



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

## House of Representatives

Vol. 2

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No. 45

### CALL TO ORDER

*At 4:00 p.m., pursuant to Section 15(h), Rule IV of the House Rules, the Presiding Officer, Rep. Juan Pablo "Rimpy" P. Bondoc, called the session to order.*

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

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

### PRAYER

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Bondoc). Everybody will please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer.

*Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Bondoc). The Floor Leader is recognized.

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Bondoc). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the calling of the roll is deferred.

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Bondoc). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the approval of the Journal is deferred.

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Bondoc). 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, Communications and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:*

### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4341, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FREE COLLEGE EDUCATION IN STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FOR ONE MEMBER OF A FAMILY WHO GRADUATED FROM A PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Villanueva  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4342, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO PACIFIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7967, ENTITLED AN ACT GRANTING THE PACIFIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATION WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Salimbangon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4343, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE

GRANTED TO PHILIPPINE BROADCASTING CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT 7962, ENTITLED AN ACT GRANTING THE PHILIPPINE BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES ”

By Representative Salimbangon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4344, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING TAX EXEMPTION FOR PRIZES AND AWARDS GRANTED TO FILIPINO ATHLETES IN INTERNATIONALLY SANCTIONED SPORTS COMPETITIONS AND FURTHER AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SEC. 32(B)(7)(4) OF 1997 TAX CODE (R.A. 8424)”

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4345, entitled:

“AN ACT DIRECTING THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL PENITENTIARIES, DEFINING ITS STANDARDS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

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

House Bill No. 4346, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES UNDER THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LAW CENTER”

By Representative Roque (H.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4347, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING AWARENESS OF CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME”

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

House Bill No. 4348, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN ANTI-POVERTY FUND, ABOLISHING THE PEOPLE’S DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND (PDTF) ESTABLISHED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8425, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS

THE SOCIAL REFORM AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION ACT OF 1997, APPOINTING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) AS ITS MANAGER, APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Yap (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 4349, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO ABS-CBN CORPORATION (FORMERLY ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORPORATION) UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7966 OR AN ACT GRANTING ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES FOR TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT”

By Representative Violago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4350, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SUMMARY TITLING OF REAL PROPERTIES USED AS PUBLIC SCHOOL SITES”

By Representative Benitez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4351, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING SUBSIDIZING PUBLIC CAMPAIGN EXPENSES OF QUALIFIED ELECTORAL CANDIDATES, AND DEFINING ITS COVERAGE AND RESTRICTIONS THEREOF”

By Representative Roque (H.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 4352, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN ECOTOURISM POLICY IN THE ISLANDS OF ANIMASOLA, TINALISAYAN, SOMBRERO AND DAPA ALL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN PASCUAL, MASBATE AND CREATING A FRAMEWORK FOR ITS INSTITUTIONALIZATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Bravo (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

## RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 540, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS’ AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE INQUIRY ON THE ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT OF AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT EXPERIENCED BY FILIPINO WOMEN WORKERS IN QATAR, AND THE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT AND ALLEGED INACTION OF RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO RESPOND TO THE CALLS FOR HELP OF SAID WORKERS, IN VIEW OF STRENGTHENING THE LAWS RELATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF MIGRANT WORKERS’ RIGHTS AND WELFARE”

By Representatives De Jesus and Brosas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 541, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS’ AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CASES OF ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT BY PHILTRUST OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT AGENCY AGAINST AT LEAST THIRTY-TWO (32) FILIPINOS IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU, IN VIEW OF STRENGTHENING THE LAWS RELATED TO THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF MIGRANT WORKERS’ RIGHTS AND WELFARE”

By Representatives De Jesus and Brosas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 542, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION PROPOSING FOR THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE AND SOUND RECOMMENDATIONS TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE PHILIPPINES’ DRUG PROBLEMS”

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

## ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang for House Bills No. 3457, 3458 and 3459 and House Joint Resolution No. 4;  
Rep. Wilfredo S. Caminero for House Bill No. 1859;

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting for House Bills No. 79, 737, 934, 1250, 1272 and 1414;

Rep. Strike B. Revilla for House Bills No. 288 and 3946;

Rep. Makmod D. Mending Jr. for House Bills No. 333, 334, 475, 556, 558, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1208, 1616, 1617, 1618, 1762, 1764, 2782, 2899, 3058, 3599, 3691, 3789 and 3876;

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing for House Bill No. 2867;

Rep. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano for House Bills No. 78, 152, 153, 154, 156, 673, 674, 739, 741, 744, 749, 754, 756, 766, 767 and 773;

Reps. Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco-Catera, Ramon C. Nolasco, Fernando V. Gonzalez and Jose “Pingping” I. Tejada for House Bill No. 1858;

Rep. Carmelo “Jon” B. Lazatin II for House Bills No. 47, 1867 and 2903 and House Resolution No. 345;

Rep. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles for House Bill No. 3254;

Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta for House Bills No. 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 2447, 2460, 2713, 3560 and 3769;

Reps. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Pia S. Cayetano, Evelina G. Escudero, Ann K. Hofer, Michael L. Romero, Ph.D., Feliciano Belmonte Jr., Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D., Joey Sarte Salceda, Gerald Anthony “Samsam” V. Gullas Jr., Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Vini Nola A. Ortega, Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr., Tobias “Toby” M. Tiangco, Johnny Ty Pimentel, Vincent “Bingbong” P. Crisolago, Rodel M. Batocabe, Sherwin N. Tugna, Geraldine B. Roman, Maria Carmen S. Zamora, Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Sarah Jane I. Elago, Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao, Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco-Catera, Sandra Y. Eriguel, M.D., Alfredo A. Garbin Jr., Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr., Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu, Salvio B. Fortunato, Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno, Deogracias B. Ramos Jr., Fernando V. Gonzalez, Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., Cesar V. Sarmiento, Henry C. Ong, Divina Grace C. Yu, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Glona G. Labadlabad, Michelle M. Antonio, John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, Robert Ace S. Barbers, Gwendolyn F. Garcia, Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, Arlene D. Brosas, Eugene Michael B. De Vera, Harlin Neil J. Abayon III, Antonio L. Tinio, France L. Castro, Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao, Juliet Marie D. Ferrer, Raul “Boboy” C. Tupas, Ma. Theresa V. Collantes, Anna Katrina M. Enverga, Alex “AA” L. Advincula, Ron P. Salo, Virgilio S. Lacson, Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, Mark O. Go, Gus S. Tambunting, Lianda B. Bolilia, Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta, Rolando “Klaxex” A. Uy, Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III, Jennifer Austria Barzaga, Celso L. Lobregat, Manuel Luis T. Lopez, Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Vilma Santos-Recto, Zajid G. Mangudadatu, Edcel C. Lagman, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Alberto T. Ungab, Mylene J. Garcia-Albano, Joel Mayo

Z. Almario, Bai Sandra Sinsuat A. Sema, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Manuel F. Zubiri, Rogelio Neil P. Roque, Makmod D. Mending Jr., Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II, Tom S. Villarín, Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez, Ferdinand L. Hernandez, Mauyag “Jun” B. Papandayan Jr., Horacio P. Suansing Jr., Arcadio H. Gorriceta, Carlito S. Marquez, Joseph Stephen S. Paduano, Rogelio “Ruel” D. Pacquiao, Jonas C. Cortes, Rodrigo A. Abellanosa, Benhur L. Salimbangon, Raul V. Del Mar, Ramon “Red” H. Durano VI, Benhur B. Lopez Jr., Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Delphine Gan Lee, Nancy A. Catamco, Pedro B. Acharon Jr., Jesus Nonato Saccalan, Emmi A. De Jesus, Micaela S. Violago, Ramon V.A. “Rav” Rocamora, Salvador B. Belaro Jr., Jose L. Atienza Jr., Anna Marie VillarazaSuarez, Luis Jose Angel N. Campos Jr., Arlene B. Arcillas, Cristal L. Bagatsing, Kaka J. Bag-ao and Carlos Isagani T. Zarate for House Resolution No. 548;

