na matatapos na yata, 2030. Mayroon po bang kondisyon doon na kaya ipinahiram iyong pera sa atin para sa CCT ay para pigilan ang ating population, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. ANDAYA. Wala naman ho doon na nakalagay na pipigilan natin ang populasyon ...

REP. MARCOLETA. E kasi po, kaninang kayo ay ini-interpellate, habang iyong salitang “population” ay idinuduldol sa atin ng World Bank, ay tango po kayo ng tango e. You were continuously nodding, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. It would seem that you are affirming that one of the conditionalities instituted by the World Bank is for us to regulate the population through CCT. We just wanted to correct the impression, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ANDAYA. That is the effect of having women go through an educational process, who are already reeducated in the various forms of contraception, be it an implant, be it condom o ano pa man—that is the side effect, na makontrol po ang populasyon nito. Without necessarily saying so, if you convince the majority of the women to use artificial means of contraception ay natural ho, bababa talaga ang populasyon.

REP. MARCOLETA. Hindi po. We go by the records, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, the two conditionalities of the CCT Program implemented by the government, number one is the achievement of primary education, and number two is the assistance or a maternity benefit for the lactating mothers and pregnant women.

REP. ANDAYA. Maternal health.

REP. MARCOLETA. Iyon lamang po iyong dalawa.

REP. ANDAYA. Maternal health po iyon, kasama ho sa maternal health iyong reproductive health po nila.

REP. MARCOLETA. Pero hindi po para makontrol ang population, but to assist our pregnant women. In other words, para ituloy po iyong kanilang nasa sinapupunan.

REP. ANDAYA. Oho, but at the same time—abortion is not part of the program. The point is, women are being taught or encouraged, I will say, to use other means of artificial contraception. Iyon ho iyong punto na sinasabi po ni Congressman Atienza.

REP. MARCOLETA. Wala po o hindi po nakasulat iyong punto na iyon. Basta ang sinasabi lang, pangalagaan po iyong mga lactating mothers at saka kailangang matulungan po iyong mga nagbubuntis na ating mga kababaihan. Kung saka-sakali po ay mawala iyong bata, hindi na po niya kasalanan iyon. Ang importante po, matulungan sila sapagkat mahirap ang kalagayan nila. Ito lang po ang gusto nating i-correct sa record, otherwise, ay baka mawala po iyong ipinaglaban natin doon sa batas na ngayon ay umiiral na sa ating bansa.

With that, Mme. Speaker, may I thank the Sponsor. Salamat po.

REP. ANDAYA. Thank you po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The session is suspended.

It was 5:15 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:18 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The session is resumed.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move

that we refer the speech of the Honorable Andaya to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The speech is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Privilege Hour is suspended.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the honorable Rep. Lianda B. Bolilia, the Women Coordinating Council of the Fourth District of Batangas headed by its officers namely: Celsa B. Rivera, Teresita Patron, Elizabeth Gutierrez, Teresita Manalo, Patricia Toreja, Lourdes Alvarez, Noralyn Briones and Beth Morpe.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Also, Mme. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the teachers who completed the TESOL Certificate Course in the Claret School of Quezon City. They are the guests of the Hon. Julieta R. Cortuna, namely: Ms. Ruth Balbuena, Ms. Susana Raval, Ms. Mary Easter Santos and Ms. Czeriza Vigilia.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Lastly, Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the staff of the office of the former Congressman Pidi Barzaga, now the Mayor-elect of the city of Dasmariñas. They are Joanne Mata, Jocelyn Padar, Pinky Tadeo, and Tourism Officer Red Alano. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Welcome to the House of Representatives and send our regards to former Congressman Barzaga.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

ROLL CALL

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I now move that we call the roll.

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll.

The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is as follows, per Journal No. 35, dated October 11, 2016.

PRESENT:

Abaya	Belmonte (R.)
Abayon	Benitez
Abellanos	Bernos
Abu	Bertiz
Abueg	Billones
Acharon	Bolilia
Acop	Bondoc
Acosta	Bordado
Acosta-Alba	Bravo (A.)
Adiong	Bravo (M.V.)
Advincula	Brosas
Aggabao	Bulut-Begtang
Aglipay-Villar	Cagas
Akbar	Calixto-Rubiano
Albano	Campos
Alejano	Canama
Almario	Cari
Almonte	Castelo
Alonte-Naguiat	Castro (F.L.)
Alvarez (F.)	Castro (F.H.)
Alvarez (P.)	Celeste
Amante	Cerilles
Amatong	Chavez
Andaya	Chipeco
Angara-Castillo	Co
Antonino	Cojuangco
Antonio	Cortes
Aragones	Cortuna
Arbison	Cosalan
Arenas	Crisologo
Atienza	Cua
Aumentado	Cuaresma
Bag-ao	Cueva
Bagatsing	Dalipe
Baguilat	Dalog
Banal	Daza
Barbers	De Jesus
Barzaga	De Vera
Belaro	Del Mar
Belmonte (F.)	Del Rosario
Belmonte (J.C.)	Deloso-Montalla

