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PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17th CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

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No. 37

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Ferdinand L. Hernandez called the session to order.

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Everybody will please rise to sing the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Everybody will please remain standing for the Invocation to be led by the honorable Rep. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan.

Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

REP. BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN. Let us all bow our heads and place ourselves in God's presence as we all pray.

Almighty and merciful God, since the beginning, You have sustained us with Your heartfelt love and care, a love and care that binds us in friendship with You, with each other and the world.

We praise and thank You for all the gifts we received through Your generous heart. As we gather here today and throughout the week, we ask for Your guidance, wisdom and support as we begin this week's schedule. Help us to engage in meaningful discussions. Allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture within ourselves the value of unity and cooperation, and let us always be reminded that all that we do here every day, all that we accomplish, is for the pursuit of truth, for your greater glory, and for the service of humanity.

Lord, may You bless us with a loving heart, and may You always be present in our midst to direct this honorable assembly to uphold justice, peace, and harmony. Fill us with Your grace, Lord God, as we make decisions that may affect our colleagues, our political leaders, and our people. We ask for Your guidance in our lives and we pray that Your love would live among us.

All this we ask, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, and through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, Amen.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the approval of the Journal.

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

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

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 3996, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 21 OF COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 146 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT”

By Representatives Pineda and Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (PHIVIDEC) INDUSTRIAL AUTHORITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 538, CREATING THE PHIVIDEC INDUSTRIAL AUTHORITY AS AMENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1031”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 3997, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 7227, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Roman
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BASES CONVERSION

House Bill No. 4001, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING ALL BARANGAY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING BARANGAY TANODS, MEMBERS OF THE LUPON NG TAGAPAMAYAPA, BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND BARANGAY DAY CARE WORKERS, A LUMP SUM RETIREMENT PAY EQUIVALENT TO ONE (1) YEAR HONORARIUM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 393 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991’ ”

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

House Bill No. 3998, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE TABLON HEALTH CENTER IN BARANGAY TABLON, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY INTO A TWENTY-FIVE BED CAPACITY PRIMARY HOSPITAL AND BASIC EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE (BEMOC) CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4002, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE URBAN AND COUNTRYSIDE GREENING IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION

House Bill No. 3999, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CRISIS CENTER FOR STREET CHILDREN IN ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND IN EVERY HIGHLY URBANIZED CITY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 4003, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MERCURY EXPOSURE INFORMATION PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4000, entitled:

“AN ACT ADDING TWO (2) REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF VILLANUEVA AND TAGOLOAN IN MISAMIS ORIENTAL AS MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PHILIPPINE VETERANS INVESTMENT

House Bill No. 4004, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8043, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE RULES TO GOVERN INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION OF FILIPINO CHILDREN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4005, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING EXCISE TAX ON SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES (SSBs) BY

INSERTING A NEW SECTION 150-A IN THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4006, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF PULILAN, HAGONoy AND BULAKAN, ALL IN THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF BULACAN”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4007, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CATANDUANES NATURAL PARK IN THE PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF NATURAL PARK, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sarmiento (C.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4008, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING SSS MONTHLY PENSION TO TWO THOUSAND PESOS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1997’ ”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 4009, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING A NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT DAY”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4010, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE EFFECTIVITY OF REPUBLIC ACT 9653 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS RENT CONTROL ACT OF 2009 OR ‘AN ACT ESTABLISHING REFORMS IN

THE REGULATION OF RENT OF CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL UNITS, PROVIDING THE MECHANISMS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4011, entitled:

“AN ACT ENHANCING REVENUE ADMINISTRATION AND INCREASING REVENUE COLLECTION BY GRANTING AN AMNESTY ON ALL UNPAID INTERNAL REVENUE TAXES IMPOSED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR TAXABLE YEAR 2015 AND PRIOR YEARS”

By Representatives Limkaichong, Relampagos, Cortes and Radaza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4012, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING PARENTS TO PLANT TWO TREES FOR EVERY CHILD BORN TO THEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION

House Bill No. 4013, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR INCENTIVES TO THE MANUFACTURING OF ORGANIC FERTILIZERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4014, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF PRE-PAID SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE (SIM) CARDS FOR MOBILE PHONES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Sandoval
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4015, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL MARICULTURE PROGRAM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe for House Bills No. 6 and 12;

Rep. Amado T. Espino Jr. for House Bills No. 1003, 1004, 1007, 1031, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1137, 1144, 1153, 1154, 1215, 1213, 1287, 1300, 1307, 1308, 1315, 1339, 1340, 1346, 1348, 1350, 1466, 1467, 1473, 1474, 1481, 1483, 1484, 1492, 1493, 1554, 1555, 1853, 2141, 3556 and 3557;

Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda for House Bills No. 335, 336, 477 and 1344;

Reps. Jeffrey D. Khonghun, Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr. and Mercedes “Didi” C. Cagas for House Joint Resolution No. 4;

Rep. Roy M. Loyola for House Bill No. 3402;

Reps. Alberto T. Ungab, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan and Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon for House Bill No. 2927;

Rep. Antonio R. Floirendo Jr. for House Bill No. 2743;

Reps. Leopoldo N. Bataoil and Frederick W. Siao for House Bill No. 1894;

Rep. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles for House Bills No. 2505, 2906 and 3509;

Rep. Pablo C. Ortega for House Bills No. 307, 308, 381, 382 and 1291;

Rep. Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang for House Bills No. 1859 and 2798;

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting for House Bills No. 319, 2632, 2639, 2644, 2645, 2909, 2918, 3408 and 3545;