Rep. Rene L. Relampagos for House Bill No. 159;

Rep. Manuel F. Zubiri for House Bills No. 516, 525 and 3319;

Reps. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Arlene B. Arcillas, Isagani S. Amatong and Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo for House Bill No. 4174;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 3956, 3963 and 4077;

Rep. Vini Nola A. Ortega for House Bill No. 3457;

Rep. Micaela S. Violago for House Bills No. 2628 and 3557;

Rep. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez for House Bills No. 209, 210 and 1911;

Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D. for House Bills No. 208, 209, 210, 1912, 1915 and 1916;

Reps. Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III and Melecio J. Yap Jr. for House Bills No. 208, 209, 210, 211, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915 and 1916;

Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento for House Bill No. 1968;

Reps. Roy M. Loyola and Emmeline AglipayVillar for House Bill No. 1894;

Rep. Teodoro “Ted” G. Montoro for House Bills No. 674, 677, 739, 741, 749, 760, 770, 2637, 2638, 2643, 2645, 3103 and 4174;

Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe for House Bills No. 152 and 524; and

Reps. Arlene B. Arcillas, Len B. Alonte-Naguiat, Maximo B. Dalog, Melecio J. Yap Jr., Ramon C. Nolasco and Rene L. Relampagos for House Bill No. 3931.

#### CCOMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated October 21, 2016 of Amando M. Tetangco Jr., Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, furnishing the House of Representatives with the

Report to Congress on Public Sector/Publicly-Guaranteed Private Sector Foreign Loans approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) in the Third Quarter of 2016.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated October 20, 2016 of Amando M. Tetangco Jr., Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, submitting their First Semester Status Report on the Philippine Financial System, in compliance with Section 39(c), Article V of Republic Act No. 7653 and other pertinent banking laws.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated October 20, 2016 of Nerissa T. Esguerra, Director IV, Development Information Staff, National Economic and Development Authority, providing the House of Representatives with the NEDA 2015 Annual Report.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Letter dated October 28, 2016 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Office of the Supervising Auditor, Audit Groups CGS I and II – Water Districts and other CGS Stand Alone Agencies, Regional Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the Annual Audit Report on the Concepcion Water District, Concepcion, Iloilo for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 20, 2016 of Roland A. Rey, Regional Director, Commission on Audit, Regional Office No. V, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the Annual Audit Reports on the following Water Districts:

1. Ligao City Water District, Ligao City (CY 2015);
2. Jose Panganiban Water District, Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte (CY 2015);
3. Iriga City Water District, San Roque, Iriga City (CY 2015);
4. Pili Water District, Pili, Camarines Sur (CY 2015);
5. Matnog Water District, Matnog, Sorsogon (CY 2015);
6. Barcelona Water District, Barcelona, Sorsogon (CYs 2012-2015); and
7. Baras Water District, Baras, Catanduanes (CY 2012-2015).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 19), re H.B. No. 4402, entitled:

“AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAY TANZA IN THE CITY OF NAVOTAS INTO TWO (2) DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY TANZA 1 AND BARANGAY TANZA 2”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 939

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Tiangco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 20), re H.B. No. 937, entitled:

“AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAY NORTH BAY BOULEVARD SOUTH IN THE CITY OF NAVOTAS INTO THREE (3) DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY NBBS PROPER, BARANGAY NBBS KAUNLARAN AND BARANGAY NBBS DAGAT-DAGATAN”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Tiangco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Bondoc). The Floor Leader is recognized.

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session for a few minutes.

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

*It was 4:06 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:16 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Rolando G. Andaya Jr., presiding.*

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, at this juncture, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests. They are the guests of Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez, Cong. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr., Cong. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas and Cong. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, as follows: Ms. Cassandra Devine, Delegation Leader from the Australian Labor Party; (Applause) Mr. Robert

Davis of the Liberal Party of Australia; (Applause) Ms. Rikki Hendon of Australian Labor Party; (Applause) Ms. Andrew Hudgson of the Liberal Party of Australia; (Applause) Ms. Donherra Walmsley of Australian Labor Party; (Applause) Ms. Victoria Castledine of The Nationals; (Applause), Ms. Susan Leithhead of the Liberal Party of Australia, NSW Division; and lastly, Mrs. Sharon Forester, the Council Representative of Australian Political Exchange Council.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Your presence is duly noted. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

## PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, with leave of the House, I move that we proceed to the Privilege Hour.

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, at this juncture, I move that we recognize the Gentlelady from KABATAAN Party-List, Ms. Sarah Jane I. Elago, to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The Lady is recognized. Please proceed.

## PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ELAGO

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, good afternoon.

I rise to bring attention to the manifold issues faced by students in observance of International Students' Day tomorrow, November 17. The date commemorates the anniversary of the 1939 storming of the University of Prague after the demonstrations against killings and occupation, the execution of nine student leaders, the sending of over 1,200 students to concentration camps and the closing of all Czech universities and colleges. The day, November 17, was first marked in 1941 in London as the International Students' Day by the International Students' Council, which later formed the International Union of Students. Since 1941, November 17 has been marked as an international observance of student activism. This year, the ISC aims to unite students across the globe to fight for free education, its access for all, and for students' democratic rights and welfare.

In the Philippines, the implementation of the Education Act of 1982 ushered the era of massive

deregulation, privatization, and the nationalization of education. It has served as a legal basis for the implementation of neoliberal policies that made Philippine education subservient to the demands of the market instead of serving nationalist ideas.

It is stipulated clearly in Section 42 of the said law that private schools have the right to determine its rate of tuition and other school fees and similar charges. The past six years alone saw an increase of at least P20,000 in tuition and other school fees per year. On top of the already burdensome tuition, other school fees or OSFs form a large chunk of what students pay for in schools and these OSFs range from a total of P2,000 to more than P30,000 and are also increasing yearly, contributing to ballooning school profits.

Likewise, state colleges and universities or SUCs, which should provide accessible and affordable education necessary for forging patriotic and nationalist workforce, have been victims of neoliberal and foreign market dictates, as evidenced by Republic Act No. 8292 or also known as the Higher Education Modernization Act (HEMA) of 1997. HEMA has granted powers to governing boards of SUCs, such as its boards of regents or trustees, to determine the cost of tuition and other school fees as well as to introduce new fees that they will deem necessary. HEMA has also legitimized the implementation of a socialized tuition scheme as a means to generate income for SUCs. In the years 2011 to 2015, tuition per unit increased 2.67 times the increase in daily minimum wage. On the average, the cost of college education in the NCR is P200,000 per year, and in the Philippines, considering that the average annual income of a family according to the Family Income and Expenditure Survey of 2014 is only P235,000 per annum, with the poorest decile having an annual income of only P69,000, access to tertiary education would be almost impossible for the children in these families.