Dimaporo (A.)	Macapagal-Arroyo	Romualdez	Treñas
Dimaporo (M.K.)	Maceda	Romualdo	Tugna
Dy	Madrona	Roque (H.)	Turabin-Hataman
Elago	Malapitan	Roque (R.)	Ty
Enverga	Manalo	Sagarbarria	Umali
Eriguel	Mangaoang	Salceda	Unabia
Ermita-Buhain	Mangudadatu (S.)	Salimbangon	Ungab
Escudero	Mangudadatu (Z.)	Salo	Unico
Espina	Marcoleta	Salon	Uy (J.)
Espino	Marcos	Sambar	Uy (R.)
Estrella	Mariño	Sandoval	Uybarreta
Eusebio	Marquez	Santos-Recto	Vargas
Fariñas	Martinez	Sarmiento (C.)	Vargas-Alfonso
Fernando	Matugas	Sarmiento (E.M.)	Velarde
Ferrer (J.)	Mellana	Savellano	Velasco
Ferrer (L.)	Mercado	Siao	Velasco-Catera
Ferriol-Pascual	Mirasol	Silverio	Veloso
Floirendo	Montoro	Singson	Vergara
Fortun	Nava	Suansing (E.)	Villafuerte
Fortuno	Nieto	Suansing (H.)	Villanueva
Fuentebella	Noel	Suarez	Villaraza-Suarez
Garcia (G.)	Nogralas (J.J.)	Sy-Alvarado	Villarica
Garcia (J.E.)	Nogralas (K.A.)	Tambunting	Villarin
Garcia-Albano	Nolasco	Tan (A.)	Violago
Garin (R.)	Nuñez-Malanyaon	Tan (M.)	Yap (M.)
Garin (S.)	Oaminal	Tejada	Yap (V.)
Gasataya	Ocampo	Teves	Yu
Geron	Olivarez	Tiangco	Zamora (M.C.)
Go (A.C.)	Ong (E.)	Ting	Zamora (R.)
Go (M.)	Ong (H.)	Tinio	Zubiri
Gomez	Ortega (P.)	Tolentino	
Gonzaga	Ortega (V.N.)		
Gonzales (A.P.)	Pacquiao		THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mme. Speaker,
Gonzales (A.D.)	Paduano		the roll call shows that 255 Members responded to the
Gonzalez	Palma		call.
Gorriceta	Pancho		
Gullas	Panganiban		THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-
Hernandez	Panotes		Arroyo). With 255 Members responding to the call, the
Herrera-Dy	Papandayan		Chair declares the presence of a quorum.
Hofer	Pichay		The Floor Leader is recognized.
Javier	Pimentel		
Kho	Pineda		REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, under the Calendar
Khonghun	Plaza		of Business for today, I move that we consider House Bill
Labadlabad	Primicias-Agabas		No. 3955, as contained in Committee Report No. 3, and
Lacson	Quimbo		submitted by the Committee on Ways and Means.
Lagman	Radaza		
Lanete	Ramos		SUSPENSION OF SESSION
Laogan	Relampagos		
Lazatin	Revilla		THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-
Lee	Roa-Puno		Arroyo). The session is suspended.
Limkaichong	Robes		
Lobregat	Rocamora		<i>It was 5:29 p.m.</i>
Lopez (B.)	Rodriguez (I.)		
Lopez (C.)	Rodriguez (M.)		RESUMPTION OF SESSION
Lopez (M.L.)	Roman		
Loyola	Romero		<i>At 5:30 p.m., the session was resumed.</i>

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The session is resumed.

Will the Dep. Majority Leader repeat the motion.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 3955
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 3955, contained in Committee Report No. 3, as reported out by the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). 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 Bill No. 3955, entitled: AN ACT MANDATING THE GOVERNMENT TO PAY THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX AND THE DOCUMENTARY STAMP TAX DUE IN ADDITION TO THE JUST COMPENSATION FOR THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY IN THE EXERCISE OF THE STATE'S POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 24 (D) AND 196 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the Chairperson for the Committee on Ways and Means, from the Lone District of Quirino, the Hon. Dakila Carlo E. Cua, be recognized to deliver his sponsorship speech.

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

The Honorable Cua is recognized to sponsor the measure.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. CUA

REP. CUA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Honorable Speaker, fellow legislators, esteemed guests, esteemed government officials, ladies and gentlemen.

The issue of equity in the implementation of infrastructure projects has long posed an obstacle to development, and it is time that we join the effort to solve it. This Bill that we are sponsoring today will allow us to deal squarely with the matter, while creating as well an enabling environment that will facilitate the work of the czars in concerned government instrumentalities such as the Transportation and Public Works and Highways Departments, among others.

Allow me to make use of the subject of right-of-way in roadworks to drive the point. It is one of the bottlenecks in the construction of additional and alternative routes to ease traffic congestion that, in many instances, severely hinder the implementation of infrastructure projects. We, in the Committee on Ways and Means, believe that an innovation in tax administration can aid those whose properties will be affected by roadworks or the so-called "compulsory sellers" in swallowing the hard pill of eminent domain. To do this, we propose that they not be encumbered by paying the capital gains tax and the documentary stamp tax (DST). If persons who sell their real property to the government are not unduly burdened by these taxes, this will make less unwelcome the sale of private properties identified as essential to national development, and will facilitate the government acquisition of private property. Further, the Bill seeks to make government pay the compulsory sellers these capital gains and documentary stamp taxes on top of the just compensation for real property. Once enacted into law, the Bill will amend Sections 24 (D) and 196 of Republic Act No. 8424 or the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997.

The capital gains tax is a tax imposed on the gains presumed to have been realized by the seller for the disposition of its assets. However, we all know that in the exercise of eminent domain, the seller is compelled to sell his property, and the least that the government can do is to pay for the capital gains tax of similar transactions. Following the same logic, the government will include the documentary stamp tax, a tax on documents, instruments, loan agreements and papers evidencing the transfer of an obligation, right or property in its payments to compulsory sellers once the Bill is enacted into law. It strengthens pertinent provisions of Republic Acts No. 10752 and 8974 which provide that the documentary stamp tax, transfer tax and the registration fee due on the transfer of land in the name of the government, shall be shouldered by the agency concerned. The Bill is superior in that it clearly

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

asks the government to pay for the DST on top of the just price of the property, simplifying implementation.