Rep. Jesus “Boying” F. Celeste for House Bills No. 1859, 3457, 3458 and 3459;

Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate for House Resolution No. 464;

Reps. Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III and Emmanuel F. Madrona for House Bill No. 3777;

Rep. Gerald Anthony “Samsam” V. Gullas Jr. for House Bills No. 2070 and 2074;

Rep. Delphine Gan Lee for House Bills No. 1859 and 3605;

Rep. Pantaleon D. Alvarez for House Bill No. 181;

Rep. Christopher “Toff” Vera Perez De Venecia for House Bills No. 3457, 3458 and 3459;

Rep. Maria Carmen S. Zamora for House Bills No. 1859 and 2927;

Rep. Orestes T. Salon for House Bills No. 1853, 3556, 3557 and 3632;

Rep. Mark Aeron H. Sambar for House Bills No. 3557 and 3632;

Rep. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez for House Bills No. 3518, 3520 and 3607;

Reps. Richard C. Eusebio, Isagani S. Amatong, Ann K. Hofer, Pablo C. Ortega, Antonio L. Tinio, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Winston “Winnie” Castelo,

Mercedes “Didi” C. Cagas, Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., Rodolfo C. Fariñas, Roger G. Mercado, Alex “AA” L. Advincula, Benjamin C. Agarao Jr., Dale “Along” R. Malapitan, Arcadio H. Gorriceta, Benhur L. Salimbangon, Orestes T. Salon, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso, Jerry P. Treñas, Michael L. Romero, Ph.D., Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu, Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, Frederick W. Siao, Milagrosa “Mila” T. Tan, Fernando V. Gonzalez, Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Francisco Jose F. Matugas II, Frederick “Erick” F. Abueg, Ron P. Salo, Raul A. Daza, Johnny Ty Pimentel, Prospero A. Pichay Jr., Ana Cristina Siquian Go, Antonio R. Floirendo Jr., Juliet Marie D. Ferrer, Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Ramon V.A. “Rav” Rocamora, Scott Davies S. Lanete, M.D., Ramon C. Nolasco and Salvador B. Belaro Jr. for House Bill No. 1859;

Reps. Ronald M. Cosalan, Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso, Zajid G. Mangudatu and Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III for House Bill No. 2798;

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

Rep. Ronald M. Cosalan for House Bills No. 2141, 3557 and 3632 and House Joint Resolution No. 7;

Reps. H. Harry L. Roque Jr. and Teodoro “Ted” G. Montoro for House Bills No. 1554, 1555, 1853, 2141, 3556, 3557 and 3632;

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing for House Bills No. 696 and 3557;

Rep. Rosanna “Ria” Vergara for House Bills No. 533, 534, 535, 2774 and 3851;

Rep. Ma. Theresa V. Collantes for House Bills No. 458 and 3181;

Rep. Manuel T. Sagarbarria for House Bills No. 533, 535 and 2926;

Rep. Alberto T. Ungab for House Bills No. 533, 534, 535, 2774, 2775 and 2926;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Resolutions No. 225 and 321;

Rep. Nancy A. Catamco for House Bill No. 116;

Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for House Bill No. 3658; and

Rep. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III for House Bills No. 476 and 477.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education (Committee Report No. 11), re H.B. No. 4100, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY FROM INTERNAL

AND EXTERNAL THREATS, THEREBY CREATING A CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE FOR THIS PURPOSE”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 572 and 2314

Sponsors: Representatives Hofer, Angara-Castillo and Escudero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNALS

REP. GARCIA (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of Journals No. 35 and 36, for the period October 11 and October 12, 2016.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GARCIA (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend session.

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

It was 4:08 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:15 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. GARCIA (J.). Mr. Speaker, today being a Monday and pursuant to our Rules, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

REP. GARCIA (J.). Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that the Lady from GABRIELA Party-List, the honorable Rep. Emmi A. De Jesus, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Rep. Emmi De Jesus of Party-List GABRIELA is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. DE JESUS

REP. DE JESUS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat po at magandang hapon sa lahat.

Mr. Speaker, sa kasalukuyan, libu-libong Pilipino ang araw-araw na umaalis para mangibang-bayan upang maghanapbuhay o sa mas eksaktong salita ay makipagsapalaran upang makatulong sa pamilya upang mabuhay nang maayos at magkaroon ng sapat na mga batayang pangangailangan. Naipon din dito ang libu-libong salaysay ng stranded OFWs na nawalan ng trabaho at hindi makauwi, mga Pinay domestic workers na ginahasa, inalila at pinatay, mga runaway workers na sa halip na masaklolohan sa tinakasang abuso ay nahulog naman sa kuko ng pagsasamantala at kapabayaan ng mga tiwaling kawani ng POLO offices at maging ng DFA. Sa mga migranteng manggagawang ito, nais bigyang-diin ng Representasyong ito ang higit na bulnerabilidad ng kababaihan na nagiging biktima ng ibat ibang anyo ng karahasan.

Tatlong dekada na ang nakaraan nang naging pambansang isyu ang kaso ni Maricris Sioson, isang Pilipina na iniuwing bangkay mula sa Japan. Ayon sa ulat, ang ikinamatay daw ay hepatitis na hindi matanggap ng pamilya kaya kanilang ipinaimbestiga. Ang resulta ay tunay na nakakagalit sapagkat nakita na maraming tanda ng sekswal na pang-aabuso si Maricris. Ibat ibang kaso rin ng sex trafficking ang inilapit sa GABRIELA sa loob ng maraming taon, at ilan dito ay may mga sangkot pang lokal na opisyal ng gobyerno. Ito ang nagluwal sa isang international campaign ng GABRIELA noong 2000 na ipinakete na Purple Rose Campaign, a campaign against sex trafficking of Filipino women and children.