No wonder, the dropout rate among college students, according to the CHED, has reached an alarming 83.7 percent. This means that the country is producing at least two million college dropouts annually while graduates stand at close to 500,000 only. This has been the case while capitalist educators are raking in billions in mega profits per year. Meanwhile, universities in the top 1000 corporations are clearly not in the red and are profiteering largely from the collection of tuition and other school fees. Yearly tuition hikes are only used to augment income at the expense of the increasing inaccessibility of education. While granting scholarships, discounts and loans give immediate relief to our students, these are false alternatives to effective access to education and to guarantee the completion of studies of our students. In fact, subjecting our students to loan programs will only make their situation worse.

Moreover, scholarships, discounts and socialized tuition schemes have only served to legitimize tuition and other fee increases. These schemes can never cushion and will never absorb the negative impact of rising costs of tuition amidst price surges in goods and basic services, and in the context that wages remain low. This only goes to show that full or partial scholarships, socialized tuition systems and discount vouchers will not be able to cover the huge amount of subsidy needed to possibly address the needs of the 2.3 million college-age-going students who drop out annually. In fact, according to the 2014 report of the Chairperson of the CHED, a measly eight percent of total higher education students belong to the lowest quintile of the population, and only two percent of higher education enrolment is covered by its Student Financial Assistance Programs. More so, majority of the youth and students from financially modest and struggling middle income families will remain excluded.

Now, on the case of democratic rights in our campuses, in the past few years, the people have witnessed the power of the student movement, manifested by the massive protests that led to student strikes. With the continuous implementation of neoliberal policies in education, the youth and students are ready to stand once more at the frontlines to prevent any increase, even if the struggles come at the cost of their basic civil liberties and other human rights violations such as threat, intimidation and harassment from some administrators, the attack on the autonomy and independence of our student councils and publications, among others.

It is thus also necessary that we assert our democratic rights in the campuses, that students assert their democratic rights, basic civil liberties inside their campuses. The attack on the right to education ensures that students of today will ultimately join the present ranks of workers who trade their skills and labor for low wages. There are also a number of working students who opt for irregular rackets just to get by. Ito po iyong mga working students na sa unang semester ay papasok, ang pangalawang semester kadalasan ay nilalaan nila para makapag-ipon muna para sa susunod na taon ng kanilang pag-aaral. Ito ay umaambag doon sa mas mabagal na graduation rate sa ating mga eskuwelahan, lalong-lalo na sa kolehiyo.

Students must therefore lend their forces in strengthening the workers' and employees' fight for a national minimum wage and to put an end to contractualization. Education is not for sale. Education should not be treated as a commodity but as a public good and public responsibility as it is necessary for the general welfare of our society. It should be liberated from neoliberal economic policies, and it should be supported and maintained as affordable and accessible

for all. Education should not be developed just for the goal of employability, for personal and material success, but for its social return and contribution to the common good and national development. With this, I urge our honorable colleagues in Congress to stand for the interest and welfare of the students and study how we can actually work to seriously address the concerns of the students and the youth sector, including the high cost of education.

Filipino students and youth must unite. We must oppose neoliberal attacks on education, and we must drumbeat to the nation and to the world, in this International Students' Day, our demand for accessible and affordable education. Finally, we must remember the significance of education and why we must fight for it. In the words of the late nationalist scholar and historian, Professor Renato Constantino, "Education is a vital weapon of a people striving for economic emancipation, political independence and cultural renaissance. We are such a people." Philippine education therefore must produce Filipinos who are aware of their country's problems, who understand the basic solutions to these problems and who care enough to have the courage to work and sacrifice for their country's salvation.

Mabuhay ang lahat ng mga estudyante na nagsasalita hindi lamang para sa kanilang sektor kung hindi para sa sambayanang Pilipino.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you very much.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, having no interpellators, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

One moment, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The referral of the speech.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my previous motion and I move to refer the speech of the Hon. Sarah Jane Elago to the Committee on Rules.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). There is a motion to refer the speech to the Committee on Rules. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hear none; the motion is carried.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). There is a motion to terminate the Privilege Hour. Is there any

objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is carried.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend our session for a few minutes.

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

*It was 4:30 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:36 p.m., the session was resumed with the Speaker presiding.*

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of a Certificate of Proclamation issued by the Commission on Elections, dated October 3, 2016, proclaiming Trade Union Congress Party or TUCP as a winner in the party-list elections of May 9, 2016 and to entitle its qualified nominee, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, to sit as its Representative in the House of Representatives of the Congress of the Philippines and to serve for a term ending June 30, 2019 in accordance with Section 7, Article VI of the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the aforementioned Certificate of Proclamation, I move that we allow the Hon. Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Representative of Party-List TUCP, to take his oath in open session.

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

The Secretary General is directed to call the Representative of Party-List Trade Union Congress Party to take his oath of office before this Body.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Hon. Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza is requested to ascend the Speaker's rostrum to take his oath of office.

*At this juncture, the Hon. Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, accompanied by other House Members, ascended the rostrum and took his oath of office as Representative of the TUCP Party-List in the House of Representatives before the Speaker.*

THE SPEAKER. May I request all the Members of the House of Representatives and all our guests in the galleries to please rise to witness the oath-taking of our new Member.

## OATH-TAKING

THE SPEAKER. Please raise your right hand and take your oath before me.

“I, RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA, of Poblacion Liloan, Cebu, having been elected as Representative of the Trade Union Congress Party, TUCP Party-List, hereby solemnly swear that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others that I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will obey the laws, legal orders, and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.”

So help me God.

THE SPEAKER. Congratulations! (Applause)

REP. MENDOZA. Thank you very much, Sir.

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, in order for our colleagues to greet our new Member, I move that we suspend our session for a few minutes.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

*It was 4:40 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:42 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Rolando G. Andaya Jr. presiding.*

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

## ROLL CALL

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members of the House of Representatives.

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is as follows, per Journal No. 45, dated November 16, 2016:*

## PRESENT

Abaya	Catamco
Abayon	Cayetano
Abellanos	Cerilles
Abu	Chavez
Acharon	Chipeco
Acop	Co
Acosta	Cojuangco
Acosta-Alba	Collantes
Advincula	Cortes
Aggabao	Cortuna
Alejano	Cosalan
Almario	Crisologo
Almonte	Cuaresma
Alonte-Naguiat	Cueva
Alvarez (F.)	Dalipe
Alvarez (P.)	Dalog
Amatong	Daza
Andaya	De Vera
Angara-Castillo	Del Mar
Antonio	Deloso-Montalla
Arcillas	Dimaporo (M.K.)
Atienza	Duavit
Bagatsing	Durano
Baguilat	Dy
Banal	Elago
Barzaga	Enverga
Bataoil	Eriguel
Batocabe	Ermita-Buhain
Bautista-Bandigan	Escudero
Belaro	Espino
Belmonte (F.)	Estrella
Belmonte (J.C.)	Evardone
Belmonte (R.)	Fariñas
Bernos	Ferrer (J.)
Bertiz	Ferrer (L.)
Billones	Ferriol-Pascual
Bolilia	Flores
Bondoc	Fortuno
Bordado	Fuentebella
Bravo (A.)	Garbin
Bravo (M.V.)	Garcia (G.)
Brosas	Garcia (J.E.)
Bulut-Begtang	Garcia-Albano
Cagas	Gasataya
Calderon	Geron
Calixto-Rubiano	Go (M.)
Caminero	Gonzaga
Campos	Gonzales (A.D.)
Canama	Gonzalez
Cari	Gullas
Casilao	Hernandez
Castelo	Herrera-Dy
Castro (F.L.)	Hofer
Castro (F.H.)	Kho