Untangling this taxation knot will contribute to efforts to enhance connectivity to boost trade, security and tourism. While the primordial motivation in implementing infrastructure projects is encouraging an investment-driven economy, we propose that it be eschewed in favor of the people with the least negative impact on affected real estate owners. As these compulsory sellers help us by providing their land for public projects, we aim to indemnify them by lessening the encumbrances on these transactions. Indeed, this measure is for the protection by the government of the people's proprietary rights in instances of expropriation by providing compensation that is more equitable, one that is in keeping with the government's promotion of social justice.

Accordingly, I seek your support to approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 3955 under Committee Report No. 3.

Good afternoon and thank you for this opportunity, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of interpellation is ended.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we now open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is opened.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we now proceed to consider individual amendments.

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

We shall proceed to the individual amendments.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, there being no individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The Chair declares the end of the period of amendments.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 3955. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 3955, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). As many as are against, please say *nay*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 3955

ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 3955 is approved on Second Reading. Congratulations.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 3988

ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 3988, contained in Committee Report No. 4, as reported out by the Committee on Revision of Laws.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). 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.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 3988, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONJUGAL PARTNERSHIP OF GAINS AS THE GOVERNING REGIME IN THE ABSENCE OF A MARRIAGE SETTLEMENT OR WHEN THE REGIME AGREED UPON IS VOID, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 75 OF TITLE IV OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209, AS AMENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 227, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the Chairperson of the Committee on Revision of Laws, from the Sixth District of Pangasinan, the Hon. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, be recognized to deliver her sponsorship speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The honorable Sponsor is recognized for her sponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF
REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, honorable Members of the House, friends, ladies and gentlemen, good evening.

House Bill No. 3988 is a re-filed Bill. It had reached Third Reading before. The Bill seeks to reinstate the system of conjugal partnership of gains as the regime of property relations between husband and wife. Mme. Speaker, as a backgrounder, the provisions of the new Civil Code concerning marriage and family relations had remained relatively constant, if not firmly established, for almost six decades since its adoption in 1950, and for more than 100 years before that under the old Civil Code. However, in view of the effectivity and adoption of Executive Order No. 209, as amended by Executive Order No. 227, the Family Code of the Philippines, a radical change has been made with respect to the aforementioned provision on property relations in marriage, the changes which, if analyzed with careful scrutiny, would have far-reaching ramifications, leading one to question the very wisdom for the change.

A case in point is Article 75, Title IV of the Family Code of the Philippines which states that by virtue of a legal mandate, the property relations between husband and wife shall be under the system of absolute community, which is a far departure from the long-accepted system of conjugal partnership of gains. The system of absolute community as contemplated under

the law, under the new Family Code, partakes of a kind of property relations whereby both spouses upon entering marriage shall become owners in common of all properties they had previously owned individually prior to their marriage. Put simply, the prior separate and personal ownership of each individual spouse's property ceases to exist but shall, henceforth, become common property of the marriage regardless of the size of the contribution or value of the property brought into the marriage by respective spouses. Undoubtedly, from a theoretical standpoint, the system of absolute community would appear to be the most ideal type or mode of priority relations between spouses because it impresses and projects an image of an all-for-one, one-for-all attitude for the marital partnership. It, however, fails to consider the idiosyncrasies of people and that spouses as human beings are only too prone to have human weaknesses and errors.

There are matters worthy of consideration, Mme. Speaker. For one thing, the system of conjugal partnership that has been adopted and practiced for over four decades now has been a generally accepted practice, and, yes, firmly established in our marital institutions and recognized in other institutions as well. It may also be safe to say that no recent trend or current event or development has transpired in our jurisdiction which raises the moral and legal jurisdiction to warrant the change from the well-established system of conjugal partnership of gains to the untried system of absolute community in our marital institution. To effect the change just for the sake of change despite the absence of a riding ground suits no purpose and becomes a needless exercise. The system of conjugal partnership of gains stands on a firm foundation and has withstood the rigors of time, and have been tested and proven.

Under the aforesaid premises, it is therefore proposed, Mme. Speaker, that the provisions of the Family Code on the system of absolute community be revised, and that the system of conjugal partnership of gains be reinstated as the basis of the property relations of our marital institutions.

Mme. Speaker, it is in this light that passage of this Bill on Second Reading is earnestly sought.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is ended.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is opened.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we now proceed to consider individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period for individual amendments is opened.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, there being no individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is terminated.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House, Bill No. 3988.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 3988, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). As many as are against, please say *nay*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 3988 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 3988 is approved on Second Reading. Congratulations.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 477 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, also in the Calendar of Business for the Day, I move that we

consider House Bill No. 477, contained in Committee Report No. 5, as reported out by the Committee on Revision of Laws.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). 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 Bill No. 477, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 23 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE DECLARATION OF THE FIRST PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the Chairperson of the Committee on Revision of Laws from the Sixth District of Pangasinan, Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, be recognized to begin sponsorship of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The honorable Chairperson is recognized for the sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

House Bill No. 477 is a re-filed Bill, and did not reach Third and final Reading in the Sixteenth Congress. This Bill seeks to declare January 23 of every year as a special working holiday to commemorate the first Philippine Republic Day. The significance of January 23, 1898 is that the First Philippine Republic came into being as the sovereign choice of the people. It is a conscious choice to reject a dictatorial and revolutionary government and to establish for all future Filipino generations the groundwork for democracy. It is therefore of much

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

importance that we need to commemorate January 23 of every year as the beginning of Filipino democracy and self-government concluded, as it magnifies the political maturity and readiness of our forefathers at the turn of the century.

