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House of Representatives

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No. 40

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Frederick "Erick" F. Abueg called the session to order.

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abueg). Please remain standing for the Invocation to be delivered by the honorable Rep. Divina Grace C. Yu of the First District of Zamboanga del Sur.

Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

REP. YU. Our Father in heaven, at this moment, we pause to acknowledge Your might and power. We praise You for You have extended our lives up to this moment. We praise You for granting us liberty and we praise You for You have afforded us many wonderful things—and service to our country is one of these.

Before we discuss important things for our country, we ask forgiveness for our trespasses and shortcomings. We are not worthy of calling on Your Holy Name, but we are thankful that You have assured us that You will hear the prayers and longings of Your children.

We ask, Lord, that You bless our presiding officer. Give him the wisdom to lead us in deliberations and discussions. We also ask that You give us open minds and accepting hearts so that whatever comes out of our session, we put our constituents' needs on top. Most of all, we pray that You give us strength as we pursue loftier things for our country.

Lord, we yield to Your wisdom, we yield to Your power and we yield to Your protection.

All these we pray for, in Your Holy Name. Amen.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abueg). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the calling of the roll is deferred.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abueg). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the approval of the Journal is deferred.

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

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4107, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES SECTORS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1467, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED, 'CREATING THE PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND ACTIVITIES, PROVIDING FOR ITS CAPITALIZATION AND FOR THE REQUIRED GOVERNMENT PREMIUM SUBSIDY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES' "

By Representatives Salon and Lee
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 4108, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL POLICY ON STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND WELFARE"

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

House Bill No. 4109, entitled:

"AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PEOPLE'S LAW ENFORCEMENT BOARD (PLEB), FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8551"

By Representative Chipeco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 4110, entitled:

"AN ACT GRANTING ILOILO BAPTIST CHURCH (PHILIPPINES) TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE NON-COMMERCIAL RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES"

By Representative Treñas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4111, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL GREEN BUILDING CODE AND RATING SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 4112, entitled:

"AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO SOLO PARENTS, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'SOLO PARENTS WELFARE ACT OF 2000' "

By Representative Lazatin
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 4114, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING THE ZAMBOANGA CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER AND OPERATE THE ZAMBOANGA CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Dalipe
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 4115, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FINAL FORESTLAND BOUNDARY OF THE PROVINCE OF SIKUIJOR"

By Representative Rocamora
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4116, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF PHILIPPINE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE"

By Representative Rocamora
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4117, entitled:

"AN ACT SEPARATING THE CITY OF MANDAUE FROM THE 6TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF CEBU TO CREATE THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MANDAUE CITY"

By Representative Cortes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4118, entitled:

"AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO FIRST LOVE BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8100 ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE FIRST LOVE BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL FM AND AM RADIO STATIONS AND TELEVISION STATIONS IN THE VISAYAS AND MINDANAO' FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT"

By Representative Jalosjos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4119, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE HOLDING OR DETENTION OF HUMAN REMAINS OR CADAVERS BY HOSPITALS, CLINICS, MORGUES, FUNERAL PARLORS FOR NON PAYMENT OF HOSPITAL/ MEDICAL BILLS AND FUNERAL EXPENSES”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4120, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING GEN. LUIS TRAVERSING FROM BARANGAY LAWANG BATO TO VALENZUELA-CALOOCAN BOUNDARY IN THE SECOND DISTRICT, CITY OF VALENZUELA, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Martinez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4121, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING A. MARIANO STREET TRAVERSING FROM A. MARIANO STREET IN BARANGAY BAGBAGUIN TO STO. ROSARIO BARANGAY MAPULANG LUPA IN THE SECOND DISTRICT, CITY OF VALENZUELA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Martinez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4122, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING QUE GRANDE ROAD FROM GEN. T. DE LEON BRIDGE TO MINDANAO AVENUE IN THE SECOND DISTRICT, CITY OF VALENZUELA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Martinez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4123, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING MALINIS STREET TRAVERSING FROM MALINIS STREET IN BARANGAY BAGBAGUIN TO VALENZUELA-CALOOCAN BOUNDARY IN THE SECOND DISTRICT, CITY OF VALENZUELA, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Martinez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4124, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS AND INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992’, PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Salo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4125, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF DATU HALUN SAKILAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ALSO KNOWN AS THE PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL OF TAWI-TAWI IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BONGAO, PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI FROM LEVEL 2 WITH FIFTY (50) BED AUTHORIZED CAPACITY TO LEVEL 3 WITH TWO HUNDRED (200) BED AUTHORIZED CAPACITY, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND THEIR SALARIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sahali
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4126, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE TURTLE ISLANDS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TURTLE ISLANDS, PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI, AS A PROTECTED AREA”

By Representative Sahali
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4127, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO SET AND APPROVE THE BED CAPACITY OF ALL DOH HOSPITALS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 4128, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING A TWO-THOUSAND PESO (P2,000.00) ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASE IN THE MONTHLY PENSION OF SSS MEMBER-PENSIONERS AND RATIONALIZING THE POWERS, DUTIES

AND ACCOUNTABILITIES OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION (SSC), FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8282, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1997”

By Representatives Batocabe, Garbin and Co
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 4129, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES NATIONWIDE AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4130, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING TO FOURTEEN (14) DAYS THE PATERNITY LEAVE AND REMOVING THE LIMITATION ON DELIVERY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 2 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8187, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PATERNITY LEAVE ACT OF 1996’”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 4131, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE LIMAHONG CHANNEL LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LINGAYEN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AS A TOURIST SPOT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bataoil
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 4132, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER IN EVERY REGIONAL, PROVINCIAL, DISTRICT, CITY AND MUNICIPAL HEALTH CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Singson
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 4133, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING TAX AMNESTY ON ALL UNPAID INTERNAL REVENUE TAX

LIABILITIES FOR TAXABLE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2006 TO JUNE 30, 2016”

By Representative Singson
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4134, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 24, 34 AND 110 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997’, AS AMENDED, REDUCING THE INCOME TAX LIABILITIES OF INDIVIDUALS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Bag-ao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4135, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONWIDE CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAM OUTLINING ITS POLICIES, FRAMEWORK, AND STRUCTURE, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Bag-ao and Bordado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 4136, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY UNDER REPUBLIC ACT 7816, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’”

By Representative Salimbangon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4137, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR ROBBERY, THEFT AND DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 4138, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD

STRETCHING FROM JUNCTION MARIA CLARA LOBREGAT NATIONAL HIGHWAY IN BARANGAY VITALI PASSING TO BARANGAY SIBULAO TO JUNCTION MARIA CLARA LOBREGAT NATIONAL HIGHWAY IN BARANGAY TAGASILAY, ALL IN ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Lobregat and Dalipe
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4139, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM JUNCTION BARANGAY SIBULAO TO MERLOQUET FALLS IN ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Lobregat and Dalipe
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4140, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL EXTENSION SYSTEM TO ACCELERATE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD AND THE COMMITTEE
ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4141, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON FOOD AND OTHER BASIC COMMODITIES TO GUARANTEE THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO AFFORDABLE FOOD AND ADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLY, PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
FOOD AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON FOOD SECURITY

House Bill No. 4142, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING REFERENCE TO BRAND NAMES IN THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS BY

THE GOVERNMENT AND ALLOWING FOR THE EXTENSION OF A WINNING BIDDER’S PERIOD TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH THE PROCURING ENTITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT’ ”

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4143, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4144, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 145 (C) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representative De Vera
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND
MEANS

House Bill No. 4145, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO FILIPINAS BROADCASTING NETWORK, INCORPORATED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8168 ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE FILIPINAS BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES’ ”

By Representative Lagman
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4146, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO CHILDREN OF ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lazatin
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4147, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO CHILDREN OF THE DEPLOYED

MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF
THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Lazatin
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4148, entitled:

“AN ACT REVISING THE DEFINITION OF THE
CRIME OF RAPE AND ITS PENALTIES
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 8353 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE ANTI-RAPE LAW OF 1997”

By Representative Baguilat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF
LAWS

House Bill No. 4150, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A TOTAL BAN
ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES,
FOR OTHER PROHIBITIONS AND
RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF
LANDMINES, BOOBY-TRAPS AND
OTHER DEVICES, FOR THE CREATION
OF A PHILIPPINE COORDINATING
COMMITTEE ON LANDMINES, AND FOR
RELATED PURPOSES”