Khonghun	Rodriguez (M.)
Labadlabad	Roman
Lacson	Romero
Lagman	Romualdo
Laogan	Roque (R.)
Lazatin	Sacdalán
Limkaichong	Sagarbarria
Lopez (B.)	Sahali
Lopez (C.)	Salon
Lopez (M.L.)	Sambar
Loyola	Sandoval
Macapagal-Arroyo	Sarmiento (C.)
Maceda	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Madrona	Savellano
Malapitan	Sema
Mangaoang	Silverio
Mangudadatu (Z.)	Singson
Marcoleta	Suansing (E.)
Martinez	Suansing (H.)
Matugas	Sy-Alvarado
Mellana	Tambunting
Mendoza	Tan (A.)
Mirasol	Tan (M.)
Nava	Tejada
Nograles (J.J.)	Teves
Nograles (K.A.)	Tiangco
Nolasco	Ting
Núñez-Malanyaon	Tinio
Oaminal	Tolentino
Olivarez	Tugna
Ortega (P.)	Tupas
Ortega (V.N.)	Ty
Pacquiao	Ungab
Paduano	Unico
Palma	Uy (J.)
Pancho	Uy (R.)
Panganiban	Vargas
Panotes	Vargas-Alfonso
Papandayan	Velarde
Pichay	Velasco
Pineda	Velasco-Catera
Plaza	Vergara
Primicias-Agabas	Villafuerte
Quimbo	Villanueva
Radaza	Villarica
Ramirez-Sato	Villarin
Ramos	Violago
Relampagos	Yap (M.)
Revilla	Yu
Roa-Puno	Zamora (R.)
Rocamora	Zarate
Rodriguez (I.)	Zubiri

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Speaker is present.  
Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 212 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). With 212 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the honorable Cong. Manuel Luis T. Lopez, Representative of the First District of Manila. They are the presidents of the General Parents-Teachers Association of different public schools in the First District of Manila, namely: Jonathan Obasa, Nimfa Medalla, Imelda Piring, Herminio Calleja, Emily Grutas, Gerald Moron, Jimmy Escala, Jomar Galang, Cherie Potesta, Jaime Cotillo, Pauline Quimbao, Maricel Nunag, Mariecar Roldan, Reden Dionie Razon, Venus Fernandez, Miraluna Ocon and Sylvia Dela Cruz.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Your presence is duly noted. (*Applause*) Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4149

*Continuation*

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, under the Calendar of Unfinished Business, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 4149 as contained in Committee Report No. 17, submitted by the Committee on Local Government. For this purpose, may I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the Bill.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). There is a motion to consider House Bill No. 4149. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General will please proceed.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4149, entitled: AN ACT EXEMPTING FROM THE POPULATION AND LAND AREA REQUIREMENTS THE CONVERSION OF A MUNICIPALITY INTO A COMPONENT CITY IF IT HAS A LOCALLY GENERATED AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME OF AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED FIFTY MILLION PESOS (P250,000,000.00), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 450 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, the

parliamentary status of the Bill is that it is in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that we recognize the Hon. Pedro B. Acharon Jr. of the First District of South Cotabato, Chairperson of the Committee on Local Government. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Congressman Acharon is recognized.

REP. DAZA. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ACHARON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DAZA. May I move for a suspension of a few minutes so that I can confer with the Majority Leader on this measure.

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

*It was 4:54 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:54 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

Congressman Acharon is recognized.

REP. ACHARON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are now ready to answer questions, Mr. Speaker.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Gentleman of the First District of Albay, the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Congressman Lagman is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, pending my receipt of the data and position papers presented to the Committee during the last Congress, I will momentarily suspend my interpellation to give way to other Members of the House who may want to interpellate the distinguished Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Your reservation is noted.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from Party-List BUHAY, the Hon. Jose "Lito" L. Atienza, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The man from Manila is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Yes, you are recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Floor Leader, and thank you to the honorable Sponsor of the measure, as we would be very, very glad to be able to help elaborate on some of the points that should be clarified in this measure.

We were listening to the interpellation last night and indeed, the questions asked by the Congressman from Albay are very relevant to the supposed intentions of this Bill. We are positive that the measure is considered by the Committee and sponsored by the Chairman so that development will be enhanced all over the country. Tama po ba iyong assumption natin?

REP. ACHARON. Yes, that is correct, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. So, we would like to find out if removing the provision controlling the conversion of municipalities to cities would indeed result in promoting development and essential services in the areas affected. Lyon po ba ang bunga ng inyong pag-aaral?

REP. ACHARON. We believe so, Mr. Speaker, because the purpose of the Local Government Code in setting these criteria is for the local government unit to develop, enhanced and be a self-sustaining local government unit.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, you mentioned, the word "self-sustaining." Naniniwala ba kayo na kapag inalis natin iyong minimum requirement for population, you will enhance the potential of that particular newly created city in a self-sustaining manner?

REP. ACHARON. Yes, Mr. Speaker, because with the P250 million income of a local government, we believe that it will be able to deliver more services, provide security, protect the environment and provide social services to its people. Besides, once this will be converted into a city, Mr. Speaker, there will always be immigration and the population will surely increase, thereby more people will pay taxes and so on, so that it will become a sustainable community, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. We would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that is contrary to the present and past data that we have on the development potential of a city. As we know, the more people there are in a city, provided there is a good government in place, a sensitive and responding

local government in place, the city normally grows faster and will have a bigger population. So, the minimum, the number of people in the newly created cities must be commensurate to the potential of that particular area. Thus, believing that less people thereat will mean faster development is not accurate, Mr. Speaker. The less people there are, the more difficult would productivity come in. Kaya nga po dito sa Metro Manila, mas mataas ang development rate dahil marami pong tao rito.

Correspondingly, mayroon din po namang mga problema concomitant with a growing population. Nandiyan po ang peace and order, housing, health and employment. It is a fact, and we would like to ask the Gentleman Sponsor, he does not believe that setting a minimum number of people as stipulated by the Local Government Code is not conducive to development; rather, you would like to introduce a new theory that with less people, the faster will be the development. Are we to understand that that is the purpose?

REP. ACHARON. Well, Mr. Speaker, while it is correct to say that if there are more people, there will be more income for the locality, but in this case, we already consider that if you have an income of more than P250 million, the more you can provide the services of the government: health services, education, security, economic development programs, social services, environmental protection, and whatever programs you want to have because you have economic viability, Mr. Speaker. You have more money to improve your area and of course, as I had said, if that will happen, there will be more business or economic activities that will occur in that area, Mr. Speaker.

I know that if you have more people, this will also trigger development, Mr. Speaker. That is correct, but I also believe that if you have the money, the more you can develop your area, with good government officials elected.

REP. ATIENZA. We would like to, again, contradict and not agree to that theory, Mr. Speaker, because records of cities in the world, in Asia and the Philippines, state that if there are more people, there is more generated productivity, thus, the faster the development of that particular city. In fact, many countries give their cities a bigger share in nation-building like, for instance, in the United States, cities in the East Coast like New Jersey and New York, the most populated cities in that area are given a bigger share in the national development plan, including their political value. Kaya iyong kanilang electoral college sa New York and New Jersey, these are higher than the cities in the midwest and the other areas. The State of California, having one of the biggest population centers in the United States, is given a big, big say on who should be

the next president. Of course, the general popularity of the Republican candidate beat all of these restrictions. Even if the big states were won by Mrs. Clinton, she got defeated by Mr. Trump or President-elect Trump simply because he won in more areas.