Our beliefs and aspirations as a nation, united in pursuit of life, liberty and enjoyment of the benefits of our democracy, are encapsulated by our rich and noble history. I hope that we can give due recognition to this great feat and achievement of our forefathers in commemorating January 23 as a special working holiday.

For this reason, Mme. Speaker, we seek for the approval of the said Bill on Second Reading.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, there being no Members who wish to interpellate, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is terminated.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is opened.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we proceed to consider individual amendments.

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

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, there being no individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is closed.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Second Reading, House Bill No. 477 as contained in Committee Report No. 5.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 477, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). As many as are against, please say *nay*. *(Silence)*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 477 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 477 is approved on Second Reading.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 335 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, under the Calendar of Business for the Day, I move that we consider House Bill No. 335, contained in Committee Report No. 6, as reported out by the Committee on Revision of Laws.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). 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 Bill No. 335, entitled: AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COURT TO REQUIRE COMMUNITY SERVICE IN LIEU OF IMPRISONMENT FOR THE PENALTY OF ARRESTO MENOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CHAPTER 5, TITLE 3, BOOK I OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Macapagal-Arroyo). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the Chairperson of the Committee on Revision of Laws, from the Sixth District of Pangasinan, the Hon. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, be recognized to begin the sponsorship of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Macapagal-Arroyo). The Committee Chairperson is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF
REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

House Bill No. 335 is a re-filed Bill. It has reached Third and final Reading in the Sixteenth Congress. This Bill seeks to authorize courts to adopt the penalty of community service in lieu of the penalty of imprisonment for offenses punishable by *arresto menor*. *Arresto menor* is a penalty with the duration of one to 30 days. A new Article 88-A is introduced in the said Bill to provide community service as a form of penalty. *Arresto menor* is imposed on lesser crimes such as alarm and scandal under Article 155; slight physical injury under Article 266; and malicious mischief where the value is less than P200, to name a few.

This measure will greatly decongest our jails and penitentiaries and conserve the much-needed resources that could be diverted to more practical endeavors; as well as this Representation believes that by rendering community service, it will strengthen the sense of belongingness of the offender to the community and will help the accused to reform and become a rehabilitated member of the community.

Mme. Speaker, it is in this light that the passage of this Bill on Second Reading is earnestly sought.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Speaker, considering that no Member has signified his intent to interpellate on the matter, I now move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is closed.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Speaker, I now move that we open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is opened.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Speaker, considering that there are no Committee amendments and no Member has signified his intent to introduce any individual amendments, I now move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is terminated.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading, House Bill No. 335 as contained in Committee Report No. 06.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). As many as are in favor of the measure, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). As many as are against, please say *no*.

FEW MEMBERS. *No*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 335
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 335 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 7), re H.B. No. 336, entitled:

“AN ACT EXCLUDING FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE INDETERMINATE SENTENCE LAW THOSE CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES AGAINST A MINOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 4103 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE INDETERMINATE SENTENCE LAW”

recommending its approval without amendment in consolidation with House Bill No. 2212

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Macapagal-Arroyo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 8), re H.B. No. 1344, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING STRICTER PENALTIES ON THE CRIME OF DELIVERING PRISONERS FROM JAIL AND INFIDELITY IN THE CUSTODY OF PRISONERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 156, 223 AND 224 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘REVISED PENAL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES’ ”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Acop

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 9), re H.B. No. 2916, entitled:

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

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Escudero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 10), re H.B. No. 3177, entitled:

“ANACTPENALIZINGINFLUENCEPEDDLING AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Escudero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 336
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 336, contained in Committee Report No. 7, as reported out by the Committee on Revision of Laws.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). 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 Bill No. 336, entitled: AN ACT EXCLUDING FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE INDETERMINATE SENTENCE LAW THOSE CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES AGAINST A MINOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 4103 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE INDETERMINATE SENTENCE LAW.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Revision of Laws, the Lady from the Sixth District of Pangasinan, the Hon. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, to sponsor said measure. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Chairperson and Sponsor of the measure is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF
REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

House Bill No. 336 is, again, a re-filed Bill. It has reached Third and final Reading in the Sixteenth Congress. This House Bill seeks to exclude from the application of the Indeterminate Sentence Law those convicted of criminal offenses against a minor, amending for the purpose Act No. 4103, otherwise known as the Indeterminate Sentence Law. It is paramount for the society to protect those who are helpless, and this Bill focuses on children. Those who are subject to abuse and ill-treatment must be protected in order to deter individuals from perpetuating abuse and taking advantage of their vulnerability. The application of this law is mandatory except for cases expressly excluded by the law.

This proposal intends to add several instances to the list of excluded cases in the application of the Indeterminate Sentence Law. The nature of seriousness of the offense committed against a minor justifies its inclusion in the enumeration in Section 2 of RA 4103.

In this regard, the Indeterminate Sentence Law shall not apply to those who have been convicted of offenses against a minor which is comparable to or analogous to any of the following: kidnapping of a minor except by a parent; false imprisonment of a minor or sexual conduct to the same, among others.

In view, thereof, Mme. Speaker, passage of this Bill on Second Reading is earnestly sought.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, there being no Member who wishes to speak against the Bill, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate on House Bill No. 336. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is terminated.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments on House Bill No. 336.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments to House Bill No. 336, I move that we close the period of amendments. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is terminated.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 336. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). As many as are in favor of the Bill, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). As many as are against, please say *no*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 336
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 336 is approved on Second Reading.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 1344
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 1344, contained in Committee Report No. 8, as reported out by the Committee on Revision of Laws.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). 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.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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 Bill No. 1344, entitled: AN ACT PRESCRIBING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR THE CRIME OF DELIVERING PRISONERS FROM JAIL AND INFIDELITY IN THE CUSTODY OF PRISONERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 156, 223 AND 224 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “REVISED PENAL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.”