By Representative Villarín
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

House Bill No. 4151, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING WIRE TAPPING
IN CASES INVOLVING VIOLATIONS OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE ‘COMPREHENSIVE
DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002’,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION
3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4200, ENTITLED
‘AN ACT TO PROHIBIT AND PENALIZE
WIRE TAPPING AND OTHER RELATED
VIOLATIONS OF THE PRIVACY OF
COMMUNICATION, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES’ ”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS
DRUGS AND THE COMMITTEE ON
REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 4152, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING FIXED TERMS FOR
THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND THE MAJOR
SERVICE COMMANDERS OF THE ARMED
FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE
AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 4153, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE SALARY
STEP INCREMENT FOR TEACHERS WITH
SPECIALIZATION IN SCIENCE AND/OR
MATHEMATICS”

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4154, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 1 OF
EVERY YEAR AS A NON-WORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY
OF PADRE GARCIA, PROVINCE OF
BATANGAS, IN CELEBRATION OF ITS
KABAKAHAN FESTIVAL AND FOUNDING
ANNIVERSARY”

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF
LAWS

House Bill No. 4155, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE RICE
ALLOWANCE PROGRAM IN PANTAWID
PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM
(4Ps) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY
ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 4156, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE TAX
EXEMPTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL
AIR CARRIERS OPERATING IN THE
PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE
NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE
OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Cuaresma
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND
MEANS

House Bill No. 4157, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM
MONTHLY PENSION UNDER THE SOCIAL
SECURITY SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 1161, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE ‘SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
OF 1997’ ”

By Representative Cuaresma
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 4158, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING INCENTIVES TO

SUBDIVISION HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN FORESTED AREAS WITHIN THEIR SUBDIVISIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cuaresma
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4159, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4670 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE MAGNA CARTA FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS’”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4160, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE MANLABANG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BRGY. MANLABANG, MUNICIPALITY OF CAIBIRAN, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN INTO THE CAIBIRAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Espina
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4161, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING SIX (6) MONTHS MEDICAL SERVICE IN LOCAL HEALTH FACILITIES FOR POST-GRADUATE PHYSICIANS AND NEW MEDICAL SPECIALISTS”

By Representative Espina
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4162, entitled:

“AN ACT REVOKING IRRIGATION SERVICES FEES AND OTHER RELATED FEES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3601, PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 552 AND PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1702”

By Representative Singson
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4163, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE NHW JCT. MALANDAG-DATAL BATONG, MALUNGON - BOUNDARY MIASONG, TUPI PROVINCIAL ROAD INTO A NATIONAL SECONDARY ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Pacquiao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4164, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY MABINI-PINTOR-UNION, MUNICIPALITY OF GAMU TO MANGCURAM - LULUTAN, CITY OF ILAGAN, ALL OF THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Go (A.C.), Montoro, Albano, Dy, Ty, Aggabao and Panganiban
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4165, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NATIONAL HIGHWAY FROM THE LANA DEL NORTE INTERIOR CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAGOLOAN, LANA DEL NORTE TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF TALAKAG, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON, WITH A CROSSROAD AT BARANGAY PANALAWAN, MUNICIPALITY OF TAGOLOAN, LANA DEL NORTE AND CONNECTING ROADS TO THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY IN ILIGAN CITY THROUGH BARANGAY PUGAAN, ILIGAN CITY AND TO THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY IN MARAWI CITY THROUGH THE MUNICIPALITY OF KAPAL, LANA DELSUR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN UNITY CROSSROAD AND HIGHWAYS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Dimaporo (M.), Dimaporo (A.), Acosta-Alba, Siao and Adiong
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4166, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LICENSING CENTER IN THE CITY OF SAN PABLO, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA INTO A REGULAR LICENSING CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE SAN PABLO CITY LICENSING CENTER OF SAN PABLO CITY, LAGUNA APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aragonese
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4167, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Aragonas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 4168, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CAMARINES SUR SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, CREATING FOR SUCH PURPOSE THE CAMARINES SUR SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 4169, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE BICOL LIGHT AND POWER CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, OWN, MANAGE AND MAINTAIN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF ELECTRIC POWER TO THE END-USERS IN THE TOWNS OF BAAO, BALATAN, BATO, BUHI, BULA, NABUA, AND THE CITY OF IRIGA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4170, entitled:

“AN ACT ABOLISHING THE SERVICE FEES FOR THE USE OF IRRIGATION FACILITIES OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3601, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION’ ”

By Representative Unabia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4171, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING MANDATORY AUTOPSY ON BODIES OF CRIME VICTIMS, DEATHS UNDER MYSTERIOUS AND SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Barbers

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 4172, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE KOLAMBUGAN-TANGKAL PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF KOLAMBUGAN AND TANGKAL, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Dimaporo (M.) and Dimaporo (A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4173, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE MALUNGGAY INDUSTRY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aglipay-Villar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4174, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9520, REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6939 AND CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVES, TRANSFERRING THE REGISTRATION AND REGULATION FUNCTIONS ON COOPERATIVES TO THE DEPARTMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Plaza, Mellana, Zubiri, Canama, Pichay and Geron
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4175, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A DRIVERS’ EDUCATION PROGRAM AS AN ELECTIVE FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lazatin
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4176, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL MULBERRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM,

APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aglipay-Villar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4177, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONTINUING
NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR HYBRID AND
OTHER QUALITY SEEDS PRODUCTION,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aglipay-Villar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4178, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL
PROGRAM FOR THE COFFEE INDUSTRY
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aglipay-Villar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4179, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL
PROGRAM FOR THE CACAO INDUSTRY
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aglipay-Villar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4180, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE
GRANTED TO DXRA - RMC
(RIZAL MEMORIAL COLLEGES)
BROADCASTING CORPORATION TO
CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, OPERATE
AND MAINTAIN A COMMERCIAL
RADIO BROADCASTING STATION IN
THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT
NUMBERED EIGHT ONE HUNDRED
FIFTY-NINE TO ANOTHER TWENTY-
FIVE (25) YEARS”

By Representative Acosta
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4181, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE
CREATION OF ‘THE PLASTIC BAG
RECYCLING ACT OF 2016’ AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 4182, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE REVITALIZATION,
REHABILITATION AND MODERNIZATION
OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN
PROVISIONS OF R.A. NO. 4156 ENTITLED
‘AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE
NATIONAL RAILWAYS, PRESCRIBING
ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES,
AND PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY
FUNDS FOR ITS OPERATION’ ”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION
AND THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4183, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE
OF DISPOSABLE POLYSTYRENE
FOOD CONTAINER, DISPOSABLE
NONRECYCLABLE PLASTIC FOOD
CONTAINER, AND DISPOSABLE
NONRECYCLABLE CONTENT PAPER
CONTAINER, AND OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 4184, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH POLICY FOR THE
PURPOSE OF ENHANCING THE
DELIVERY OF INTEGRATED MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES, PROMOTING AND
PROTECTING PERSONS UTILIZING
PSYCHIATRIC, NEUROLOGIC AND
PSYCHOSOCIAL HEALTH SERVICES,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villarín
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4185, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH (DOH) TO PROVIDE FREE
MAINTENANCE MEDICINES AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bagatsing
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4186, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE BULUSAN
VOLCANO LOCATED IN THE

MUNICIPALITIES OF BARCELONA, BULUSAN, CASIGURAN, IROSIN AND JUBAN, IN THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON, AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF NATURAL PARK, PROVIDING FUNDS FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Ramos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4187, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING STRATEGIC PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE STOPS IN ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Go (A.C.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4188, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9262, DEFINING THE ACT OF REPRODUCTIVE COERCION AND THE ACT OF CHILD ABANDONMENT, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Go (A.C.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 4189, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE MOLINO BOULEVARD IN BACOR CITY, CAVITE TO BACOR BOULEVARD, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Revilla

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4190, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE MOLINO-SALAWAG-PALIPARAN ROAD IN THE CITY OF BACOR AND CITY OF DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE TO BACOR-DASMARIÑAS ROAD, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Revilla and Barzaga

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4191, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE DAANG HARI