What I am trying to stress is that the bigger the city, the bigger the state, the bigger the province, it should be given more opportunities and a bigger say in the national development potential. Kapag maraming tao, talagang madaling paunlarin kung mayroong tamang gobyerno. Iyan po ang kasaysayan ng Europa. Many countries in the world progressed and developed fully when their populations were sufficient and growing. Samantala, countries like Singapore today are having a problem because of their population decline, and there will come a time when Singapore will definitely be overtaken by cities in the Philippines simply because they do not have enough people.

So, iyong theory na nais nating tanggapin sa panukalang-batas na ito ay hindi proven na tama, and in fact, mali ito. The more people there are, all you need is a good government, then you have greater economic potentials. Mataas ang standard of living, mataas ang minimum wage, mataas ang lahat ng mayroong kinalaman sa antas ng pamumuhay. So, lowering or removing the minimum number of people in creating new cities will be contrary to the time-tested way of making sure that cities or the city dwellers are given better opportunities in the national economy.

Anyway, I would like to shift to another very important issue. Would the Sponsor agree that creating more cities, or liberalizing or allowing more municipalities to be converted into cities would reduce the income potential and the sharing of existing cities in the national taxes collected? Would you agree that that would be a natural impact of this liberalized system of conversion?

REP. ACHARON. Well, Mr. Speaker, as far as records will show, there was no reduction in the IRA share of the local government units because even if there will be additional cities that will be created, the collection of taxes of the national government also increases. That is why you will note that in the last two decades, there was no record that the IRA has declined and it is simply because the national government is also increasing its collection or generation of income, Mr. Speaker. Although the projections might not be achieved, there is no decrease in the share in the IRA of the local government units, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, I have here the record of IRA reductions as an impact or direct effect of conversion of municipalities to cities, the most recent of which are the conversions done about four to five years ago and the net effect of these reductions in the shares

of existing cities are the following: Davao lost P168 million, Makati lost P141 million, Quezon City lost P125 million, and the city of Manila lost P120 million. Puerto Princesa of Palawan lost P100 million. These are facts that cannot be denied—that major cities now which are carrying the brunt of the national economic picture are deprived of much-needed resources, if you put in more municipalities into the college or the group of cities now enjoying national government support.

Hindi po ganoon kasimple na mas maraming sasali ay mas madali ang pag-unlad, baligtad po. Kapag pinasali natin ang hindi pa preparado—we would like to stress that we are not against municipalities graduating to become cities because that should be the natural consequence of national development—removing the restrictions of the Local Government Code to accommodate more municipalities joining the cities of the country may not be the best way to encourage economic upliftment of the lives in municipalities of the country.

As I had asked earlier, ano po ba talaga ang intensiyon nitong ating proposed amendment to the restrictions in the Local Government Code, is it to promote development or is it to reduce the services in major cities now all over the country which, indeed, are helping greatly in carrying the burden of national governance?

Marami po ang mga nagta-trabaho sa mga existing cities ngayon na nagbabayad ng buwis. Marami pong economic activities na nangyayari ngayon na nagmumula sa mga cities na binanggit ko pero pag binawasan po natin ng daan-daang milyon ay iyong kanilang ginagamit ngayon para sa serbisyo. Para ko nang nakikini-kinita po na ang Maynila ay lalong mahihirapan to provide housing, peace and order, health and other major services to the people of the city of Manila. Ganoon din po sa Quezon City, ganoon din po sa Davao, the home province and city of our President—they will have to be sacrificing more if more municipalities are allotted shares that they are now using for essential services.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, as I have mentioned earlier or yesterday, the purpose of this Bill is really to give opportunities to municipalities that have displayed exemplary governance in collecting more income, more than the minimum requirement. That is why, Mr. Speaker, the exemption has been asked for the local government unit or the municipality which has an income of more than twice as the minimum requirement of P100 million. Mr. Speaker, according to Republic Act No. 9009, the minimum requirement of a municipality to become a city is P100 million, but P100 million and a land area of 100 square kilometers or P100 million and 150,000 population, you will take note, Mr. Speaker, that the common denominator there, the common requirement is income. Therefore, we can

say that income is really the primordial factor that will help the local government unit develop its community. That is why if a municipality has an income of more than P100 million, this is more than twice the P100 million requirement if you have P250 million income, then this Bill is asking that it be exempt from the population or land area requirement, Mr. Speaker.

I respect the opinion of the Honorable Atienza, Mr. Speaker, about development of local government units with more population, but we also believe that the development will be faster if there is more income than people, rather than more people than income.

REP. ATIENZA. The position of the Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, is a bit confusing, to say the least, because I do not think he would be able to prove the point that he is now raising—that the more cities there are, the faster the productivity will be enhanced.

REP. ACHARON. No, Mr. Speaker. I am saying that if you have more money, you have bigger income, and with less people, you can develop more, the faster will be the development, rather than if you have more people and less income as the development will be slower. The Honorable Atienza has mentioned that if you have more people, the development will be faster. Yes, we respect that, Mr. Speaker, but I am saying, and I would like to clarify, that there will be more development if we have more money, not more cities. I did not mention more cities, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Then, the question of money is the issue. So, rather than go into liberalization on creating cities, why do we not talk about, and why do we not propose the full enforcement of the intention of the Constitution, that the money should be given to LGUs as provided for in the Constitution? Dapat po iyong IRA, iyon pong lahat ng buwis na nakokolekta ng gobyerno ay binabahaginan ang probinsiya. Alam po ba ng ating G. Sponsor na iyon ay probisyon ng ating Saligang Batas? Dapat binibigyan ng bahagi ang lahat ng probinsiya, lungsod at munisipyo. All local government units should be sharing in all taxes, not only the IRA.

If we are talking about money, then let us not create a restructuring of the archipelago but rather the full implementation of the fiscal sharing of the system that we are following. Iyong ating sistema ngayon, walang ibinibigay sa LGU kung hindi share sa IRA pero hindi po ibinibigay iyong share mula sa VAT. Malaking-malaki po iyan. One of the biggest taxes collected now by the government is the VAT, but the LGUs have never had a share in this from the beginning and up to now. Anyone can correct me, but the VAT is not being shared with LGUs.

Kaya bago tayo magbago ng istruktura, tingnan

muna natin, iyong pera ba na nakalaan sa serbisyo ng mga local government units ay ibinibigay o hindi? Ang sagot po diyan ay malinaw—hindi po ibinibigay. So, heto na naman, magdadagdag pa tayo ng cities samantalang hindi po naman makakayanan ng mga newly created cities to fend for themselves and be autonomous areas where progress will automatically flow in. Hindi po ganoong kasimple iyon. You create cities, you create problems. Then, the existing cities will have more problems. The problem will be exacerbated and the situation will worsen, so the envisioned impact and effect of this measure will not be realized, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ACHARON. I join the opinion of the Honorable Atienza, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that he can also help us for that to happen, that a bigger share in the national resources will be given to local government units because as of now, only 40 percent is given to the local government units through the IRA and 60 percent is retained by the national government. So I think this has long been the desire of local government units--barangays, municipalities, cities and provinces—that a bigger share in the IRA will be given to local government units. I hope that the good Gentleman from Manila, from BUHAY Party-List, can help us increase the share of the local government units.