Kamakailan lamang, nagtungo ang matataas na opisyal ng Department of Labor and Employment at ng Department of Social Welfare and Development sa Saudi para magtangkang bigyan ng kagyat na lunas o first aid, katulad ng financial, legal, at kasama ang counseling ukol sa mga hinaing ng mahigit 20,000 na manggagawa sa Kingdom of Saudi Arabia na apektado ng ibat ibang problema. Nakita ng mga opisyal ang sobrang complex nature ng mga OFWs' situation doon at nabilad sa media attention ang mga nakagigimbal na personal and collective stories ng tinatawag nating mga bagong bayani.

Matagal na din tayong mulat sa mga nasabing paulit-ulit na kasaysayan ng kanilang mga problema. Salamat sa walang tigil na adbokasiya ng Migrante International chapters sa ibat ibang siyudad sa Gitnang Silangan at sa iba't ibang panig ng mundo para makuha at maisatinig ang kanilang salaysay, katukin ang

mga ahensya ng diplomatic posts sa bansa, at kung minsan ay tuwirang maglunsad ng buwis-buhay na rescue missions at bayanihan actions para maitakas, mapakain, magamot at maalalayan sa ilang kaso ang mga inabusong OFWs.

May mga bagong kaso ng abusong ngayon ay binibigyan ng suporta ng Migrante at nangangailangan ng atensyon ng ating pamahalaang nangako ng tunay na pagbabago para sa mamamayan. Ilan sa mga kasong ito na aking babanggitin ay paglalarawan ng mga kababaihang naging biktima ng karahasan. Isa dito si Neda Felisilda, 40 taong gulang, may asawa at anak, nawalan ng trabaho dahil nagsara ang pinapasukang garments factory sa Cavite, at nakipagsapalaran sa Saudi bilang domestic worker noong March 2015. Pagkatapos manilbihan ng isang linggo sa orihinal na amo, ibinenta daw siya sa isa pang amo na may malaking mansyon na obligado niyang linisin. Dito siya pinakain ng mga panis na tira-tira, nagkasakit, at naospital dulot ng overwork, food poisoning at malnutrition. Kinausap niya ang kanyang employer para ilagay sa tama ang kaniyang working condition. Sa halip na sagutin ang kaniyang mga daing, tatlong ulit siyang nilason na naglagay sa kaniya sa bingit ng kamatayan. Ayaw siyang payagan ng kaniyang employer na makauwi, pero noong Nobyembre, dahil sa tulong ng kaniyang pamilya, ginastusan niya ang sariling pagbalik sa Pilipinas.

Si Lorna Macatol naman ay nauna kay Neda ng isang buwan sa deployment sa Saudi. Sa unang buwan, maayos ang trato at pasuweldo ng kaniyang amo, ngunit pagsapit ng sumunod na buwan, binawasan ang sahod at isang palapag ng mansyon na may maraming kuwarto ng bawat anak ng pamilya ay tiniis niyang araw-araw na linisin. Halos dalawang oras lamang ang kaniyang tulog araw-araw, bukod sa minsan lang sa isang araw ang kaniyang pagkain. Nang siya ay nanindigan at kausapin ang kaniyang employer para ayusin ang trato sa kaniya, galit ang naging ganti ng mga ito. Nakaranas siya ng labis na kalupitan nang pinagtulungan siyang buhatin at ikulong nang halos isang oras sa loob ng laundry dryer bilang parusa hanggang dumugo na ang kaniyang ilong. Dito siya nagpasiyang tumakas at humingi ng tulong sa Migrante International upang kalampagin ang POEA kaya siya nakauwi noong September 2015.

Ang hindi pinalad na makauwi nang buhay ay si Gina Borzula Bodozo, 39 years old, kapitbahay ni Lorna at katulad ni Neda at Lorna na may asawa at anak. Bagama't sinabihan na siya ni Lorna na huwag tumuloy dahil sa sinapit nitong maltrato, ngunit marahil sa tulak ng kahirapan, nagpasiya pa rin siyang sumunod at magpa-deploy noong April 2015. Noong July, tumawag siya sa kanyang pamilya para isumbong ang dinadanas niyang pagkakasakit dahil sa salat na pagkain at hindi pagpapasuweldo ng amo nang maputol ang kaniyang tawag. Ilang tangka ang ginawa ng pamilya niya sa

Pilipinas na makontak ang employer at noong October 8, sinagot ng amo ang tawag nila at nagkuwento na nadulas umano si Gina at naging comatose. Pinauwi ang bangkay ni Gina na tapyas ang anit, wala na ang kaliwang mata at nakatahi ang kanang mata. Ayon sa autopsy report, "Probable cause of death was cardiorespiratory arrest due to fall from height."

Sina Neda, Lorna at Gina ay tatlo lamang sa 20 OFWs na iisa ang recruitment agency dito sa Pilipinas. Batay sa aming panayam sa survivors at sa datos na nakuha ng Migrante International, maraming kababaihang tulad nina Neda, Lorna at Gina ang kanilang kliyente sa deployment sa Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Anim sa 20 taong tinutulungan ng Migrante ay nasa Saudi pa rin na hindi makauwi dahil hawak pa sila ng abusadong employer at nanganganib ngayon ang buhay.