ROAD (LAS PIÑAS-MUNTINLUPA-CAVITE LINKROAD) FROM THE INTERSECTION OF COMMERCE AVENUE AND INVESTMENT DRIVE IN LAS PIÑAS-MUNTINLUPA, DAANG REYNA ROAD, MOLINO ROAD TO AGUINALDO HIGHWAY IN THE CITY OF IMUS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Revilla, Advincula, Barzaga and Ferrer L.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4192, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE SHARE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE TAXES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 284 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Matugas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4193, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE GEN. LUNA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - SUYANGAN ANNEX IN BARANGAY SUYANGAN, MUNICIPALITY OF GEN. LUNA, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE FROM THE GEN. LUNA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS SUYANGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Matugas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4194, entitled:

“AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OVER PROVINCIAL JAILS FROM THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990’ ”

By Representative Matugas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4195, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE GEN. LUNA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - CONSUELO ANNEX IN BARANGAY CONSUELO, MUNICIPALITY OF GEN. LUNA, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE FROM THE GEN. LUNA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS CONSUELO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Matugas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4196, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM JUNCTION BARANGAY ROXAS, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ISIDRO TO BARANGAYS MABINI, LIBERTAD, BAILAN AND T. ARLAN, MUNICIPALITY OF STA. MONICA, ALL OF THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Matugas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4197, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM JUNCTION BARANGAY CONSUELO TO BARANGAYS CORAZON, STA. CRUZ, STA. FE, LIBERTAD, CABITONAN AND CATANGNAN, ALL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF GEN. LUNA, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Matugas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4198, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY TUBURAN, MUNICIPALITY OF DEL CARMEN TO BARANGAY MAASIN, MUNICIPALITY OF PILAR, ALL OF THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Matugas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4199, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY CONSUELO, MUNICIPALITY OF GEN. LUNA TO BARANGAY SALVACION, MUNICIPALITY OF PILAR, ALL OF THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE FROM A PROVINCIAL ROAD INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Matugas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4200, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY ROXAS, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ISIDRO TO BARANGAYS NUEVO CAMPO AND TALISAY, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN BENITO, ALL OF THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Matugas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4201, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM JUNCTION SONGKOY TO BARANGAY SERING, ALL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOCORRO, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Matugas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4202, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM JUNCTION NUEVA ESTRELLA, BARANGAY NUEVA ESTRELLA TO BARANGAY SALUG, ALL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOCORRO, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND THE APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Matugas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 478, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING
PROFOUND CONDOLENCES TO THE
KINGDOM OF THAILAND FOR THE
DEMISE OF HIS EXCELLENCY, BHUMIBOL
ADULYADEJ, KING OF THAILAND”

By Representative Lee
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 479, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO
CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT SPATE
OF KILLINGS OF LUMAD AND PEASANT
LEADERS AND ACTIVISTS PERPETRATED
BY SUSPECTED ELEMENTS OF THE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 480, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE
ON HEALTH OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN
INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
INTO THE NATIONAL DENGUE PREVENTION
AND CONTROL PROGRAM OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, REVIEW THE
PROCESSING AND REGISTRATION OF
THE DENGUE VACCINE INCLUDING THE
CONTRACT TO PURCHASE FROM SANOFI
PASTEUR, EXAMINE RELEVANT RESEARCH
AND STUDIES ON THE EFFICACY AND
SAFETY OF THE VACCINE AND PROPOSE
REMEDIAL MEASURES THAT PROMOTE
PUBLIC SAFETY”

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

House Resolution No. 481, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DECLARING JULY 15 OF
EVERY YEAR AS ‘NATIONAL SMOKE-
FREE DAY’ UPON WHICH ALL CITIZENS
SHALL BE PROHIBITED TO SMOKE
AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR
VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Resolution No. 482, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE
PALAWAN STATE UNIVERSITY SINGERS
FOR WINNING THE GRAND CHAMPION IN
THE 33RD FESTIVAL DE INTERNACIONAL
DE MUSICA DE CANTONIGROS IN SPAIN
LAST JULY 19 TO 16, 2015”

By Representative Abueg
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 483, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE
APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, TO REVIEW AND ASSESS
THE FOREIGN POLICY POSTURE OF THE
DUTERTE ADMINISTRATION SO THAT
WE CAN EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT THE
PRESIDENT’S INITIATIVES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 484, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES CONGRATULATING
AND COMMENDING REPRESENTATIVE
GERALDINE ROMAN FOR BEING HAILED
AS ONE OF THE INSPIRING WOMEN OF
2016 BY MOTTO WEBSITE, FROM THE
EDITORS OF TIME MAGAZINE”

By Representatives Garin (S.), Batocabe, Alonte-
Naguiat, Chavez, Velasco-Catera, Estrella,
Villanueva, Mending, Turabin-Hataman,
Casilao, Noel, Teves, Aglipay-Villar, Ty,
Garcia-Albano, Enverga, Tupas, Ong (H.),
Ermita-Buhain, Arenas, Catamco, Sahali,
Bautista-Bandigan, Montoro, Siao, Nava, Yu,
Herrera-Dy, Cortuna, Bravo (A.), Arcillas,
Bertiz, Salon, Campos, Garbin, Tinio, Andaya,
Cua, Aumentado, Relampagos, Castro (F.L.),
Elago, De Jesus, Paduano, Fortun, Bag-ao,
Bagatsing, Geron, Romero, Tan (S.), Belaro,
Tugna, Garcia (G.), Tan (A.), Maceda, Aragones,
Canama, Barzaga, Acosta, Gullas, Madrona,
Cueva, Ferrer (J.), Dimaporo (M.), Marquez,
Sema, Roa-Puno, Akbar, Defensor, Hofer,
Nuñez-Malanyaon, Gomez, Uy (J.), Gonzales
(A.P.), Pineda, Villarin, Quimbo, Del Rosario,
Lacson, Garin (O.), Laogan, Zubiri, Roque
(R.N.), Ortega (V.), Suansing (E.) and Salo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND
GENDER EQUALITY

House Resolution No. 485, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE
ASSISTANCE OF THE SPEAKER OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN
ALLOTING OR REALIGNING FUNDS
AMOUNTING TO PHP 170 MILLION UNDER
THE 2017 NATIONAL EXPENDITURE
PROGRAM FOR THE FORMULATION
OF THE METRO CEBU TRAFFIC
MANAGEMENT PLAN”

By Representatives Sarmiento (C.), Sarmiento (E.), Pancho, Ong (H.), Sambar, Del Mar, Caminero, Garcia (G.), Durano, Cortes, Calderon and Radaza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Resolution No. 486, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO STRONGLY CONDEMN THE VIOLENT DISPERSAL OF THE DEMONSTRATION OF PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS LED BY NATIONAL MINORITY GROUPS IN FRONT OF THE US EMBASSY IN MANILA, AND CALLING ON THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT A PROBE ON THE INCIDENT AND SUMMON TO CONGRESS THE PERPETRATORS BEHIND IT, ESPECIALLY PO3 FRANKLIN KHO AND SR. SUPT. MARCELINO PEDROZO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS OF THE MANILA POLICE DISTRICT”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 487, entitled:

“OMNIBUS RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE VIOLENT DISPERSAL OF NATIONAL MINORITIES AND SUPPORTERS HOLDING A PEACEFUL PROTEST AT THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY AND CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, BY THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE SAID BRUTAL POLICE DISPERSAL OF PEOPLE EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO PEACEABLY ASSEMBLE AND AIR THEIR GRIEVANCES”

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

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas for House Bills No. 2158, 2576, 3706, 4047 and 4048;

Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D. for House Bills No. 893, 1204, 1205, 1212, 1213, 2812, 2973, 2977 and 3336;

Rep. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte for House Bill No. 338;

Rep. Strike B. Revilla for House Bill No. 1613;

Rep. Erlpe John “Ping” M. Amante for House Bill No. 123;

Rep. Celso L. Lobregat for House Bills No. 2561, 3530, 3780 and 3859;

Rep. Micaela S. Violago for House Bills No. 1472, 1492, 1500 and 2690;

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting for House Bills No. 1032, 1097, 1100, 1190, 1193, 1337, 1338, 1480 and 2890;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 2883, 3250, 3880, 3881, 3946, 3967 and 3972;