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, the honorable Chairperson of the Committee on Revision of Laws is present to sponsor the measure. I move for the recognition of the Lady from the Sixth District of Pangasinan, the Hon. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Chairperson is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

The many incidents of prisoners and detainees escaping from the custody of their prison guards and law enforcement officers are glaring examples of how ineptitude and the enticement of bribe money can combine to be an effective means for these jailbirds to break loose from the clutches of the law. As a deterrent, therefore, higher penalties must be imposed on those public officers entrusted with the custody of convicts and detention prisoners, as well as private persons who conspire or facilitate their escape. This will hopefully discourage such public officers from betraying the trust bestowed upon them by the public in the faithful discharge of their sworn duties.

Specifically, this Bill proposes to increase the penalties for the following crimes prescribed in the Revised Penal Code as amended: delivering prisoners from jail, infidelity in the custody of prisoners, and evasion through negligence. Mme. Speaker, again, this is a re-filed Bill and it had reached the Third and Final Reading in the Sixteenth Congress.

For these reasons, it is, therefore, earnestly requested that the proposed measure be approved on Second Reading.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, there being none of our colleagues who wish to interpellate the honorable Sponsor, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate on House Bill No. 1344. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is terminated.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, I move that we open the period of amendments on House Bill No. 1344. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments on House Bill No. 1344. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, I move for the approval on Second Reading of House Bill No. 1344. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). As many as are against, please say *no*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 1344 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 1344 is approved on Second Reading.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 2916
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 2916, contained in Committee Report No. 9, as reported out by the Committee on Revision of Laws.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). 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 Bill No. 2916, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR THE CRIME OF SLANDER BY DEED AND INCLUDING THE INTENTIONAL FILING OF A FALSE COMPLAINT IN COURT OR WITH ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY EXERCISING QUASI-JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS AS ONE OF ITS FORMS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 359 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "REVISED PENAL CODE."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, the honorable Sponsor, Chairperson of the Committee on Revision of Laws, is present. I move for the recognition of the Lady from the Sixth District of Pangasinan, the Hon. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, for her sponsorship of House Bill No. 2916. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Gentleman from Albay is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. We are seeing a copy of this measure only now. In fact, I do not think copies had been distributed for the perusal of the Members of the

House. I think we should have more time to peruse and study this measure before it is taken up for approval on Second Reading.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move for a few minutes suspension of the session. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The session is suspended.

It was 6:02 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:05 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The session is resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF H.B. NO. 2916

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, our parliamentary status is that we are considering House Bill No. 2916. We have closed the period of sponsorship. To give way to our colleague who wishes to study the measure further, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 2916. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, I move that we resume the Privilege Hour. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

Continuation

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

The Privilege Hour is resumed. Congressman Sandoval is recognized.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we extend the Privilege Hour for another hour. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Privilege Hour is extended.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, for his opportunity to avail of the Privilege Hour, I move for the recognition of the Gentleman from the Second District of Davao Oriental, the Hon. Joel Mayo Z. Almario. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ALMARIO

REP. ALMARIO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

I rise today as this concerns the education sector and its stakeholders in the province of Davao Oriental, specifically the Davao Oriental Schools Division and the City Schools Division, both under the Department of Education. Davao Oriental, with two legislative districts, has 10 municipalities and one city, which is the city of Mati, the province's capital. Six of these municipalities, namely: Tarragona, Manay, Caraga, Baganga, Cateel and Boston comprise the First Legislative District while the other four municipalities, namely: Lupon, Banaybanay, San Isidro and Governor Generoso, plus the city of Mati make up the Second Legislative District.

Prior to the creation of the city of Mati under Republic Act No. 9408, otherwise known as AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF MATI IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF MATI, which this Representation so authored, there was only one DepEd Davao Oriental Schools Division comprising all the schools in the province with the following number of schools, teachers and pupils. Under the One Davao Oriental Schools Division, there were a total of 370 schools, 4,236 teachers and 131,265 pupils. When the city of Mati started to exist, Mme. Speaker, then Department of Education Secretary, Bro. Armin Luistro, issued a memorandum establishing the City Schools Division of the city of Mati pursuant to Section 50 of RA 9408. As a result, what was once a single Schools Division became two Schools Divisions within the province, namely: the Davao Oriental Schools Division with 67 plantilla division personnel and with jurisdiction over 303 elementary and secondary schools located in all the 10 municipalities of the province; and the City Schools Division with 67 plantilla division personnel and with jurisdiction over 67 elementary and secondary schools located in the city of Mati. Data on relevant figures gathered then under this setup were as follows: the Davao Oriental Schools Division had a total

of 303 schools, 3,023 teachers and 99,856 pupils while the City Schools Division had a total of 67 schools, 1,213 teachers and 31,409 pupils.

Under the Department of Education's system of categorizing division offices in terms of number of schools under its jurisdiction, and for purposes of allocating resources to the office, both the Davao Oriental Schools Division and the City Schools Division are in the medium category, with both having the same number of workforce, 67 plantilla division personnel each. Based on the data provided, Mme. Speaker, the City Schools Division workforce and resources were more than sufficient for its needs as a new division with just 67 elementary and secondary schools under its supervision or a measly 18.1 percent of the total schools in the province. On the other hand, the Davao Oriental Schools Division, with a total of 303 elementary and secondary schools, was regularly beset and hampered by limited manpower and financial difficulties in its delivery of educational services and programs to all the schools in the 10 municipalities under it.