REP. ATIENZA. Hindi po ba mas maganda, Mr. Speaker, naayusin muna natin ang layunin o prinsipyo ng local autonomy, which includes fiscal autonomy and allow local government units to have better access to more funds? Kasi kanina ay sinabi po ng ating Sponsor na pera ang ating habol. Mayroon po tayong makukuhang pera pero kailangan po talaga ayusin ang pamamahala. Hanggang sa ngayon, hindi po nangyayari iyan. So, rather than help accelerate the development, we take the position that this measure will make it more difficult for local government units to govern provinces, cities and even municipalities kaya sila po ang talagang dapat marinig.

So, I would like to ask the Gentleman Sponsor, did you invite the leagues of provinces, of cities and of the municipalities, the mother organizations of LGUs, to be heard on this measure? Ano ang posisyon nila—makabubuti ba ito o sinusuportahan ba nila ito, o sa tingin nila, makapagpapahirap pa ito sa kanila. Do we have a paper on this matter that will show that the LGUs now support the measure being proposed to Congress?

REP. ACHARON. As I had mentioned yesterday, Mr. Speaker, we invited the different leagues of local government units—the League of Municipalities, the League of Cities, the League of Provinces, and even the ULAP, the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines. The League of Cities sent their representative in

committee hearing of the last Congress, Mr. Speaker, and they did not give us a categorical answer that they are objecting because they know that the P250 million income is very difficult to achieve, Mr. Speaker. The minimum is only P100 million, and the P250 million income is very difficult to achieve.

That is why, as I had said yesterday, Mr. Speaker, we invited them and I even mentioned their representative, Ms. Veron Hitoasis, from the League of Cities, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, the Gentleman mentioned the fact that the leagues of the municipalities and of provinces were heard in the last Congress, but today, the league has a definite position on the issue and...

REP. ACHARON. We invited them also.

REP. ATIENZA. ...they are against the measure. They are cautioning us, cautioning the Sponsor. Tayo po ay pinaaalalahanan na hindi ito makabubuti. Ito po ay makasasama sa kalagayan ngayon ng mga probinsiya at ng mga lungsod. Kaya mabuti yata, ang ating Chairman ng Committee ay tumawag muna ng additional studies. Dinggin po natin ang tinig ng mga local officials dahil sa akin, tayo sa Kongreso ay hindi ganoong kalalim ang ating kaalaman ng kinalalagayan ngayon, today, not in the last Congress but today in this present Congress. The Leagues of Provinces, Cities and Municipalities should be heard and we will all be listening para po naman mayroon tayong mas maliwanag na pinanghahawakan doon sa ating magandang layunin.

I know that the Gentleman has very noble intentions, and his Committee actually is doing its job to help, to find ways and means to promote development all over the country. But if the affected provinces are not in favor of our ideas, we should listen to them before we even go into any major decision that will affect their economic conditions and their plans for on the immediate and long term basis. Isa lamang naman ang kanilang pinapaalala—mag-ingat tayo sa pagko-convert dahil hindi palaging nagbubunga ng tama. Meanwhile, lalala ang problema sa ating kinalalagayan ngayon. Like, for instance, even with the changes envisioned by the Sponsor, how many municipalities will be immediately converted and qualified if this measure is approved?

REP. ACHARON. As we had mentioned, Mr. Speaker, if they will apply, because, of course, we do not know if they are already applying for this—the municipalities with locally-generated income of more than P250 million, we have nine local government units, municipalities, Your Honor, but, of course, we are not sure if all of them will be applying.

REP. ATIENZA. According to the figures of 2014, Mr. Speaker, if this measure is approved, immediately, about 12 will qualify and, therefore, there will be 12 more participants in the limited share of the pie that is now being given to LGUs. So, iyong maganda nating intention ay tatalunin po ng problemang papasok sa mga local areas ngayon, na mababawasan ang kanilang share doon sa limited sharing na kinukuha at ibinibigay sa kanila.

Ang tanong ko nga kanina, sana kung iyong lahat ng buwis ay ibinabahagi na sa mga probinsiya at sa mga lungsod ngayon at munisipyo natin, sa palagay ko, mas maluwag na paraan para maging lungsod ang mga munisipyo ay madali nating pagkakaisahan. Pero gipit na gipit ngayon ang lahat, tapos, hahaluan pa natin ngayon ng panibagong hugis, e, baka lalong lumala ang mga problema ng mga kasalukuyang miyembro na nababahaginan ng ating buwis, na hindi po naman talaga tama at palagay ko iyon ang ating dapat unahin sa Kongreso.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, there are only, as of 2015, Your Honor, nine municipalities. Well, of course, the final arbiter here, Mr. Speaker, the final decision will be coming from the people. We are not really sure if all of them will be applying because, of course, there will be a plebiscite to be conducted. Of course, if you will become a city, if you decide to become a city, there will also be disadvantages, Mr. Speaker, and it is up to the people to decide whether to accept those advantages and disadvantages of being a city, Mr. Speaker.

Just to inform the Honorable Atienza, Mr. Speaker, this Bill was approved by the Fifteenth Congress and then, in the last Sixteenth Congress. I remember that I was a member of this Committee in the Fifteenth Congress and the League of Cities, their first proposal was P200 million, the first proposal was to exempt municipalities with P200 million and then, during the discussion, they raised it to P220 million and then finally, today, it is P250 million. They are saying that it is really difficult to reach, this P250 million, but this was approved actually here in the Chamber, on the Third and final Reading in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Congresses, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the mere fact that this was taken up by the Sixteenth Congress, where I was a also Member, and approved but never implemented means that there was a problem which the Sixteenth Congress saw in the proposed law and the Members probably realized that they should not approve it yet. In the same manner that today, we are appealing to the Gentleman to even go slower in the process of conversion because this is the position being taken now by the Leagues of Provinces, Cities and

Municipalities. Why should we push and force and liberalize the entry of more areas to be called cities, to be classified as cities, when there are serious objections coming from the affected provinces, cities and municipalities?

So, I would like to ask, at this juncture, the honorable Sponsor who mentioned the required plebiscite required, at tama po iyon, pero sa hearing natin, kung hindi man lang natin natanong ang kabuuan ng mga liga, natanong ninyo ba iyong mga residents ng mga probinsiya, iyong mga lungsod na apektado ng ating panukalang batas na ito? Did you hold hearings man lang para malaman ninyo kung ano ang damdamin sa mga probinsiyang iyon? Would the governor of the area or the province think it would be good for his province, or for the mayors of the cities affected, would they also be agreeable to the major change? Probably, even the municipality members may not be in total agreement with them being reclassified because—they realize that it does not entail an automatic advantage but rather more problems for them to shoulder.

So, nagkaroon po ba kayo ng hearings sa mga apektadong munisipyo o probinsiya na nabibilang doon sa siyam na sinasabi ninyo? According to our estimates, based on the figures of 2014, now the 2016 figures, baka umabot ng 12 iyan. So, there will be 12 more cities to share in the national coffers.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, the consultations with the local government units concerned, the municipalities, cities and provinces, will be conducted if the local government unit will apply for cityhood using this Bill, Mr. Speaker. That is when consultations will come in whether they are agreeable that their municipality or local government unit will be elevated into a higher category, which is a city. So, the consultations will take place once the local government unit applies, and that includes the province where the local government unit belongs to, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, this is the gist of our opposition—the people affected by this measure have not even been asked. The leagues controlling or supervising the affairs of local government units have not been heard in this particular revival of this measure, and here we are about to approve a measure that affects their lives directly. Sana tinanong ninyo sila at kasama nang inyong presentasyon ngayon ang mga probinsiyang makikinabang—na ang sabi ninyo ay makikinabang pero ang sabi namin, hindi—and this provable position, in saying that the people in this province are all in favor of this liberalization law. We would be defenseless to say that, no, they will not approve that, they will not be agreeable to that, but if you have never even asked them, and you

will ask them when there is already a law, e hindi po naman yata tama iyon.