Reps. Maximo B. Dalog, Elisa “Olga” T. Kho, Evelina G. Escudero, Paolo Everardo S. Javier, Makmod D. Mending Jr., Frederick “Erick” F. Abueg, Ruby M. Sahali, Emmanuel A. Billones, Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Munir M. Arbison, Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr., Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Johnny Ty Pimentel, Micaela S. Violago, Lianda B. Bolilia, Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso, Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III, Rolando “Klaxex” A. Uy, Mark Aeron H. Sambar, Rodolfo C. Fariñas, Raul A. Daza, Francisco Jose F. Matugas II, Divina Grace C. Yu, Alberto T. Ungab, Robert Ace S. Barbers, Romeo M. Acop, Jesus Nonato Sacdalan, Doy C. Leachon, Ana Cristina Siquian Go, Salvador B. Belaro Jr., Winston “Winnie” Castelo, Victoria Isabel G. Noel, Leopoldo N. Bataoil and Roy M. Loyola for House Bill No. 1858;

Reps. Strike B. Revilla, Isidro S. Rodriguez Jr., Dakila Carlo E. Cua, Maria Valentina G. Plaza, Rico B. Geron, Mercedes K. Alvarez, Imelda R. Marcos, Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III, Ruby M. Sahali, Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Divina Grace C. Yu, Alberto T. Ungab, Jesus Nonato Sacdalan, Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao, Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez, Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Roy M. Loyola, Luis “Jon-Jon” A. Ferrer IV, Jennifer Austria Barzaga and Arnel M. Cerafica for House Bill No. 1859;

Reps. Erlpe John “Ping” M. Amante, Alejandro Y. Mirasol, Enrico A. Pineda, Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez and Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D. for House Bill No. 2798;

Rep. Tom S. Villarin for House Bills No. 533, 534, 535, 1858, 1859, 1894, 2141, 2774, 3557 and 3632;

Rep. Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III for House Bills No. 3518, 3519, 3520, 3521, 3606, 3607, 3608 and 3635;

Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe for House Bills No. 262, 264 and 2867;

Rep. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano for House Bills No. 234 and 963;

Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr. for House Bills No. 264 and 3422;

Rep. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr. for House Bills No. 307, 308, 381, 382, 1291, 1858, 1859, 1894, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2798, 3318, 3469, 3518, 3519, 3520, 3521, 3606, 3607, 3608, 3635 and 3655;

Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta for House Bills No. 1554, 1555, 1853, 1858, 2141, 3556, 3557 and 3632;

Rep. Luis “Jon-Jon” A. Ferrer IV for House Bill No. 555;

Reps. Jesus “Boying” F. Celeste, Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, Winston “Winnie” Castelo, Luis “JonJon” A. Ferrer IV, Greg G. Gasataya, Isagani S. Amatong and Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu for House Bill No. 516;

Rep. Francisco Jose F. Matugas II for House Bill No. 3777;

Rep. Carmelo “Jon” B. Lazatin II for House Bills No. 2314 and 2916;

Rep. Teodoro “Ted” G. Montoro for House Bill No. 824;

Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto for House Bill No. 287;

Rep. Len B. Alonte-Naguiat for House Bills No. 1667, 1668, 1669, 1670, 1672, 1675, 1677, 1678, 1679, 1680, 1681, 1682, 1683, 2228, 2234, 2235, 2236, 3821, 3822, 3823, 3824, 3826, 3827, 3828 and 3829;

Rep. Manuel T. Sagarbarria for House Resolution No. 393;

Rep. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy for House Bills No. 1858 and 1859;

Rep. Shernee Abubakar Tan for House Bills No. 287 and 288;

Rep. Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu for House Joint Resolution No. 2;

Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez for House Bill No. 414;

Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento for House Bill No. 4093;

Rep. Rene L. Relampagos for House Bills No. 104, 257, 516, 588 and 1858;

Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. for House Bill No. 257; and

Rep. Mercedes K. Alvarez for House Bills No. 3457, 3458 and 3459.

COMMUNICATION

Letter dated October 19, 2016 of Salvador C. Medialdea., Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting two (2) original copies of Republic Act No. 10923 which was signed on October 15, 2016 by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, entitled:

“AN ACT POSTPONING THE OCTOBER 2016 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, PRESCRIBING ADDITIONAL RULES GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

TO THE ARCHIVES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abueg). The Deputy Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

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

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

The Chair now opens the Privilege Hour.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Frederick W. Siao of the Lone District of Iligan City who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abueg). The Hon. Frederick Siao is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. SIAO

REP. SIAO. Honorable Speaker, distinguished colleagues in this august Body, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Maayong hapon kanadtong tanan.

Everyday we keep hearing everybody talk about the need to be proactive, to look ahead in order to be prepared and to act with dispatch on the necessary actions or steps and yet, also everyday we keep facing the harsh realities of things that were not done, unnecessary problems that could have been avoided early, countermeasures that could have minimized the damage inflicted and similar such regrettable situations.

Just consider the pressing problems of today: inadequate and expensive electricity, congested seaports, substandard airports, urban traffic snarls, unsatisfactory mass transit system, rice shortage, high unemployment, widespread poverty, low-cost housing backlogs, disaster unpreparedness, polluted rivers and lakes, unabated smuggling, widespread drug menace, peace and order disturbances, et cetera.

Then let us ask ourselves: Number one, could we have prevented these from happening? Number two, could we have mitigated their adverse consequences? Number three, what similar problems looming in the horizon are waiting to become monstrous concerns in the future years? Number four, what actions or steps must we do to avoid or prevent more of such problems and/or to minimize their adverse consequences in our growing but still fragile Philippine economy?

Numbers one and two are truly postmortem questions. There is nothing we can do about them now. Let the responsible agencies or accountable entities fix those problems, but let us give them our full support and

remove any and all hindrances that block or impede their work. However, numbers three and four are a different matter altogether. These demand foresight, fortitude and a strong political will to get things done at the soonest possible time. This way, we can stop bad things that will otherwise happen, to our subsequent regret.

Let us pause for a brief flashback on a national tragedy that occurred over the period 1995 to 2009 and since then, has remained unacted upon until this very day. This disaster hurts because its epicenter struck smack in the congressional district that I represent, Iligan City, where my constituents took the full brunt of its unintended, unwanted and harmful aftereffects.

Once upon a time, with the encouragement and support of the DBP, the PNB, and the RCBC, the National Steel Corporation was put on a rescue mission in 1974, involving six distressed steel companies for the purpose of recovering the banks' financial exposures and averting possible shortages of an essential commodity and saving thousands of workers from the brink of unemployment. For so many years we were so focused on basic survival matters. Eventually, when the overall situation had been stabilized, National Steel Corporation's parent company, the National Development Company or NDC approved a gradual upgrading and expansion with a capital expenditure budget of P27 billion spread out over the period 1984 to 1994, with the technical assistance of steel industry consultants from all over the world. With these enhancements in its manufacturing capabilities, coupled with managerial excellence, unusual for government-controlled corporations, the National Steel Corporation was able to satisfy the key performance norms of sufficient quantities, suitable quality, competitive prices and reliable deliveries.

Once upon a time, around 1994, when its projects were nearing completion, the National Steel Corporation attained a dominant market position, an average market share of 62 percent in its four market niches. This was targeted to reach 80 percent upon full completion in 1995 to 1996 of its ongoing projects. This high market share represented the customers' vote of confidence on the National Steel Corporation's capability to perform well in a competitive setting that included import liberalization and tariff reductions. To prove its competitiveness in foreign markets, the National Steel Corporation was also exporting flat steel products regularly in the early 1990s to the West Coast of the United States, Indonesia and to China.

With these developments, the National Steel Corporation's revenues were running at approximately P11 to P12 billion per year, and was headed towards P18 to P20 billion annually in the next couple of years. The bottomline was always positive—delivering some P200 to P300 million per year in net profits that accrued to its parent company, the National Development Company.

Because the local market relied heavily on National Steel Corporation for their requirements, the economy also enjoyed two additional benefits. There were very few instances of violations of product standards and smuggling of imported steel.

The National Steel Corporation employed some 3,500 to 4,000 employees in 1994 to 1995, approximately 70 percent of whom were from Iligan City. That included their family members and so, this is equivalent to about 21,000 to 24,000 heads who depended on the National Steel Corporation for their day-to-day living expenses.

In addition, National Steel Corporation had two commendable programs among its corporate social responsibility undertaking—the self-explanatory “Hire Iligan” and “Buy Iligan” programs. Given its total bills of nearly P2 billion per year for payroll/benefits and for power, utility, supply and services, it is easy to imagine the huge and substantial “multiplier effect” on the local economy of Iligan.