Ilan lamang sila sa mga naghahangad ng katarungan at ngayon ay nakikipagtulungan sa Migrante para usigin ang naturang recruitment agency dahil sa marami nang reklamo sa pag-ugnay ng mga nare-recruit na domestic workers sa iba't ibang Saudi-based agencies na kolum at maraming iregularidad. Sinasampahan na ito ng maraming reklamo at money claims dahil sa nauuwi sa kapahamakan ang mga na-deploy na OFWs, ngunit nagtataka ang Migrante group na sa kabila ng mga ulat at petisyon na inihain sa Rejoice Employment International Corporation, patuloy pa rin ito sa pag-recruit at pagde-deploy ng ating mga kababayan nang hindi pa nalulutas ang mga kasong pinagdaanan na ng mga naging biktima ng pang-aabuso. Sa kaso nina Neda, Lorna at Gina na biktima ng karahasan, ang kanilang kaso ay maiuugat sa mga mapagsamantalang recruitment agency na katulad ng Rejoice.

May mas masaklap ding salaysay ng mga kababaihang biktima o kamuntik nang maging biktima ng pagsasamantala ng mismong mga opisyal ng Philippine Overseas Labor Office o POLO. Sariwa pa sa ating gunita noong 2013, naging tampok na iskandalo sa mga pagdinig sa Kamara at Senado ang mga pangalan ng isang assistant labor attaché at labor attaché sa Riyadh POLO na nasangkot sa naulat na palitang sex-for-flight deals, kung saan iniipit ang runaway maids sa Bahay Kalinga na inaakalang takbuhan sana ng inaabusong OFWs. Marapat na alamin kung patuloy pa ding nagaganap ang sex-for-repatriation sa mga kababaihang humihingi ng tulong. Sa halip na dagling ma-repatriate ang mga tumakas, iniipit ang kanilang travel papers o sadyang hindi binibigyan ng legal aid habang naglulubid ng alibi na red tape at sila ay kumapit sa patalim, hanggang aalukin ng tiket pauwi sa Pilipinas kapalit ang sexual favors, kung hindi rin sa mismong mga opisyal na Pilipino ay inilalako sa mga kliyenteng nationals ng host country.

Sina Neda, Lorna at Gina, at marami pang kababaihang OFW ay ginawang vulnerable sa

karahasan ng ekonomiyang atrasado, at pinagkaitan ng mas magandang oportunidad dito sa Pilipinas. Patuloy na kontrolado pa rin ng iilang haciendero at oligarkiya ang lupain at mga empresang hindi nakapagbibigay ng katiyakan sa trabaho at pasuweldong nakabubuhay. Marami ring teachers, call center agents at mga empleyado ng mga maliliit na pagawaan na nagsara dahil sa lugmok na ekonomiya ang patuloy na naghahanap ng trabaho sa ibang bayan. Ang gutom ng pamilya ang nagtulak sa maraming kababaihan na maniwala sa matamis na alok ng mga abusadong agency katulad ng Rejoice sa kabila ng mga naririnig nang panganib at babala.

Malinaw na kapabayaang ito ng mga ahensya ng gobyerno at paglabag sa mandato na magtanggol sa kagalingan at magbigay ng saklolo sa ating kababayang OFWs. Ayon sa Republic Act No. 8042 o Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipino Act of 1995, Section 2(b):

The State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities to all. Towards this end, the State shall provide adequate and timely social, economic and legal services to Filipino migrant workers.

Iniuutos naman ng RA No. 10022 na ang agency-hired workers shall be covered by a compulsory insurance policy to cover, among others, the repatriation cost of the worker when his/her employment is terminated without any valid cause. Kung ang mandatory insurance ay tinitiyak ng batas na ito, bakit patuloy pa ring nagiging kalakaran ang sex-for-repatriation, o bakit kailangan pang ikampanya ang fund raising ng mga NGO at kaanak ng OFWs para lamang makabili ng tiket pauwi ng Pilipinas?

Nahirang ang Representasyong ito na maging Vice Chairperson ng House Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs o COWA, at patuloy na tinatanggap ko ang hamon na isatinig ang pangmatagalang adhikain ng ating OFWs: “Trabaho sa Pinas, Hindi sa Labas.” With all due respect sa aking mga kasama dito sa Kamara, mainam naman na may panukala tayong amyenda sa administrative policies at mga nauna nang batas na nagbibigay ng proteksyon at serbisyo sa ating OFWs.

Ang mas malalaking hamon na kaharap natin ngayon ay ano ang tunay na macroeconomic policy na titiyak na matitigil na ang paulit-ulit, marahas, at magastos na kasasapitan ng libu-libong Pilipino na pumapayag mapadpad sa agos ng human trafficking araw-araw? Maaaring may maliliit tayong tagumpay kung matatanggal natin sa tungkulin at mapapanagot ang mga umaabusong labor attaché, ngunit gaya ng salaysay ng mga biktimgang aking nakapanayam, may iba na

pinapalitan lamang ng personalities. Maipasasara natin ang tiwaling recruitment agencies ngunit marami pa rin ang nagsusulputan para pagkakitaan ang desperadong mabibiktima. Sila ay maaari nating obligahin muli dito sa investigations in aid of legislation. Maaaring nag-ibang lang ng pangalan at titulo ang mga salarin, pero nandoon pa rin ang sistemang umaalipin sa ating bulnerableng migranteng kababaihan.