Recognizing the lopsidedness of relevant figures, with the surplus of resources of the City Schools Division on one hand, and the obvious strain on the Davao Oriental Schools Division that affected the quality of services rendered on the other, the Department of Education through then Secretary Luistro issued another memorandum on May 14, 2012 for the inclusion of elementary and secondary schools in the Municipalities of Banaybanay, Lupon, San Isidro and Governor Generoso, all in the Second Legislative District, under the administrative and supervisory jurisdiction of the Office of the Schools Division Superintendent of the City Schools Division of the city of Mati, while retaining the schools in the municipalities of Tarragona, Manay, Caraga, Baganga, Cateel and Boston, all in the First Legislative District, still under the administrative and supervisory jurisdiction of the Davao Oriental Schools Division.

As succinctly stated in Secretary Luistro's memorandum, the following can be said of the new structure of jurisdiction:

1. It is consistent with the mandate of the Department of Education to ensure access to and improve the quality of basic education;

2. It effectively equalizes the jurisdiction of the Schools Division of Davao Oriental and the City Schools Division in terms of number of schools, students and teachers; and

3. It created a, more or less, equitable number of personnel, teachers and schools that strengthened coordination and ensured a more effective and efficient administration and supervision by the superintendents of the mother Division of Davao Oriental and the City Schools Division of the city of Mati.

The memorandum was issued pursuant to the endorsement letter of then DepEd Regional Director Susana Teresa B. Estigoy, excerpts of which are as follows:

Let it be mentioned that Davao Oriental Schools Division belongs to the top FORTY PRIORITY schools divisions of the country in view of its low achievement of targets in the performance indicators for basic education under EFA 2015.

Including schools in the four municipalities of Banaybanay, Lupon, San Isidro and Governor Generoso, all in District II, under the administrative and supervisory jurisdiction of the City of Mati Schools Divisions strengthens the capacity of the Schools Division Superintendent of Davao Oriental in providing development and the technical support to the school heads and teachers, given the reduced number of schools to be given such support.

While it appears that the new Schools Division of Mati City will have more schools, teachers and students than the mother division of Davao Oriental under this proposal, let it be mentioned that the schools in the municipalities under Congressional District I are situated in the coastal and remote areas of the province while the schools in the four municipalities of Congressional District II proposed to be attached to the Schools Division of Mati City are located in very accessible localities, except for a few schools in the area of Governor Generoso.

Further, this proposal will provide ease and convenience, geographically and politically. Planning and allocation of resources will be more equitable, supervision of schools will no longer require crisscrossing of geographical boundaries.

Regional Director Estigoy's endorsement was the output of the DepEd Task Force which was commissioned to conduct a study on the implications of Section 50 of Republic Act No. 9408 in reference to the constitutional provision mandating the education sector to undertake appropriate measures to ensure access to quality education. The Task Force, Mme. Speaker, conducted a series of deliberations, discussions, studies and several consultations with the officials of the City Schools Division, Davao Oriental Schools Division, the officials of the provincial government of Davao Oriental and the local executives of the city of Mati and the municipalities of Banaybanay, Lupon, San Isidro and Governor Generoso, including their respective local school boards as well as the teachers therein. Invitations

were sent to the Office of the Governor, but no one from said office came to attend.

The following were derived from these consultations, Mme. Speaker:

1. There is an imbalance in the composition of schools under each Schools Division, and it would be prejudicial to the Davao Oriental Schools Division, considering that it would have more schools, teachers and enrollment. Yet, like the City Schools Division, it was categorized as "medium" and entitled to the same number of plantilla positions which is 67 personnel; and

2. The Davao Oriental Schools Division is among the top 40 priority schools divisions in the country for its low achievement of targets in the performance indicators for basic education under EFA 2015.

Mme. Speaker, Secretary Luistro's memorandum was in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9155, also known as the Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001. In its implementing rules and regulations, the Department of Education shall:

1. Protect and promote the right of all citizens to qualify for basic education and shall take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all;

2. Serve the students and the teachers, its primary constituents;

3. Define the roles and responsibilities of, and provide resources to the regions, schools divisions and schools which shall implement educational programs, projects and services in communities they serve;

4. Ensure that schools and learning centers receive the kind of focused attention they deserve; and

5. Direct the conduct of review and evaluation of the present organizational structure and staffing pattern at all levels.

Mme. Speaker, in the implementation of then Secretary Luistro's memorandum, the consequent effect in terms of the number of schools, teachers and pupils, was as follows: the Davao Oriental Schools Division had a total of 186 schools, 1,520 teachers and 54,356 pupils while the City Schools Division had a total of 184 schools, 2,716 teachers and 76,909 pupils. Based on the said data, Mme. Speaker, the number of schools administered and supervised by the Davao Oriental Schools Division was reduced while that of the City Schools Division was significantly increased. The City Schools Division was more than able to share its financial and manpower resources to help out the Davao Oriental Schools Division which, on the other hand, enjoyed a reduction in the number of schools to supervise, enabling it to better manage its limited financial and manpower resources.

The inclusion of the four municipalities in the Second District to the City Schools Division successfully rationalized and equally distributed available financial and manpower resources of the Department of

Education. With the new division structure, the delivery of programs and educational services to all the schools in all 10 municipalities and the city of Mati was greatly improved and enhanced.

Mme. Speaker, this has been the scheme from 2012 up to 2016, and even in the Department of Education's proposed budget for 2017, it is reflected in the National Expenditures Program for Fiscal Year 2017. Mme. Speaker, this is the reason I am delivering this privilege speech. After four years of successful implementation of the said memorandum and a rationalized the scheme, now, an attempt is being made to disturb the status quo in the Davao Oriental Schools Division and the City Schools Division; an attempt is being made to revert to the old setup and return the four municipalities from the Second Legislative District to the administrative and supervisory jurisdiction of the Davao Oriental Schools Division Office.