Finally, the National Steel Corporation was a good corporate taxpayer with total annual payments to the government, national and local, of approximately P1.5 billion every year. On the local scene, the National Steel Corporation was religiously paying its taxes, property and business taxes in particular. In fact, quite remarkably, whenever Iligan City needed emergency funding assistance for urgent infra projects, the National Steel Corporation helped out by paying its taxes in advance.

Once upon a time, in obedience to the national government's privatization program, the National Steel Corporation was turned over in 1995 to private sector investors, Westmont/Wing Tiek of Malaysia, who, based on evaluations, offered the best deal in this regard—a total investment package of approximately P12 billion for primary and secondary shares of stocks representing majority control of the heretofore fully government-owned corporation. The new Malaysian owners committed, among other things, to continue with National Steel Corporation's highly successful business plans. This commitment also included the implementation of National Steel Corporation's Phase II-B of its expansion/upgrading projects and thereafter, to consider the integration of its Iligan steel mills all the way to the upstream iron and steel-making stage as Phase III.

As we all know, these commitments were not honored and the National Steel Corporation's corporate performance declined, leading to a shutdown in 1999. Subsequently, India's Global Ispat entered the picture in 2004 but fared just as badly, leading to another shutdown in 2009. As I have recounted, the National Steel Corporation started out as a basket case of dead or dying predecessor businesses that were rescued and successfully brought back to life to, thereafter, play a

major role in the national economy of the Philippines and the local economy of Iligan City, only to be killed again by wrongful and misguided implementation in 1995, and continued thereafter, with the neoliberal economic policy of privatization of industries.

Thus, this Cinderella-type story did not end with the usual “and they lived happily ever after.” Instead, from 1995 onwards, it rapidly deteriorated and was left alone to fend for itself despite its major economic role and despite its being a major industrial project in a vital-industry classification. Honestly, up to now, I do not understand why small and medium-sized banks are rescued immediately by the government and yet, the country’s biggest steel mill was allowed to fail, with the government merely watching as a passive bystander. Is one inconsequential bank considered by the government “too big to fail,” while its biggest steel mill is deemed too insignificant to bother with?

This unfolding tragedy was obvious as early as 1997 when the newly privatized and foreign-controlled National Steel Corporation was committing a series of managerial blunders supposedly under the watchful eyes of government-appointed directors in the National Steel Corporation’s board. Thereafter, it went into an initial shutdown in 1999, restarted in 2003, but sputtered shortly thereafter, until it went into a total shutdown in 2009. In this stage, it was again left alone to die under the government’s disappointingly apathetic hands-off stance.

Through this, one thing is very clear. The National Steel Corporation did not fail because it was ill-equipped or unprepared for the competitive challenges of a difficult industry sector. We have to emphasize the word “clear” because under competent government control which was during the year 1974 to 1995, this company performed very well. However, when it was subsequently turned over to foreign private sector investors and managers, this very same company inexcusably wobbled, limped, stumbled and thereafter collapsed. To the credit of the downstream businessmen within the steel-producing sector, they made crucial adjustments in their operating plans to prevent a severe raw material shortage from crippling their operations.

As you will recall, the National Steel Corporation’s shutdown removed from the domestic supply stream the following tonnages per year: long products billets at 300,000 metric tons per annum; flat steel hot-rolled products at 1,200,000 metric tons per annum; cold-rolled products at 600 metric tons per annum; and tin plates at 100 metric tons per annum.

Today, the long products subsector is doing alright with its input requirements to produce 5.7 million metric tons of finished goods per year under conditions of partial import dependence. But the flat steel subsector has a worrisome total of import dependence for input materials needed to produce 3.1 million metric tons

of finished products per year. If the National Steel Corporation did not collapse, it could have supplied a big chunk of these tonnages to the downstream steel companies and their respective user sectors such as construction, infrastructure, ship-building, automotive/transport sector, fabrication, cans/containers and others.

For quite some time now, the Philippines has relied heavily on the world’s excess steel capacity especially from China to address the basic weakness of our domestic steel industry. However, with our unstable and volatile relations with China then, and now it is getting better, how long should we continue with this uneasy arrangement? Moreover, all this time, we have also been closing our eyes to unfair trade practices such as government subsidies, export rebates, dumping prices and probably, substandard product quality and specifications. This may be a convenient thing to do short term, but is harmful in the long term as these unfair trade practices damage our economy’s industrial development prospects as many other countries had manifested in various unfair trade cases filed against China.

As the world’s major economies shift back to growth mode in the next few years, as China cuts back its supply capability, there will be relatively less and less excess steel materials available in the international markets to supply the growing Philippine demand which is forecast to go further from 8.8 million metric tons in 2015 to a conservatively estimated 20 million metric tons on or before 2030.

This is the looming crisis that I am referring to. How long can the flat steel subsector sustainably make do with the huge gaps in its supply chain? How far into the future can the entire Philippine steel industry satisfy the rapidly-rising domestic demand with its near-total dependence on imported inputs?

This could have coped well when the industry’s total annual demand was only three to four million metric tons in the years 2000 to 2010, or even when it grew to 8.8 million MT in 2015. However, looking forward, the nagging questions before us now are:

1. Can the industry still cope well with this huge import dependence for input materials when the total demand hits 15 million metric tons around year 2020? Will it be similarly ready when the domestic demand hits 20 million metric tons or more by 2030?

2. How long should we tolerate unfair trade practices by exporting countries that inflict long-term damage to our domestic industries?

3. Considering that around half of the import input materials come from China, is it prudent to continue with this supply dependence given the geopolitical tension in the West Philippine Sea?

4. Because the steel industry is a vital industry with extensive linkages with other sectors in the economy, should we not start building immediately our

domestic capacity as a defensive stance just in case the perceived volatilities in our present supply sources erupt into troublesome realities?

As I am aware, it takes a minimum of five years to plan, finance, build, start up and stabilize a new steel mill. Philippine domestic steel demand has grown by leaps and bounds to the tune of 115 percent in the last five years, which is more than double. With our economy poised for a takeoff in the coming periods, and our infrastructure spending accelerating with it, a severe shortage could ensue unless we start taking action now as steel industry people keep reminding me, and precisely because of the long lead time needed for opening a new/additional capacities.

The flat steel subsector is most worrisome because this is where the high-value materials with extensive external linkages are being produced. Yet, quiet unfortunately, this is where we can, probably, have a quicker near-term solution by possibly rehabilitating and upgrading the existing Iligan rolling mills of the former National Steel Corporation. Let us remember that these same facilities produced world-class and competitively-priced flat steel products until the National Steel Corporation was privatized in 1995.

Last May 2014, while the main protagonists, the investor versus banks versus liquidators were still in a prolonged legal stalemate in Singapore's arbitration and court proceedings, news broke out that the Iligan plant was abandoned and left totally exposed to the elements and was also left virtually unprotected, thereby vulnerable to be vandalized and to be looted. The supreme irony is that this same plant is the only asset of significance valued at almost P30 billion at the time of its 1995 privatization, but perhaps worth only P10 billion now to either of the protagonists. Overlooked or even neglected by their own respective interests, they similarly jeopardized the ultimate collectability of Iligan City's property tax receivables which have grown and is still growing into a huge P4.6 billion as of the latest count.

After extensive discussions on the pros and cons of this matter, the Iligan City Sanggunian finally decided to put a levy on the Iligan plant assets concerned. Given the unfortunate turn of events, Iligan officials, the LGU officials believe that doing nothing at this crucial time is tantamount to a criminal act of omission, an inexcusable dereliction of duty. Hence, the levy process officially commenced in 2014 with the publication of the notice of tax delinquencies. Following due process and complying with legal requirements, the Iligan LGU took protective custody and legal ownership of these assets last October 19, 2016, with any excess values accruing to the National Steel Corporation or the GSPI creditors and other legitimate claimants.

According to the steel plant's history, it was taken over by the DBP and the NDC in the 1970s as a

distressed business of predecessor corporations. It was then rehabilitated, upgraded and expanded in the 1980s and 1990s until it became our country's dominant steel producer that was ready to face global competition, and only a step away towards full integration via the upstream iron and steel-making project.