As a matter of personal privilege, sasabihin ko na hindi malayo sa akin ang hinaing ng OFWs. Ako mismo ay may mga kapatid na OFWs na pribadong tumutulong sa mga nakakasalamuhang kapwa migrante. Isang kuwento mula sa aking kapatid sa Hong Kong ang halos hindi nagpatulog sa akin nang ilang araw. Isang domestic helper ang lumapit sa kanya isang araw ng Linggo. Ito po ang off-day ng domestic helpers sa Hong Kong. Ang domestic helper na ito ay kanyang nakasalamuha at lumapit sa kanya at tinanong siya kung puwede ba raw siyang iyakan. Nalaman ng aking kapatid na bawal pala sa bahay ng employer nito na umiyak dahil malas daw. Kaya nang malaman niyang namatay ang kanyang anak dahil hindi umabot ang kanyang ipinadalang pera para sa gamot nito, kinailangan niyang lumabas ng bahay ng employer upang magdalamhati at umiyak nang umiyak. Maraming incident reports din mula sa Migrante International na umaabot sa aming opisina na tunay namang nakababahalang—mga kuwento ng kababaihang ina, asawa, kapatid, anak na laging may iniwang kurot sa puso.

Anuman ang ating maliliit na pagsisikap, personal, organizational, official o unofficial para tumulong sa mga OFW ay mga ambag lamang para sa kagyat na pangangailangan ng ating mga migranteng Pilipino. Sa pangmatagalan, ang kailangan natin ay isang matatag na gobyerno na may ekonomiyang nagsasarili sa lakas ng pambansang industriyalisasyon.

Itakwil natin ang pagpapatuloy ng aping kalagayan ng OFWs at ng kanilang pamilya. Tanawin natin ang isang lipunan na ang pangingibang-bayan ay hindi tulak ng kawalan ng oportunidad sa bansa.

Maraming salamat at magandang hapon.

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

REP. GARCIA (J.). Mr. Speaker, before we proceed, may we acknowledge the presence of our guests in the gallery. They are the guests of Cong. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong from the Kananga Hope International Foundation, namely: Mr. Dean Salter and Ms. Faith Umaguang.

Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of Cong. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, namely: Mr. Wilfredo Noguera, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Mambajao Water District; and Engr. John C. Cagas, General Manager, Mambajao Water District.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). May the guests of Representatives Limkaichong and Romualdo please rise so that your presence will be acknowledged. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. GARCIA (J.) Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Emmi A. De Jesus to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

REP. GARCIA (J.) Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Lady from the GABRIELA Party-List, the Hon. Arlene D. Brosas, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Rep. Arlene D. Brosas from the Party-List GABRIELA is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BROSAS

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In solidarity with the urban poor on World Zero Eviction Day, I rise on behalf of the women and children in urban poor communities and their families, as I join them in reiterating the call against evictions on World Zero Eviction Day.

As we speak, leaders of nations are gathered in Quito, Ecuador to adopt a new Urban Agenda led by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. This is the third of its kind, thus, the moniker “Habitat III” following the UN Conferences of Human Settlement in Vancouver in 1976 and Istanbul in 1996. Covering 40 years, it has since then crafted frameworks for governments and private sector stakeholders towards urban development.

Habitat III’s New Urban Agenda now intends to guide areas of urban planning and development in the next 20 years. While it does take into account the growing poverty of urban residents and the inadequate response of the government to people’s basic needs, it falls short on giving the most important stakeholders of urban development a voice. Even as Habitat III harps on urban development, it provides a backdrop, nay, even a justification for the massive eviction of urban poor residents in the name of development.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, bago natin bigyang puwang at halaga ang mga napagkakaisahan sa Habitat III, tiyak tayo dapat sa ating kasagutan sa ating pinakamahalagang tanong: Para kanino ang kaunlarang inilalako nito? Development for whom?

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, nais kong kunin ang pagkakataong ito para ilahad ang maringing panawagan ng maraming mahihirap na pamilyang paulit-ulit na itinataboy sa ngalan ng kaunlaran. Marami sa kanila, pare-pareho ang mga kuwento. Sila ay mga pamilyang itinaboy ng malawakang kumbersyon ng lupa at kahirapan sa kanayunan kaya napilitang makipagsapalaran sa lungsod. Sila ay mga pamilyang napilitang sumiksik sa mga komunidad sa lungsod, nagtiis na manirahan sa mga barung-barong at kariton sa tinaguriang danger zones.

Marami sa kanila, paulit-ulit na na-demolish para mailipat sa mga proyektong pabahay na malayo sa kanilang mga trabaho at kabuhayan kaya hindi rin nila maipagpatuloy ang pagbabayad at pananatili nito.

G. Ispiker, mga kapwa Kinatawan, bigyang pansin natin bilang halimbawa ang kalunus-lunos na kalagayan ng hindi matapus-tapos na kuwento ng eviction at exodus ng mga residente ng Northville 3 sa Meycauayan, Bulacan. Mula sa kanilang paninirahan sa tabing riles sa Bancal at sa iba’t ibang mga barangay sa Bulacan ay inilipat sila sa Northville 3.

Sila ay itinuturing na mga benepisyaryo o awardee ng mga pabahay na malayo sa kanilang kabuhayan at kung saan ay aabot ng hindi bababa sa P20 hanggang P50 o higit pa ang pamasaha sa tri-bike papasok sa naturang housing project lalo na kapag malakas ang ulan at bumabaha. Sa pinakamalala ay aabot sa hanggang hita ang baha sa naturang lugar. Naiulat ng mga residente na mga tubong maliliit ang tanging daluyan ng tubig bilang drainage system ng lugar kaya’t mabilis ang pagbaha kapag umulan at mabagal ang pag-subside nito.