We would suggest that you ask the people from the provinces and get their position on the issue, and then we will be able to meet at least on our common interest to help them. I am sure the measure is supposed to help the local communities. Tama po ba iyong aking assumption na tutulongan sila nitong batas na ito?

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, as I had said, public consultations will come in once the local government unit applies for cityhood using this Bill, Mr. Speaker. That is the regular process—that once a local government will be created, whether it is a barangay, a municipality, city or province, then, the consultation with the people in the area will be conducted once they apply for their cityhood or they file their intention to become a local government unit in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Iyon po ang problema natin, Mr. Speaker. Ang gusto nating mangyari ay aprobahan natin itong measure and then ask the people whether they are in agreement with it or not, or if they approve or not. Baligtad po dapat ang proseso ng paggawa ng batas. Tanungin natin muna iyong maaapektuhan. Sa pagtataas ng presyo ng anumang bilihin, let us ask the consumers. Sa pagtataas ng buwis, let us ask the taxpayer. Alam po naman natin kung sino iyong mga munisipyong immediately will qualify based on your proposed revisions or changes in the law.

Ang tanong ko po, tinanong ba natin iyong mga alam nating maaapektuhan? Tinanong ba natin iyong lungsod na mababawasan ng kanilang share? Tinanong ba natin iyong mga probinsiyang mababawasan ng kanilang share? Ang sagot po so far ay hindi. Kung tatanungin natin sila pagkatapos nating ipasa iyong batas, ano po ang basis natin ng pagpapasa ng batas?

At this point, nakikiusap po ako sa ating kaibigan na kung maaari ay i-defer lang natin ng kaunti ito at tanungin natin iyong mga apektadong localities. Kung sila ay sang-ayon, di pag-usapan natin dito with the full concurrence of the Leagues of Provinces, Cities and Municipalities and therefore, we will have no more problem. We would not want to be a party to the approval of a measure that will negatively impact on the provinces, cities and municipalities, and will not realize the noble intentions of this law and the Sponsor himself. So, we would like to ask him if he would consider to defer it for a little while. Ask those who will be affected, you know them already, we know them, the leagues know them. Tanungin lamang natin sila kung ano ang kanilang posisyon para po naman sa paghaharap-harap natin sa pagbalangkas ng batas ay tayo ay magkakasundo-sundo na at tiyak tayo na makabubuti iyong panukalang batas at hindi makabibigat.

Right now I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, this proposed law will not give any advantage but rather will only be creating more problems for everyone—the newly designated cities, the old cities, the provinces where they will be coming from, and the country as a whole. With my request, I beg the Sponsor to go slow on the matter and let us go back by deferring action on this proposed law so that we may get the side of all the provincial governments that will be affected.

REP. ACHARON. As I had mentioned, Mr. Speaker, we invited the representatives of the different leagues of local government units. Once these local government units, the municipalities that will be applying for cityhood, when they have had consultations with the provinces involved or concerned, with the people in the local government units that will be applying, that is when the people will deliberate on the proposal of the local government unit, and they will be guided in their decision whether they will approve the proposal to become a city or not, Mr. Speaker. That is the process, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. We are afraid that such kind of a process will be steamrolling the issues we are raising now. When there is already a law and you are asking people to vote on it, you will be causing division, you will be causing dissension, you will be causing local animosities because there will be pros and cons. In the crafting of the law, this is the time to go back to them and ask them. Wala po tayong magiging problema dahil wala pa po tayong batas na itutulak pero kung may batas na, tapos ang sinasabi ng ating G. Sponsor, tatanungin natin sila kapag mayroong batas na, iyon po ay masyado na pong huli at hindi na po marahil siguro ma-a-appreciate ng ating mga kababayan iyon. So I will repeat my request, if the Gentleman is willing to defer action on this. Let us ask those who will be affected primarily, not us Congressmen only, not just Congress but rather the provincial governments, the local government units, because they are the ones who will bear the results of this measure, whether positive or destructive.

Mas mabuti po yata na kasama natin sila sa pagbalangkas. To say that they were invited and they did not attend is not good enough, Mr. Speaker. Pumunta tayo sa probinsiya. I will even join the Gentleman in going to the provinces and let us ask for a general meeting there together with the barangays and the local officials, the councilors and everybody. Matanong natin sila, “Mayroon kaming panukalang batas na ganito. Kung gugustuhin ninyo, mangyayari ito pero kung hindi ninyo gugustuhin ay hindi namin itutuloy.” Creating a problem will require a collective solution, at kapag may problema na, sila rin ang sasalo ng problema. So, tanungin na

natin sila rather than spearheading and approving the law without any consultation. We are not ready to accept that simply because hindi nag-attend iyong mga naimbita ay, therefore, the process of consultation has already been complied with. Kung iyong mga imbistasyon ay hindi nakarating doon sa mga kinauukulan o napadpad kung saan iyong mga imbitasyon ay hindi po talaga ito makakapunta sa mga kinauukulan. So, ang maganda ay tayo na ang pumunta sa mga probinsiya, and that would be a very, very good gesture on the part of this Congress, that we are more sensitive than any other Congress because we are asking the people before we act on any measure that affects them.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, let me just clarify that the approval of this Bill will not automatically convert these municipalities into cities. They will still undergo a process of applying for cityhood and then this Chamber will again hear their applications, conduct public hearings or committee hearings and consultations and the last, the final decision will be coming from the people through the conduct of a plebiscite, Mr. Speaker. So I think it is not correct to say that we are approving this without representation because this will not make them automatically a city as they will still undergo process, Mr. Speaker, and there will still be consultations, there will still be public hearings in their area especially those applying for cityhood, Mr. Speaker.

Sino po ba talaga ang interesado rito sa measure na ito na hindi natuloy noong Sixteenth Congress at ngayon ay biglang binuhay sa Committee at ating tinatalakay sa plenary?

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, the record will show that the principal author of this is Rep. Roy M. Loyola.

REP. ATIENZA. Hindi ko po narinig.

REP. ACHARON. The Honorable Loyola, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Congressman Loyola.

REP. ACHARON. Yes.

REP. ATIENZA. Nandito po ba siya? Ang mga miyembro ba ng Committee willingly, gladly and unanimously approved the measure, or was there also a dissention at the committee level?

REP. ACHARON. During the committee hearing, Mr. Speaker, I remember that there was no objection.

REP. ATIENZA. May nag-object din po.

REP. ACHARON. Ano po?

REP. ATIENZA. Ang League of Provinces, may kopya po ako ng objection nila. Ako rin po, ang feeling ko ay hindi dapat madaliin ito kaya iyong ang aking pakiusap sa inyo, na baka naman puwedeng i-hold na muna natin ito. Let us have more consultations to iron out the objections of those members of the Committee who do not believe that it will be beneficial. Dapat ito ay unanimously approved by all of us.

REP. ACHARON. That is why, Mr. Speaker, during committee hearings, the members will be the ones to approve the measure and during that committee hearing, having a quorum, all the members there present approved this measure, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Ilan po ba ang present at ilan po ba ang membership?

REP. ACHARON. If I remember it right, Mr. Speaker, those present during the committee hearing were more than 20. The committee hearing was conducted last October 18 with 30 members present, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Did the Gentleman say 30 members present?