Today, we are back, sadly, to this plant's 1970s situation which culminated in the 1974 DBP foreclosure of the Iligan Steel Mills and its subsequent reactivation, expansion and upgrading under the National Development Company. In this connection, we suggest that the DTI or the Department of Finance consider once more having the National Development Company spearhead the revival of the country's flat steel operations, starting with the existing Iligan Steel Mills. This is consistent with the current economic policy of inclusive growth and re-emphasis on manufacturing businesses in order to create, directly and indirectly, more employment for greater poverty alleviation. Incidentally, the intensified drive for higher levels of infrastructure expenditure will most definitely require bigger tonnages of steel products in the coming years.

In closing, we hereby recommend the following steps to be taken immediately:

1. Revive the Presidential Iron and Steel Committee. The strategic importance of developing the entire steel industry is too big in scope and with its vertical and horizontal inter-linkages, probably, too "masalimuot" for any single government department or agency to handle. It likewise needs seamless interagency coordination and focused attention at the topmost levels of government. The DTI's recently-prepared industry roadmaps can be utilized as the initial master plan.

2. Mobilize the National Development Company as the action arm of the PISC or the Presidential Iron and Steel Committee, without deviating from the overall policy that the private sector is the main engine of economic growth. Further, the starting set of urgent actionables by the NDC are to: a) commission the various feasibility studies for firm actionable decision-making; b) invite prospective foreign strategic investors; c) plug the flat steel supply chain gap quickly and properly, as the feasibility studies will indicate—with the Iligan Steel Mills being one alternative for this important purpose.

3. Amend the Iron and Steel Industry Act, Republic Act. No. 7103, to attune it to today's economic realities and to legally enable the PISC to make policy decisions. An extra pragmatic justification is to unify and synergize the executive and legislative branches of government to avoid or minimize the usual bickering that delay or dilute important initiatives. This can also stabilize the overall investment climate and thereby encourage massive capital expenditures needed to supply the total steel demand of 20 million metric tons per annum anticipated by 2030 or earlier.

If my distinguished colleagues so require, and to speed up the resolution of urgent issues, these recommendations can be discussed with greater relevant detail in the Committee on Trade and Industry and/or in the Committee on Economic Affairs. It is further suggested that the NEDA, the DTI, the NDC, the Department of Finance and other concerned government agencies be invited to these hearings together with interested private sector industry associations.

I will conclude my statements today by quoting from Republic Act No. 7103, in the Declaration of Policy:

xxx The State shall provide impetus to the growth, promotion, and development of the iron and steel industry as the springboard and basis for launching Philippine industrialization.

Given the ASEAN market integration which began in 2015, and knowing how our neighbors, particularly Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia have prepared their respective industries in the last several years, this Declaration has become quite significant and the actions or steps in relation thereto are very urgent.

Several weeks ago, or early in the term of our beloved leader of the land, President Duterte said:

Steel is needed everywhere. It is the mother of all industries and the backbone of industrialization, and it will allow us to build all we need in our country like cars and weapons. Industrialization is key to real economic growth.

Fortunately, and thankfully, we now have a passionately action-oriented President who can rectify the apathy, neglect and “teka muna” attitude of the previous administration. Indeed, it is late but not yet too late. It is the Duterte administration’s “aksyon agad” paradigm that will help us avert the looming crisis in the Philippine steel industry that could retard, or even set back, the present trajectory towards economic progress. Finally, as fate would have it, we were collectively assembled here by the electoral exercises of 2016 to support this declared program of our President. Let it be, known therefore that this Seventeenth Congress of the House of Representatives provided the badly-needed spark that triggered the chain of events that led to the attainment of the country’s long-cherished dream of industrialization, economic progress and inclusive growth.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for hearing me out today. A pleasant afternoon to all.

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

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

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

The Privilege Hour is suspended.

ROLL CALL

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to call the roll.

The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is as follows, per Journal No. 40, dated November 7, 2016:

PRESENT

Abaya	Brosas
Abayon	Cagas
Abu	Calderon
Abueg	Calixto-Rubiano
Acop	Caminero
Acosta	Campos
Advincula	Casilao
Agarao	Castelo
Aggabao	Castro (F.H.)
Aglipay-Villar	Cayetano
Akbar	Cerilles
Almario	Chavez
Almonte	Chipeco
Alvarez (F.)	Collantes
Amatong	Cortes
Angara-Castillo	Cortuna
Antonio	Cosalan
Aragones	Crisologo
Arcillas	Cueva
Atienza	Dalipe
Bag-ao	Dalog
Banal	Daza
Barzaga	De Jesus
Batocabe	De Vera
Belaro	Defensor
Belmonte (F.)	Del Mar
Belmonte (J.C.)	Deloso-Montalla
Belmonte (R.)	Dimaporo (M.K.)
Benitez	Durano
Bernos	Dy
Bertiz	Elago
Bolilia	Enverga
Bondoc	Erice
Bordado	Eriguel
Bravo (A.)	Escudero
Bravo (M.V.)	Espina

Espino	Ortega (V.N.)
Estrella	Paduano
Evardone	Palma
Fernando	Pancho
Ferrer (J.)	Panganiban
Ferrer (L.)	Panotes
Flores	Papandayan
Fortuno	Pichay
Garbin	Pimentel
Garcia (G.)	Pineda
Garcia (J.E.)	Primicias-Agabas
Garin (S.)	Quimbo
Gatchalian	Ramos
Geron	Relampagos
Go (M.)	Roa-Puno
Gonzaga	Rocamora
Gonzales (A.P.)	Romero
Gonzales (A.D.)	Roque (H.)
Gonzalez	Sagarbarria
Gullas	Salimbangon
Herrera-Dy	Salo
Javier	Salon
Kho	Sambar
Labadlabad	Santos-Recto
Lacson	Sarmiento (C.)
Lagman	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Laogan	Savellano
Lazatin	Siao
Leachon	Silverio
Limkaichong	Singson
Lobregat	Suansing (E.)
Lopez (B.)	Suansing (H.)
Macapagal-Arroyo	Sy-Alvarado
Maceda	Tambunting
Malapitan	Tan (A.)
Manalo	Teves
Mangaoang	Tinio
Marcos	Tolentino
Mariño	Tugna
Marquez	Unabia
Martinez	Ungab
Matugas	Unico
Mending	Uy (R.)
Mirasol	Vargas
Nava	Vargas-Alfonso
Nieto	Velarde
Noel	Velasco
Nogralas (K.A.)	Velasco-Catera
Nolasco	Vergara
Nuñez-Malanyaon	Villanueva
Oaminal	Villarica
Ocampo	Villarin
Olivarez	Violago
Ong (E.)	Yu
Ong (H.)	Zamora (R.)
Ortega (P.)	Zubiri

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The roll call shows that 169 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abueg). With 169 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

Continuation

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

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

The Privilege Hour is resumed.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Frederick Siao from the Lone District of Iligan City and I move that we recognize Hon. H. Harry L. Roque Jr. of the KABAYAN Party-List for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abueg). The Honorable Roque (H.) is recognized.

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

Will the Gentleman from Iligan yield to a few points of interpellation?

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, I am open for the interpellation of our colleague.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Well, first of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know from the good Gentleman from Iligan City, at its peak, how important was the National Steel Corporation to the economic life of Iligan City and to the entire Philippines?

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, the economy of Iligan depends a lot on the National Steel Corporation and in particular, the National Steel Corporation is paying so much in taxes to the city and also to the national government, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Now, Mr. Speaker, from the privilege speech of the Gentleman from Iligan City, it seems that the National Steel Corporation had stellar performance for over 21 years playing, probably, the most important economic role for the city of Iligan and for the Philippines since it was the only factory that produced what is known in the industry as upstream products. What I would like to know is, it seems that

for its last four years of operation, the National Steel Corporation was run to the ground literally, and my question to the Gentleman from Iligan City is, if he knows why during this last four years of the National Steel Corporation, its performance literally nosedived?

REP. SIAO. Well, as per record, Mr. Speaker, the company went through a privatization process. It was turned over to the Malaysian company and eventually to an Indian company and, sadly said but it is the truth, it was mismanaged, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Since it was mismanaged during the period that it was under foreign ownership, would the Gentleman from Iligan City know if there were any steps taken at least since then—since 1999 to date, 2016—to restore the National Steel Corporation to its glory or to at least take steps to ensure that we would have a factory producing upstream steel products?