Seryosong alegasyon na tinipid ng developer ang proyektong ito. Bukod sa maling pagkakagawa ng drainage ay kayang gupitin ng pangkaraniwang gunting ang mga yerong ginamit sa bubong ng naturang mga pabahay. Ang paggamit ng substandard at hindi akmang materyales sa mga proyektong pabahay na ibinibigay ng gobyerno sa mga developers kagaya ng New San Jose Builders ay nagpapatunay na mas interes sa tubo ang prayoridad kaysa sa kapakanan ng mga residente. Ang proyektong pabahay na dapat ay bahagi ng serbisyong panlipunan ay ginagawang negosyo. Dagdag pa ang patung-patong na bayarin na ipinapataw ng gobyerno. Ang mga “award” na pabahay ay may katumbas na P125,000 na pagkakautang na papatawan ng 6 percent interest matapos ang ika-anim na taon. Inaasahan silang magbayad ng amortisasyong hindi bababa sa P200 bawat buwan. Ang amortisasyong ito ay tumataas sa bawat taon sa loob ng 30 taong pagbabayad. Sa gitna ng mahirap nilang kalagayan, heto at pinagkakakitaan pa! Kung tutuusin, mababayaran ng awardee o beneficiary ang housing unit ng doble o triple pa nga ng tunay nitong halaga lalo pa’t mapapatawan pa ng penalty at dagdag na interes kung hindi mo regular na mababayaran ang P200 kada buwan.

Marahil, para sa karamihan ng nasa bulwagang ito, maliit na halaga lamang ang P200, pero para sa isang pamilya na may apat na batang binubuhay, pinag-aaral, at pinakakain ng mga magulang na walang trabaho at pinagkakakitaan, hindi na nila maisip kung saang kamay pa ng buwaya makukuha ang ganitong halaga. Dahil sa ganitong kalagayan, aabot na sa 80 percent ang hindi nakakabayad ng amortisasyon at paulit-ulit na nakatatanggap ng banta ng pagpapalayas sa kanila sa pamamagitan ng mga notice of eviction. Ang mga hindi nakababayad ng amortisasyon na napuputulan pa ng kuryente o serbisyong patubig ay hindi rin muling makakabit ng mga naturang serbisyo hangga't hindi nila nababayaran ang lahat ng kanilang pagkakautang. Sa ganitong kalagayan, maituturing na halos itinatoboy na rin sila mula sa proyektong pabahay kaya tinatayang 40 percent hanggang 50 percent na ng mga residente o benepisyaryo rito ang nagbenta o nagsangla na ng kanilang mga rights sa bahay.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, they are left with no choice but to leave. The deprivation of basic services is tantamount to their forced eviction. How, indeed, can you stay when you have no water or electricity? A similar dilemma is faced by residents of the Vitas Katuparan Housing Project in Tondo, Manila. From urban poor communities, they were relocated to apartment buildings from 1991 to 1999 from the Philippine Ports Authority Compound, Parola, Paco and San Andres in Manila. Resident-beneficiaries were forced to shoulder varying amounts of amortization payments way beyond their means with penalty interest rates amounting to 12 percent. As a result, many of the Vitas Katuparan Housing Project residents are deep in debt, many amounting to hundreds of thousands to as high as a million pesos. In 2014, these approximately 20-year-old apartment buildings were declared condemned after authorities failed to maintain and rehabilitate these housing projects. Dalawang taon na ang nakalipas mula nang ideklarang condemned ang 12 sa 27 housing units ng Vitas Katuparan Housing Project. Aabot sa mahigit 3,000 residente ang sapilitang pinaalis at walang tiyak na patutunguhan bunga ng deklarasyong ito. Sa kabila ng kanilang pagsisikap na mabayaran ang mga naturang housing units taun-taon, halos wala silang nakitang pagsasaayos, pagmimintini o rehabilitasyon ng mga gusali. Sa kanilang patuloy na paggigiit, paulit-ulit na pakikipagdayalogo at negosasyon sa National Housing Authority ay unti-unting naipapaayos ang hagdan, mga pader at pasilyo ng iba pang mga gusali. Batid nilang maipapaayos pa ang mga gusali sa kabila ng deklarasyong ito ay condemned.

Mr. Speaker, mga kapuwa Kinatawan, ang larawan ng mga residente sa mga nabanggit na lugar, ang kanilang mga suliranin at kuwento ay wala halos ipinag-iba sa marami pang mga kuwento ng mga maralitang lungsod na na-demolish at sapilitang pinalilikas mula sa

mga tinaguriang mga danger zones at itinatoboy naman sa walang katiyakang mga death zones. Pare-pareho ang mga kuwento mula Laguna at Cavite hanggang sa Montalban sa Rizal at hanggang sa Bulacan, mula Southville hanggang Northville, hanggang sa mga in-city relocation projects at housing units.

Sa baba't taon ng ating pag-apruba ng badyet ng mga ahensyang inaasahang mangasiwa ng serbisyong pabahay sa ating mamamayan, nasaksihan natin ang patuloy na pagliit ng alokasyon para dito. Kung noong 2016, 1.11 percent ng ating kabuuang badyet ang inilaan para sa tinaguriang shelter agencies, kabilang ang HUDCC at NHA, ngayon ay 0.45 percent na lamang ito ng kabuuang badyet.

Ang patuloy na pagliit ng badyet na ito ang pagkilala sa tunguhin nito bilang korporasyong may inaasahang income o kita mula sa mga benepisyaryo. Sa katunayan, ayon sa financial statement ng National Housing Authority noong Disyembre 2015, nakakolekta na ito ng P3.146 billion mula sa benepisyaryo noong 2015. Hiwalay pa ito sa P97.26 million na nakuha mula sa interes.