Mme. Speaker, it baffles this Representation why such move is being sought as there is absolutely no valid and practical reason for the reversion:

Number one, the issuance of the memorandum of Sec. Armin A. Luistro, as discussed earlier, was based on Republic Act No. 9155. Verily, it is cloaked with validity and legality of a binding law. A presumption of regularity and good faith in his actions on behalf of the Department of Education must be accorded him. There is simply no legal ground and the validity of his memorandum may even come into question.

Number two, due process was given to all the stakeholders. Before the issuance of the memorandum, a series of consultations was conducted. It is unfortunate that the former Governor ignored the invitations, but her deliberate inaction should not affect the soundness of the memorandum. Had there been negative concerns regarding the thoroughness and effectiveness of the new division scheme, it should have been raised during the consultation process; but none was ever raised until now, when political motivations are starting to come out.

Number three, the implementation of the scheme resulted in the rationalized use of limited financial and manpower resources. In the simplest of terms, Mme. Speaker, the inequality in the distribution of means was solved by the new jurisdictional division. What was once an overburdened Davao Oriental Schools Division due to financial and manpower limitations was remedied by transferring schools in the Second Legislative District to the very much capable hands of the City Schools Division. It is akin to someone extending a helping hand to an obviously suffering brother.

Number four and the last, most importantly, better and more equitable benefits were received by schools, teachers and students. It cannot be emphasized more than enough how much positive impact the new scheme had brought about. It benefited those who are struggling

the most. The new scheme enabled better distribution and management of resources. With the new scheme, all those who mattered started enjoying better services, better educational programs and better facilities.

Based on the above, Mme. Speaker, there can be no other reason or motivation for the attempt to revert to the old scheme but local politics. The local government units, which were consulted prior to the issuance of Secretary Luistro's memorandum and which agreed to the present scheme, are now being used to justify the reversion and allegedly, they are the ones clamoring for it. A closer look at the proponent's claim that the leagues of local government units in Davao Oriental are clamoring for the reversion, will actually reveal that political pressure was put on them by the proponent's political group.

The scheme as devised by the Department of Education is and shall always be beyond and devoid of politics. The act of the Department was legal and in consonance with its constitutional mandate, having as its legal and moral obligation that every child of schoolage has the right to quality education. It was a policy decision which should be respected as the same benefited greatly the schools, students and teachers of the whole province. The scheme was devised to solve a problem before. The reversion to its old form, which was problematic, should not be allowed, Mme Speaker.

Finally, Mme. Speaker, in closing, I say, let not political ends question the wisdom, intelligence, integrity and sound judgment of the Department of Education or stifle it from performing its constitutional mandate of providing access to an improved quality of education.

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the gentleman from AKBAYAN Party-List, the Hon. Tom S. Villarin for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The gentleman from AKBAYAN is recognized for his interpellation.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, Dep. Majority Leader. Would the distinguished gentleman from the Second District of Davao Oriental yield to some questions?

REP. ALMARIO. Gladly, Mme. Speaker, it is my honor to be interpellated by the Gentleman from AKBAYAN.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Gentleman from the AKBAYAN Party-List may proceed.

REP. VILLARIN. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, I lament the situation now being discussed by the distinguished Gentleman from Davao Oriental, given the fact that the quality of education being discussed will be hampered because of problems not only administratively, but also, there seems to be an infusion of politics in the division of schools.

Now, Your Honor, would you agree that the most important mission of every educational institution or structure, for that matter, is the provision of quality education to all children?

REP. ALMARIO. I fully agree, Mme. Speaker. It is the provision of quality education to all school-age children.

REP. VILLARIN. Now, given the fact you mentioned, Mme. Speaker, Davao Oriental, that if we look at it from a geographical perspective-- you have municipalities which you call the East Coast facing the Pacific Ocean, and you have municipalities which face the Davao Gulf, is that correct, Your Honor?

REP. ALMARIO. That is correct, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker. Davao Oriental is a coastal province, and the First District which is known as the East Coast faces the Pacific Ocean. These are the municipalities of Boston, Cateel, Baganga, Caraga, Manay and Tarragona and they are all along the coast. The municipalities in the Second District starting from the city of Mati, facing the Gulf towns, these are the municipalities of Lupon, Banaybanay, San Isidro and Governor Generoso, which is my district, Mme. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. So, the situation is that the province is a long coastal province and it would take, I think, maybe five hours to reach one tip from Boston to Banaybanay. Would that be correct?

REP. ALMARIO. That is a very good observation, Mme. Speaker. From one tip of the province, it will take more than five hours to go to the other tip. In fact, if we speak of the Schools Division, Mme. Speaker, a teacher coming from the municipality of Boston, from a school in the municipality of Boston will have to travel for more than three hours to get to the Schools Division to which her school belongs. So, that is a very long travel time, Mme. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. So, in short, Mme. Speaker, in terms of the program monitoring by the DepEd, if there is only one division, meaning the provincial division,

that would be a geographical challenge for the head of the DepEd at the division level.

REP. ALMARIO. Yes, that is a geographical as well as a financial challenge, Mme. Speaker. Not only time will be wasted just to travel across the province, but also fuel, manpower and all other resources, Mme. Speaker. That was the situation before the Department of Education issued, through Secretary Luistro, that memorandum which effectively placed the schools in their four municipalities in the Second District under the supervision of the City School's Division.

REP. VILLARIN. In short, four years ago, these considerations were already discussed and the DepEd—as a matter of principle, on the regularity of its issuance of a memorandum—already resolved that issue or concern.