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, there is none. So, that is why I am bringing this out to the Congress and hoping that this would be discussed in the different committees concerned and bring the National Steel Corporation back to life.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Mr. Speaker, would the Gentleman from Iligan City know if the National Steel Corporation, when it was still a government-owned or-controlled corporation, was given any protection at all from competing imports as well as unfair trade practices specifically from a country like China which is notorious for subsidizing its steel products?

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, there was none. Even as a government-controlled corporation, the National Steel Corporation did not enjoy any special privileges from the national government.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Mr. Speaker, what about special incentives or subsidies, did it receive any subsidy at all given that the number one producer of upstream steel products today, China is notorious also for giving subsidies to their steel-makers?

REP. SIAO. Wala po, Mr. Speaker. It went along as if it is one of the many companies in the Philippines na wala siyang special privileges from the national government.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know from the Gentleman from Iligan City if, at its peak, he could remember how many employees the National Steel Corporation had?

REP. SIAO. The National Steel Corporation employed around 3,500 to 4,000 employees and, if

including their families, it is feeding around 21,000 to 24,000 heads for their daily consumption.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if the numbers in these phrases “3,500 employees,” “feeding around 21,000 families,” at the peak of the National Steel Corporation, there was a problem with endo or labor-only contracting?

REP. SIAO. Wala po, Mr. Speaker. Iyong National Steel Corporation po is following the government labor benefits. Lahat-lahat po ibinibigay.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Well, knowing how important the National Steel Corporation was to the district of the Gentleman from Iligan City, may I be clear, Mr. Speaker, on what steps he wants this government, led by a President from Mindanao, to take in order to resurrect the only upstream steel-maker that we had in this country.

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the government, particularly the national agencies concerned, to take action. I am requesting the Department of Finance, the Department of Trade and Industry, as well as the National Development Company to take a direct hand in trying to revive the steel industry, particularly the flat steel industry of the Philippines.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Well, Mr. Speaker, if, at its peak, the National Steel Corporation employed no less than 3,000 individuals, feeding 21,000 Filipinos, would it be safe to assume that with the renewed growth in construction in the Philippines, that if we were to resurrect the National Steel Corporation as the lone producer of upstream steel products, the said corporation could employ even more than 3,000 individuals?

REP. SIAO. That is correct, Mr. Speaker. We are hoping that with the proper management as well as new investment coming in, we will be able to employ more than 4,000, as previously recorded. So, with that, Mr. Speaker, we are hopeful, again, that the government will take a direct hand in trying to revive this government corporation.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Well, because of the importance of the matter discussed by the Gentleman from Iligan City, Mr. Speaker, I think it is only but proper that this august Chamber refer the matter of resurrecting the National Steel Corporation and starting anew a company that would produce upstream steel products, to the House Committee on Trade and Industry or such other committee that may be deemed appropriate.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Gentleman from Iligan.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo from the First District of Lanao del Norte who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, before we proceed, may this Representation ask a few questions.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo from the First District of Lanao del Norte for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abueg). The Hon. Mohamad Dimaporo is recognized.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to our Majority Leader.

Will the honorable Congressman from Iligan City yield to some questions?

REP. SIAO. I do, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). My first question to the honorable Representative Siao is, how did Iligan City cope with the sudden demise of the National Steel Corporation which, as he said, contributed greatly to Iligan City's economy and to its coffers? Did other sectors make up for the negative effects of the Iligan plant's closure?

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, Iligan had no choice but to bear the brunt of this turn of events starting around 1997 when the National Steel Corporation manufacturing operations began slowing down under the Malaysian management. In fact, Iligan City had to absorb a second major economic calamity because of the 1997 Asian crisis that also curtailed the operations of other industries within the city such as the cement plants, the coconut oil processing plants, and the flour mills.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, may I ask also, given the long lapse of time since 1999, can we still do a feasible rehab on the Iligan Steel Mill's flat steel production facilities?

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, I believe there is still a big chance that these facilities can be rehabilitated with

proper technical audit and market study. From 1999, it has been a long time, and market demand has shifted and technological development has taken place. In other words, we cannot rush into rehabilitation. It has to be studied carefully and evaluated thoroughly within the context of present and emerging as well as technical situation/conditions.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you, Congressman Siao. My next set of question, Mr. Speaker, refers to the unpaid taxes of P4.5 billion. Since when or how long have these taxes remained unpaid?

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, the unpaid property taxes covered a total of 18 years, approximately 18 years. Accumulated uncollected taxes go back to around 1998 and through the liquidator's obligations in 2004, with India's investors obligations.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, since we have these unpaid taxes and these unpaid taxes constitute an automatic senior lien on the Iligan plant assets, higher in rank than mortgages to bank creditors, why were the plant assets not immediately levied or foreclosed by the city government?

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, a tax restructuring deal was arranged with the city government in 2004, but it was revoked by the city government when the obligators or the payors, primarily India's investors, did not comply with the payment schedule agreed upon.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). My last question is, Mr. Speaker, considering that the plant facilities were neglected and abandoned in 2014, why did the city government not immediately move to conserve or protect it and better yet, foreclose and take possession and control of the plant?

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, the city government took a maximum tolerance stand on this matter. However, upon the abandonment of the plant in 2014, the city government started to take firm legal steps to protect its huge exposure secured by its superior tax lien on the plant facilities. We hope the national government, especially the Department of Finance, will support the city government when it finally takes positive action in this regard.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and congratulate my good friend, the Congressman of the Lone District of Iligan City, for bringing to the national level the problem of the National Steel Corporation. Lanao del Norte has a symbiotic relationship with Iligan City, and I would say, not only Lanao del Norte but also Lanao del Sur.

Iligan City is an economic center in our region, and the progress of Iligan City will benefit not only us in Lanao del Norte but also those of the Bangsamoro community or population in Lanao del Sur. The only way that I believe we can put an end to insurgency is to address poverty. What the National Steel Corporation brought during its primetime was employment, not only to Iliganons but also to the periphery of Iligan City.

Lastly, I would like to say also, Mr. Speaker, that before Cagayan de Oro was dubbed as the gateway to Northern Mindanao, before Bukidnon was dubbed as the food basket of Mindanao, we had the industrial city of the south, Iligan City. Its main character, what gives it that character was the National Steel Corporation. It would be a waste if the national government turns its face away from the plight of the Iliganons. Sana lang, we can save this character of Iligan City which was once the prime industrial city of Mindanao. This is an administration for change, and I do believe that under Duterte, under the leadership of our President, a Mindanaoan President, we can deliver positive change and progress to Iligan City and its periphery, and hopefully we can take a good and closer look at the National Steel Corporation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker; thank you, Congressman Siao and the Dep. Majority Leader.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga of the Second District of Compostela Valley for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abueg). Representative Gonzaga is recognized.

REP. GONZAGA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the good Congressman from Iligan City answer some of my queries.

Mr. Speaker, can the fast-growing Philippine steel demand be covered by friendly, mutually beneficial trade agreements within the ASEAN communities of nations? If so, what are the possible tie-ups that can be envisioned under the ASEAN economic integration that started this year?

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, without the benefit of full-blown studies on this subject, the quick answer will have to be limited to Vietnam. They are currently building a 10-million metric ton per annum integrated steel mill project with phase one for commissioning start-up in the coming months. More specifically, we can discuss with Vietnam a possible slab or billet supply agreement while we are expanding our bar rolling capacities and rebuilding our domestic flat rolling mills.

REP. GONZAGA. The two biggest users of steel at present are construction and ship-building. How are they obtaining their steel requirements in the absence or lack of local production?

REP. SIAO. Well, in construction, Mr. Speaker, the long products or rebars supplied by local bar mills which extensively rely on imported billets. The flat steel items, for example, the beams, the girders, the frames, are almost entirely supplied from imported finished products. In ship-building, the flat steel requirements like, for example, the hot rolled plates, are entirely from abroad or from imports.

REP. GONZAGA. If we look for international partners for developing our steel industry as a basis for industrialization, who are the likely partners for this purpose?

REP. SIAO. Partners would be coming from Japan; from Posco of Korea; the Chinese Steel Corporation of Taiwan or from Vietnam.

REP. GONZAGA. Given the immensity of this undertaking, what roles do we envision for the government agencies like, for example, the DTI, the DOST, the DENR and so on to encourage private sector investors in this regard?