Malinaw na may inaasahang kita ang ating mga shelter agencies mula sa mga benepisyaryo nito. Malinaw ang pagsasanegosyo ng serbisyo, at sa taunang pag-aapruba natin ng kakarampot na badyet sa serbisyong pabahay, hindi maikakailang may pananagutan din ang Kongreso. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, dear Colleagues, in the past six years, on the average, only 1.135 percent of annual national budget is allotted for housing or P23 billion per year on the average. This is the lowest among Asian countries.

Sa pagsusulong natin ng tinaguriang urban development, hindi natin dapat makalimutan, sa katunayan ay pangunahin pa nga nating dapat na ikinokonsidera ang mga maralitang tagalungsod. Hindi dapat itinatago at binibigyang katarungan ng tabing ng kaunlaran ang kanilang demolisyon at ebiksyon.

As the Filipino urban poor links arms in solidarity with urban communities, being displaced all over the world in the name of urban development, let the Seventeenth Congress be the champion of the urban poor. Let the Seventeenth Congress heed their calls for zero evictions and demand affordable or free housing projects. Let us do what we can in order to give them access to affordable water and electricity and not use these needs as hostage to their right to domicile. Let us give them access to basic social services, and work on the framework of providing housing, not as a venue to government and private entities and developers to gain profit, but to provide housing as a government service to our people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GARCIA (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Arlene D. Brosas to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). There is a motion.

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

REP. GARCIA (J.). Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Cong. Virgilio S. Lacson of the MANILA TEACHERS Party-List, Cong. Vini Nola A. Ortega of the ABONO Party-List, Cong. Pablo C. Ortega of the First District of La Union, and Cong. Sandra Y. Eriguel, M.D. of the Second District of La Union. They are from the Association of Barangay Secretaries of the municipality of Aringay, province of La Union, headed by their President Ernesto D. Gundran.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The guests of Reps. Virgilio Lacson, Vini Nola Ortega, Pablo Ortega, and Sandra Eriguel, please rise so that your presence will be acknowledged. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

ROLL CALL

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). 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. 37, dated October 17, 2016:

PRESENT

Abad
Abaya
Abayon
Abu
Abueg
Acharon

Acop
Acosta
Adiong
Advincula
Agarao
Aggabao

Aglipay-Villar
Akbar
Albano
Alejano
Almario
Almonte
Alonte-Naguiat
Alvarez (F.)
Alvarez (M.)
Amatong
Andaya
Angara-Castillo
Antonino
Antonio
Aragones
Arbison
Atienza
Aumentado
Bagatsing
Baguilat
Banal
Barzaga
Bataoil
Batocabe
Bautista-Bandigan
Belmonte (F.)
Belmonte (J.C.)
Bertiz
Billones
Bolilia
Bondoc
Bordado
Bravo (A.)
Bravo (M.V.)
Brosas
Cagas
Calderon
Calixto-Rubiano
Caminero
Campos
Canama
Cari
Castelo
Castro (F.L.)
Castro (F.H.)
Cerilles
Chavez
Chipeco
Co
Collantes
Cortes
Cortuna
Cosalan
Cuaresma
Cueva
Dalipe

Dalog
Daza
De Jesus
De Venecia
De Vera
Defensor
Del Mar
Del Rosario
Deloso-Montalla
Dimaporo (M.K)
Dy
Elago
Enverga
Eriguel
Ermita-Buhain
Escudero
Espina
Espino
Estrella
Evardone
Fariñas
Ferrer (J.)
Ferrer (L.)
Floirendo
Flores
Fortun
Fortuno
Fuentebella
Garbin
Garcia (G.)
Garcia (J.E.)
Garcia-Albano
Garin (S.)
Gasataya
Go (M.)
Gomez
Gonzaga
Gonzales (A.P.)
Gonzales (A.D.)
Gonzalez
Hernandez
Herrera-Dy
Hofer
Kho
Labadlabad
Lacson
Lagman
Lanete
Lazatin
Leachon
Limkaichong
Lobregat
Lopez (B.)
Lopez (M.L.)
Loyola
Macapagal-Arroyo

Maceda	Romualdo
Madrona	Roque (H.)
Malapitan	Sacdalan
Manalo	Sagarbarria
Mangaoang	Sahali
Mangudadatu (Z.)	Salimbangon
Marcoleta	Salo
Marcos	Salon
Mariño	Sambar
Marquez	Santos-Recto
Martinez	Sarmiento (C.)
Matugas	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Mellana	Savellano
Mending	Siao
Mercado	Silverio
Mirasol	Singson
Montoro	Suansing (E.)
Nava	Suansing (H.)
Noel	Suarez
Nograla (J.J.)	Sy-Alvarado
Nograla (K.A.)	Tambunting
Nolasco	Tan (A.)
Nuñez-Malanyaon	Tejada
Oaminal	Teves
Ong (E.)	Tiangco
Ong (H.)	Ting
Ortega (P.)	Tinio
Ortega (V.N.)	Tolentino
Pacquiao	Tugna
Paduano	Turabin-Hataman
Palma	Ty
Pancho	Umali
Panganiban	Unabia
Panotes	Ungab
Pichay	Unico
Pimentel	Uy (J.)
Pineda	Uy (R.)
Plaza	Vargas
Primicias-Agabas	Vargas-Alfonso
Quimbo	Velasco
Radaza	Velasco-Catera
Ramirez-Sato	Veloso
Ramos	Vergara
Relampagos	Villanueva
Revilla	Villaraza-Suarez
Roa-Puno	Villarica
Robes	Villarin
Rocamora	Violago
Rodriguez (I.)	Yap (M.)
Rodriguez (M.)	Yap (V.)
Roman	Yu
Romero	Zubiri
Romualdez	

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). With 229 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

Continuation

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

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, there being no other speakers left, I move that we close the Privilege Hour.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move for a suspension of the session.