REP. ALMARIO. Yes, Mme. Speaker. When this problem came about, the Department of Education in fact commissioned a task force to study the implications of having a City Schools Division with only 67 schools under it and yet, it has 67 plantilla positions or a ratio of 1:1, as compared to having a Davao Oriental Schools Division with 303 schools under it and still having 67 plantilla positions. So, when the DepEd created the task force, it conducted a series of consultations, meetings and studies which included the stakeholders both from the local government and the family of the Department of Education-- meaning the teachers.

REP. VILLARIN. So, Mme. Speaker, in short, what you are pointing out is it is only because of politics that this situation is emerging. Can you really separate politics from education in the context of—like now, we all know that the politicians give endorsements to principals, division superintendents, and even the composition of schools. Do you think there is no politics involved in those situations, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. ALMARIO. Mme. Speaker, in direct answer to the question is, I think there is. Even in a family, there is politics; even inside the church, there is politics, but it is how we use our tools to advance the main cause of education.

You mentioned earlier, Mme. Speaker, that is, there is no politics in the recommendation of teachers? I would like to take the opportunity, Mme. Speaker, because in one of my discussions with a high-level officer of the Department of Education, the person told me that some local officials who approached him and asked that the setup be reverted to the old scheme, gave us their reason—that is, because they want to recommend teachers. That, I think, Mme. Speaker,

is so petty a reason—that they only want to have that authority to recommend teachers and that they do not even care if the financial problem in operating the divisions will come about; and for the record, Mme. Speaker, anybody can recommend. Whether one is an official or not, one can recommend and it is up to the Department to evaluate the recommendation vis-à-vis the qualifications of the applicant, Mme. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. So, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, indeed, politics is a reality but going beyond politics, do you think that the criteria for objectivity, fairness and justice should be observed in terms of rearranging our school divisions? Do you think that in the process of setting up four years ago of this division in the Second District of Davao Oriental, the criteria of objectivity, fairness and justice has been observed? What is your opinion?

REP. ALMARIO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. Under the present setup which has been going on for the last four years, I can proudly say that the objectivity in advancing the causes and the advocacies of the Department of Education is there, devoid of politics without any political interference.

In fact, just to put it on record, sometimes this Representation, as an official, would recommend applicant teachers to the division and if based on the criteria, the recommendee does not qualify, then they just inform this Representation that the recommendee I referred to them did not qualify. So, that is an example, Mme. Speaker, that politics and education can in fact be separated.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you for elucidating us on your insights, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker, and I only hope that—the situation in Davao Oriental indeed is very challenging and I hope the two Representatives of Davao Oriental can come up with solutions to these concerns and hopefully, there would be a solution to this concern, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ALMARIO. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker, to the Gentleman from AKBAYAN who has shown concern on the welfare of the people in the province of Davao Oriental, not only on this particular issue but in many other instances, Mme. Speaker. I would like to assure him that this Representation, like him, will always work for the best interest of the people we serve in common, Mme. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. I have no more concerns, Mme. Speaker. Again, thank you for giving me time to interpellate.

REP. ALMARIO. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Joel Mayo Z. Almario of the Second District of Davao Oriental to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The speech and the interpellation thereon are referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour, I move that we terminate the same.

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

The Privilege Hour is terminated.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business. I so move.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 466, entitled:

“RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONFERRING THE GOLDEN MACE AWARD TO HIS EXCELLENCY PHILIPS. GOLDBERG, AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PHILIPPINES, FOR HIS EFFORTS IN FURTHER ENRICHING THE TIES BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas and Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 467, entitled:

“RESOLUTION INSTITUTING THE GOLDEN MACE AWARD TO RECOGNIZE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE RENDERED EXCEPTIONAL AND MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas and Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

RECONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL ON SECOND READING OF H.B. NO. 3988

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, I move that we reconsider the approval on Second Reading of House Bill No. 3988 under Committee Report No. 4. I so move.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 467

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 467, 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. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.*

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 467, entitled: RESOLUTION INSTITUTING THE GOLDEN MACE AWARD TO RECOGNIZE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE RENDERED EXCEPTIONAL AND MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 467.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 467

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

House Resolution No. 467 is adopted.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 466

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 466.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 466, entitled: RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONFERRING THE GOLDEN MACE AWARD TO HIS EXCELLENCY PHILIP S. GOLDBERG, AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PHILIPPINES, FOR HIS EFFORTS IN FURTHER ENRICHING THE TIES BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 466.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 466

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 466 is adopted.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 460

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, with a note of sadness, we move for the consideration of House Resolution No. 460, in consolidation with House Resolution No. 440.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 460, entitled: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF HONORABLE SANTIAGO P. RESPICIO, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE THIRD DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA DURING THE EIGHTH, NINTH AND TENTH CONGRESS.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, we move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 460, in consolidation with House Resolution No. 440. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 460

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

House Resolution No. 460, in consolidation with House Resolution No. 440, is adopted.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 459

REP. BONDOC. In the same vein, Mme. Speaker, it is with a note of sadness that we move to consider House Resolution No. 459, in consolidation with

House Resolution No. 424, considering a colleague that I served with in previous Congresses passed away.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 459, entitled: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF HONORABLE VICTORIA HERNANDEZ REYES, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE THIRD DISTRICT OF BATANGAS DURING THE TWELFTH, THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH CONGRESS.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 459, in consolidation with House Resolution No. 424. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 459

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

House Resolution No. 459, in consolidation with House Resolution No. 424, is adopted.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move for the approval of Journal No. 34 dated October 10, 2016. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Journal of the previous session is approved.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, October 12, 2016, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo). The session is adjourned until tomorrow, October 12, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 6:43 p.m.