REP. ACHARON. Yes, I have the list here, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. How many of the 30 members approved it, and the Gentleman said unanimously?

REP. ACHARON. Yes, Mr. Speaker, because there was no objection.

REP. ATIENZA. Sabi ninyo kanina mayroong objection. Ngayon, walang objection.

REP. ACHARON. No, I did not say that there was an objection. There was no objection, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. So there was no objection.

REP. ACHARON. Yes.

REP. ATIENZA. Would the Gentleman not agree to a deferment of this measure?

REP. ACHARON. I think, Mr. Speaker, because this was unanimously approved by the members of the



Committee and endorsed by the Committee on Rules, that we have to proceed with this, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. At this point, Mr. Speaker, this Representation is forced to consult the Members of Congress who are now present, if they agree that this measure will be good, or maybe we should temporarily defer it for further study considering that the Sixteenth Congress did not even act on it even if they were already finished with the Third Reading.

At this point, I would like to throw the question on the floor.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4149

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, my idol from the First District of Camarines Sur, there being no other Members of the House who registered their intent to interpellate the Sponsor of the Bill, and in view of the pendency of the request of Congressman Lagman, the previous interpellator, for documents which are not yet available, may I move for a suspension of the consideration of House Bill No. 4149. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). There is a motion to suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 4149. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, I had a motion to consult the membership and the Chair cannot just dispense with that motion unilaterally. I think we should hear the Members present now as to their sentiments on the debate and the discussions that went on. Marinig lamang natin sila kung sila ay in favor of continuing the discussions, then we will continue taking up the issue. At this point in time, we have to dispose off my motion, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, just for the information of everybody who might not have the benefit of the right frame of mind to ponder over the exact nature of the motion that Congressman Atienza is propounding for this Body, may we ask the Honorable Atienza to again reiterate his motion.

REP. ATIENZA. The motion is very clear. We cannot seem to agree on the good intentions of the Sponsor and yours truly. Since we cannot agree, then I would like to be enlightened by the membership and the general presence of our Members today. I am

putting to a vote whether they agree that it should be deferred, or we will continue deliberating on the measure being discussed now. It is about time, Mr. Speaker, that we follow normal parliamentary procedures in disposing off questions from the floor. We cannot just say no, then we suspend. Hindi po ganoon ka-simple ang karapatan ng bawat isa. Kung papayag po ang mga present ngayon na ipagpatuloy natin ang pagtalakay, we will accept the general sentiments of the majority's decision. It cannot be disposed by a mere statement or position coming from the Floor Leader.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, this is a deliberative Body and we have procedures to follow. At this juncture of the proceedings, Mr. Speaker, we are in the period of interpellation on this particular measure. What this Representation is saying is that there were no other Members of the House who registered their intent to interpellate. I think that is an individual call of all the Members of this Body.

For the benefit of the doubt, Mr. Speaker, may we again ask the Members of the House if there is anybody here at this point in time who wishes to interpellate? There being none, then we move ...

REP. ATIENZA. Hintay muna, liwanagin natin ang pag-uusap para magkasundo tayo. Ang aming motion ay dinggin natin ang tinig ng nakararami. Ang point ninyo, hindi puwedeng gawin iyon. Ang point namin, puwedeng gawin iyon anytime because the Body can decide to stop this interpellation and act on them now from here on expeditiously disregarding the position of BUHAY Party-List, but no, we cannot dispose of it in that manner. Ang akin po, gawin natin ang tamang proseso, tanungin natin ang mga present ngayon. Narinig ninyo ang aming mga punto de vista, narinig po ninyo ang sagot ng Sponsor, at narinig ninyo ang aming mga tanong na kontra ang mga liga at ang mga probinsiya. Kung gusto ninyo ituloy, dinggin natin ang tinig ng nakararami. Kung nakikinig po naman kayo sa panukala namin, i-defer lang ng kaunti at tanungin natin ang mga kinauukulan.

May I repeat my motion, let us ask the Body, would they want to continue or would they want to defer further discussion of the bill.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The parliamentary status is that there was a motion to suspend the interpellation on House Bill No. 4149, and since there was no objection, the motion was carried.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, my motion came ahead of that motion. You cannot sidestep the issue that the motion of this Representation must be disposed off.

We do not mind hearing the voices of our Members now and if they would want to continue, we can continue until kingdom come. But if they would want to listen to reason, we should consult those affected by the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The Gentleman from Manila is raising a motion for reconsideration on the decision made on the motion.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, at this juncture, I move that we suspend the session.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, the motion of the Floor Leader is not in order because my motion came in earlier than that and he cannot dispose of it by entering another motion. Ano po ba ito, palakihan lang ng posisyon, palakihan lang ng boses? Hindi po puwedeng ganyan.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

*It was 5:49 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:53 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, in essence, there is no deviance in the essence of the motion of this Representation as well as that of Rep. Lito Atienza. Therefore, we second the motion.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we should call for a vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). There was no objection and the motion was carried.

REP. ATIENZA. Okay, so we move for adjournment, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw the motion, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. FARINAS. May I move for the election of the following Members to various Committees:

*The Majority Leader read the names of the House*

*Members elected to the various committees, per Journal No. 45, dated November 16, 2016.*

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NORTH LUZON GROWTH QUADRANGLE

Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos vice Rep. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla

Rep. Rose Marie “Baby” J. Arenas vice Rep. Geraldine B. Roman

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas

Rep. Ramon C. Nolasco

Rep. Dakila Carlo E. Cua

Rep. Ronald M. Cosalan

Rep. Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang

Rep. Ana Cristina Siquian Go

Rep. Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao

Rep. Jose T. Panganiban Jr., CPA, LLB.

Rep. Leopoldo N. Bataoil, and

Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON VISAYAS DEVELOPMENT

Rep. Alfredo “Albee” B. Benitez

Rep. Wilfredo S. Caminero

Rep. Jose Carlos L. Cari

Rep. Peter John D. Calderon

Rep. Jonas C. Cortes

Rep. Ben P. Evardone

Rep. Oscar “Richard” S. Garin Jr.

Rep. Lucy T. Gomez

Rep. Paolo Everardo S. Javier

Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D.

Rep. Aileen C. Radaza

Rep. Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr.

Rep. Jerry P. Treñas

Rep. Ferjanel G. Biron, M.D.

Rep. Rogelio J. Espina, M.D.

Rep. Raul “Boboy” C. Tupas

Rep. Ramon “Red” H. Durano VI

Rep. Greg G. Gasataya

Rep. Henry C. Ong

Rep. Raul V. Del Mar

Rep. Arcadio H. Gorriceta

Rep. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong

Rep. Rene L. Relampagos

Rep. Benhur L. Salimbangon

Rep. Leo Rafael M. Cueva, and

Rep. Juliet Marie D. Ferrer

#### COMMITTEE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS

Rep. Suharto T. Mangudadatu

Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo

Rep. Munir M. Arbison, and

Rep. Shernee Abubakar Tan  
I so move.

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

The aforementioned Members are hereby elected to the said Committees.

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, at this juncture, we would like to move for the approval of Journal No. 44, dated November 15, 2016.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

Journal No. 44, dated November 15, is hereby approved.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, at this juncture, we would like to move for the adjournment of today's session until Monday, November 21, 2016, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). There is a motion to adjourn the session until four o'clock in the afternoon on November 21, 2016. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The session is adjourned.

*It was 5:56 p.m.*