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

It was 5:02 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:08 p.m., the session was resumed

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

REP. GARCIA (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Deputy Speaker Rolando G. Andaya Jr. for a question of privilege.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The honorable Deputy Speaker Rolando Andaya is hereby recognized.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. ANDAYA

REP. ANDAYA. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Since the Privilege Hour has been terminated, allow me to speak on a question of personal and collective privilege.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 229 Members responded to the call.

We, the Members of this Chamber, have been given front row seat to a very—maiksi lang ito, Rodito. Okay lang, relax lang, maiksi lang ito, para hindi lang tayo umuwi nang maaga—we have been treated to a front-row seat in viewing the continuous *teledrama* of the investigation being conducted by the Committee on Justice.

Personally, I have taken interest in listening to the testimonies of all the witnesses. And there is one thing clear, if you are to believe the story, it is apparently the biggest orchestrated, syndicated, internationally organized distribution of illegal drugs. It involves foreigners; it involves drugs coming from overseas; it involves members of the Executive; it involves policemen. So, if you are to look at the different departments involved which should investigate this matter, you can easily come up with a list of departments which should be invited for questioning. The DOJ, the Immigration, the Interpol, the PNP, the Foreign Affairs, the PDEA—all of these agencies are involved in this story, Mr. Speaker. I just remembered, luckily, that there is an agency existing at this point, which we forgot to ask, an agency which all of the aforementioned departments are part of, and that is the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission. We did not ask that Commission which has been in existence since the time of President Estrada and was further strengthened last 2011 by former President Aquino.

Every year, that agency or that Commission has enjoyed a budget of almost P80 million. Dapat siguro tinanong natin sila or tanungin natin ngayon, ano ba ang kinalaman ninyo dito sa nangyayaring drug operations na ito, which is supposed to be nationwide and international in scope? Natunugan ninyo ba ito? In your six years, I am talking about the past administration, in your six years of operation, in your six years of spending P80 million a year, have you even gotten a word that something like this was going on, kung may nangyayari bang ganito, o totoo ba ito? Because lahat naman ng mga ahensiya na involved dito na lumalabas sa kuwento nila ay under pala at nasasaklaw pala ng inyong opisina.

I went through the effort of looking at the website of this particular agency and I was glad to realize that their number one achievement is catching illegal logs. So, obviously, parang wala, walang nangyari.

So, bago ho ako matapos ang ginawa ko ho, logically, tumawag po ako sa opisina na ito—nagabudget hearing kasi po tayo ngayon—so I asked that office, “Can you please inform me, how much was spent for this particular office last year and this year?” At ang sagot sa akin was, “Puwede bang sumulat ka sa amin at sasagutin ka namin.” Gusto ko lang ipaabot sa inyo na puwede na pala ngayon ang freedom of information. Ginagawa na po ngayon kahit sa Miyembro ng Kongreso. Kapag nagtatanong ka, hindi ka na puwedeng sagutin

ng “Kailangang sumulat ka muna bago ka sagutin.” Okay? Nakakahiya naman iyon dahil alam ninyo, nasa gitna tayo ng budget season ngayon so tatanungin mo lang—hindi ko nga itinatanong kung saan ginamit eh. Tinanong ko lang, “Magkano ang ginastos?”

Puwede ko namang makita kung tingnan ko sa libro eh, pero tinawagan ko lang at itinanong, “Magkano ba ang ginastos natin last year sa ahensiya na ito?” Ang sagot, “Hindi ho namin puwedeng masagot iyan. Kung gusto mo, sulatan mo kami ng pormal bago namin sagutin.”

Alam naman ho natin, sa ganyang pamamaraan, they have 15 days to answer. Siyempre, pag answer mo within 15 days, recess na tayo. Tapos na, naipasá na ang budget at nagbabakasyon na tayong lahat. So, wala na ring saysay iyong impormasyon, iyong timeliness noong impormasyon, wala na.

So, that is a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I do not think that Members of Congress, especially when we are right smack in the middle of the budget deliberations, think that an agency will give you that kind of a response, that “we cannot answer your question.” It is a simple question of how much the allocation, how much was approved by Congress for your office last year. You have now Congress asking you again, “Magkano nga ang ibinigay namin sa inyo last year?” Ang isasagot sa iyo, “Sulatan mo na lang kami dahil hindi namin kayo puwedeng sagutin ngayon, that is a sensitive matter.” Tama ba iyon? So, that is my point. I hope hindi na ho mauulit ito nang hindi ho lumala ang problema natin dahil hindi naman tama na iyong tao o iyong Chamber na nag-a-approve ng budget, kapag tinanong na kung saan ginamit iyong pondo ay hindi ka na sasagutin, kailangan sumulat ka pa sa kanila para sagutin ka nila nang maayos sa simpleng bagay lang.

So, that is all, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the matter raised by the honorable Deputy Speaker Andaya to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, may we, again, acknowledge the presence of the guests of the distinguished Lady from the First District of Negros Oriental, Rep. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong. They are from Kananga Hope International Foundation: Dean Salter and Faith Umaguang.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Please rise. *(Applause)* Welcome to the House of Representatives.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. I move for a suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, October 18, 2016, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). There is a motion. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned and will resume on October 18 at four o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 5:15 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

It was 5:16 p.m.

At 5:15 p.m., the session was resumed.