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, the DTI can set up the economic policies that will lead to a favorable business climate conducive to new or additional investments. The National Development Company can conduct various feasibility studies and can invite possible strategic partners which include foreign investors. The DBP, for instance, can provide project loans for rehabilitation, expansion or upgrading of the existing facilities, or they can also grant project loans for new projects at appropriate terms and conditions.

For the long-term, Mr. Speaker, the DOST can spearhead research on new technologies that can tap indigenous materials to increase local content or domestic value-added; the DENR, depending on research findings, to open availment of local ore deposits under responsible mining operations; others, for example, like the DPWH, the Department of Transportation or the DOE, for infrastructure, transport and power requirements of vital industries in the Philippines.

REP. GONZAGA. One last question, Mr. Speaker. You mentioned earlier that this endeavor would generate 4000, more or less, jobs. Are we not going to violate what we call the “endo”?

REP. SIAO. As I recall, Mr. Speaker, the National

Steel Corporation used to give a lot of benefits to its employees. That is why the National Steel Corporation then was one of the most sought-after employers and that is why Iligan City prospered a lot. Remember, there was a joke before that, even iyong uniform nila, they can just leave it in the restaurants and they can come back for it the next day kung wala silang perang maipambabayad for that night or for that day.

So, they are really paying aboveboard on everything. I mean, all the benefits were really given.

REP. GONZAGA. Thank you very much.

REP. SIAO. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, before we recognize the next to interpellate, I move that we extend the Privilege Hour for another 10 minutes.

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

The Privilege Hour is extended for another 10 minutes.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Arthur R. Defensor Jr. of the Third District of Iloilo for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abueg). Representative Defensor is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. May we know if the Gentleman is willing to answer questions from this Representation?

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, I am ready.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, may we know from the Gentleman, to his knowledge, what is now the status of the National Steel Corporation?

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, the National Steel Corporation, I mean, the plant itself, was levied levied two to three weeks ago and it was put up for auction. The latest balita is, there were no takers. So, the plant is now protected, I mean, secured by the city government of Iligan and the reason I am bringing this out to the House is for the national government agencies to play a direct hand in its revival.

REP. DEFENSOR. So, Mr. Speaker, what were levied are the physical assets and facilities of the National Steel Corporation.

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, I believe so. Mr. Speaker, ang naiwan po are the plant facilities but I believe—the information is, when it closed down in 1995, it was worth around P30 billion but because it was abandoned and even looted, nasa P10 billion na lang ang worth ng property ngayon.

REP. DEFENSOR. So, may we know, Mr. Speaker, from the Gentleman, what specifically are these facilities or what plants are these?

REP. SIAO. The plant mismo is located inside a 300- or 400-hectare property. So, that is one very valuable asset, and there is still the main plant itself pero iyon nga, medyo scrap na siguro iyong nasa loob.

REP. DEFENSOR. So, may we know from the Gentleman, Mr. Speaker, if, suppose under contemporary standards, are these plants and facilities, under the present standards, in metal processing or production? Are these updated? Are they still useful?

REP. SIAO. Sadly po, I do not think so but before we conclude, it is better that there should be feasibility studies to find out the real situation in the facility itself.

REP. DEFENSOR. So, may we know from the Gentleman, Mr. Speaker, if other than these assets in Iligan City which had been levied by the local government unit, the National Steel Corporation has facilities and plants in other locations?

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, I believe so. I think they still have their main office in Manila as well as other assets within the Philippines.

REP. DEFENSOR. Would the Gentleman know if these assets and facilities are still functioning for the corporation?

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, I do not think so. So, talagang completely shutdown iyong planta except for a few guards on duty, especially in the main plant itself na nagbantay. Well, that is it.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, may we know from the Gentleman if the National Steel Corporation is still operating for its purposes as a corporation?

REP. SIAO. I believe so, Mr. Speaker, but the facility is under receivership. Parang there is a group of liquidators. It is mostly owned by the banks—the liquidators themselves.

REP. DEFENSOR. Also, the National Steel

Corporation, Mr. Speaker, is now a corporation in financial distress.

REP. SIAO. That is true, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. May we again know from the Gentleman, Mr. Speaker, what were the purposes of the National Steel Corporation or in more specific terms, what were its products?

REP. SIAO. Ang products nito were the hot-rolled and the cold-rolled flat steel products. So, they supplied most of the downstream industries in the Philippines—steel industries.

REP. DEFENSOR. These products, Mr. Speaker, are what we use as roofing materials. Is that correct?

REP. SIAO. Those also come from the flat steel.

REP. DEFENSOR. Among others.

REP. SIAO. Yes.

REP. DEFENSOR. So, we are talking here of the National Steel Corporation which was previously owned by the government and later on, sold to the private sector. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SIAO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. So, Mr. Speaker, may we know again, specifically from the Gentleman, what are the specific proposals with respect to the National Steel Corporation?

REP. SIAO. Mr. Speaker, we recommended the following actions/steps: first is to revive the Presidential Iron and Steel Committee to play a big hand in its revitalization; second, to mobilize the National Development Company wherein during the 1970s, sila iyong government agency that played a direct, I mean, positive hand towards the revitalization of the plant dati. Well, the third is to amend the Iron and Steel Industry Act to attune it to today's economic realities to legally enable the Presidential Iron and Steel Committee to make policy decisions.

REP. DEFENSOR. So, Mr. Speaker, is it the sense of the Gentleman that we should, right now, create something like the National Steel Corporation again to fill the gap?

REP. SIAO. Can you please repeat the question.

REP. DEFENSOR. Again, Mr. Speaker, is it the sense of the Gentleman that with the National

Steel Corporation gone right now, we should create something, an entity like the National Steel Corporation so that we can fill this need in the industry.

REP. SIAO. Yes, Mr. Speaker. In fact, we will be needing a lot of steel products in the coming years with the planned industrialization and with the massive infrastructure spending for the coming years.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share this with the Gentleman, and I would like to congratulate him for bringing this up before the plenary. The steel and the metal industry is a vital industry if we want to move towards the industrialization of the country. I would like to share with the Gentleman that at the start of the Congress, this Representation filed this bill entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE METAL INDUSTRY CORPORATION. This is supposed to be a government corporation that would take the place of the National Steel Corporation because the latter was sold before. It was a government-owned corporation which was sold to the private sector.

This Philippine Metal Industry Corporation or the PHILMICO is supposed to be a corporation that will engage in the processing of metals because I understand, I am not very knowledgeable in the mining industry, we are now selling ores. Our products in the mining industry are sold almost as raw materials to other countries. So, the sense of this Representation, as author of this bill, is to have a corporation that will engage in the processing of metals, to purchase perhaps the products of the mines, process them and have products that will create a downstream metal industry, Mr. Speaker, so that corporations engaged in production that need metal as components, can directly invest in the country and take advantage of the products of this Philippine Metal Industry Corporation which is called PHILMICO in this bill. May we know if the Gentleman agrees to the direction that has been taken by this Representation? We would also want the comment of the Gentleman on this initiative.

REP. SIAO. I agree, Mr. Speaker. I think that when we go down to the committee level, we will be discussing more about these issues.

So, anything positive for our country as well for my city, for my district, will be an addition. It will be great for all of us. So, I hope we can take action on this.

REP. DEFENSOR. Yes, Mr. Speaker. This Representation is very glad that a colleague has brought this up, and I really would like to congratulate the Gentleman for this, Mr. Speaker. Right now, the bill is pending before the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization chaired by the Hon. Jesus Nonato "Susing" Sacdalan, Mr. Speaker.

So, again, Mr. Speaker, together with the Gentleman, we would like to solicit the help of our colleagues here in the House so that we can fast-track or we can give time and attention to this concern because really, the metal industry is a big pillar in our initiative for progress in this country.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Gentleman for a very beautiful, timely and very significant speech.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Hon. Frederick W. Siao and its interpellation to the Committee on Rules.

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

The privilege speech of Congressman Siao and its interpellation are referred to the Committee on Rules.

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

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

The Privilege Hour is terminated and closed.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 39 dated October 19, 2016.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I would like to manifest that the Plenary Affairs Bureau has brought it to our attention that instead of 169 Members who responded to the call, it was actually 184 Members who responded to the roll call earlier. I just want this on record, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abueg). The manifestation is duly noted.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until four o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abueg). The session is adjourned until Tuesday, November 8, 2016, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 5:42 p.m.