



# Congressional Record

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

## House of Representatives

Vol. 3

Monday, November 28, 2016

No. 49

### CALL TO ORDER

*At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Eric D. Singson called the session to order.*

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

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Please rise for the singing of the National Anthem.

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

### PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer.

*Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.*

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

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, may I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, I move for the deferment of the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we now proceed with the Reference of Business, and

may we request that the Secretary General be directed to read the same.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the Reference of Business.

### REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4470, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MIMAROPA REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTER IN PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN”

By Representatives Acosta, Abueg and Alvarez (F.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4471, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 11 OF R.A. NO. 8345 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1997, INCREASING ITS PENALTIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4472, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (LBP) TO

PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT POLICY COUNCIL (ACPC) TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) IN SYNCHRONIZING ALL CREDIT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, DEFINING ITS FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4473, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (LBP) TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE AGRO-INDUSTRY MODERNIZATION CREDIT AND FINANCING PROGRAM (AMCFP) TO IMPLEMENT CREDIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, DEFINING ITS FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4474, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL AGRI-FISHERY MECHANIZATION PROGRAM (NAFMP) TO IMPROVE THE STATES AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES SECTOR THROUGH MECHANIZATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4475, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 31 OF RA NO. 10601 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES MECHANIZATION (AFMech) LAW, INCREASING ITS PENALTIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4476, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 19 AND ARTICLE 39 OF RA NO. 7394 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CONSUMER ACT

OF THE PHILIPPINES, INCREASING ITS PENALTIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 4477, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) TO SET ASIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THE AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND (ACEF) FOR GRANTS TO UPGRADE THE AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY TESTING AND EVALUATION CENTER (AMTEC), INCREASING ITS FUND ALLOTMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4478, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE SUGARCANE INDUSTRY, INCREASING ITS ANNUAL SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4479, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL LAND REFORM AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM

House Bill No. 4480, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (LBP) TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUND ALLOTMENT FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF RA NO. 3844 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE AGRICULTURAL LAND REFORM CODE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 4481, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE YUBO EXTENSION NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY YUBO, CITY OF LA CARLOTA, PROVINCE

OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL FROM LA GRANJA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS YUBO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Ferrer (J.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4482, entitled:

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

By Representative Sarmiento (E.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4483, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE COLLEGE EDUCATION FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHOSE GENERAL WEIGHTED AVERAGE (GWA) IS NOT LOWER THAN 85 PERCENT”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4484, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE ALLOCATION OF REVENUES FROM SALE AND DISPOSITION OF LANDS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7227, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7917, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BASES CONVERSION

House Bill No. 4485, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING PD 420 OR PRESIDENTIAL DECREE CREATING THE PHILIPPINE RACING COMMISSION, TO INCLUDE OTHER KINDS OF ANIMAL RACING UNDER THE JURISDICTION AND CONTROL OF THE PHILIPPINE RACING COMMISSION”

By Representatives Batocabe, Garbin and Co  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 4486, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MANLILISID,

MUNICIPALITY OF JAVIER, PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS MANLILISID NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cari  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4487, entitled:

“AN ACT FIXING THE WAGE RATE OF BUS DRIVERS AND CONDUCTORS”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4488, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AT LEAST ONE SPED CENTER FOR EVERY COMPONENT CITY AND AT LEAST TWO SPED CENTERS FOR EVERY HIGHLY URBANIZED CITY”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4489, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND IN PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT OFFERING INCENTIVES THEREFOR AND AMENDING ACCORDINGLY THE LABOR CODE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 4490, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER 2 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL TO COMMEMORATE THE ARAW NG MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL ”

By Representative Almonte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 4491, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING AERIAL SPRAYING AS A METHOD OF APPLYING CHEMICALS AND SIMILAR SUBSTANCES ON AGRICULTURAL CROPS”

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

House Bill No. 4492, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING SALES OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND LEASE OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT INTENDED FOR SOCIALIZED HOUSING PROJECTS FROM VALUE ADDED TAX AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECTION 109 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE”

By Representative Bagatsing  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4493, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO FRESH GRADUATES BY WAIVING GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES COLLECTED IN CONNECTION WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT”

By Representative Abayon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4494, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE TEACHING OF VALUES EDUCATION ON THE INTERNET IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Abayon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4495, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE NORTHERN LUZON GROWTH QUADRANGLE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Savellano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NORTH LUZON GROWTH QUADRANGLE

House Bill No. 4496, entitled:

“AN ACT SUBDIVIDING THE ONE-BARANGAY MUNICIPALITY OF DUMALNEG IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE INTO THREE (3) DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY KALAW, BARANGAY CABARITAN AND BARANGAY QUIBEL”

By Representative Fariñas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4497, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING QUEDAN AND RURAL CREDIT GUARANTEE CORPORATION, BROADENING ITS POWERS AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, FARMERS, FISHERFOLKS, AND WORKERS BY RECONSTITUTING IT AS THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT GUARANTEE CORPORATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7393, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE QUEDAN AND RURAL CREDIT GUARANTEE CORPORATION ACT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 4498, entitled:

“AN ACT TO FURTHER PROMOTE ENTREPRENEURSHIP BY STRENGTHENING, EMPOWERING AND ENHANCING THE FINANCING PROGRAMS FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6977, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA FOR SMALL ENTERPRISES” AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4499, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL AGRARIAN REFORM ADJUDICATION COMMISSION, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM

House Bill No. 4500, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 23 OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL ROTARY DAY AND A REGULAR WORKING DAY”

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 4501, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING

COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 146 OR THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE ACT, AS AMENDED”  
By Representative Yap (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC  
AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 4502, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER TWENTY-  
THREE EVERY YEAR AS A NATIONAL  
DAY OF COMMEMORATION FOR ALL  
VICTIMS OF EXTRALEGAL KILLINGS ”  
By Representative Roque (H.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

House Bill No. 4503, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8370,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHILDREN’S  
TELEVISION ACT OF 1997 ”  
By Representative De Venecia  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
INFORMATION

House Bill No. 4504, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH  
SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PAN-AY DAKO,  
CLARIN NORTH DISTRICT, MUNICIPALITY  
OF CLARIN, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS  
OCCIDENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS FELINA  
SEVILLA OAMINAL NATIONAL HIGH  
SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”  
By Representative Oaminal  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4505, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROTECTION TO  
APPOINTIVE BARANGAY OFFICIALS  
AND EMPLOYEES IN CASES OF REMOVAL  
OR REPLACEMENT, AMENDING FOR  
THE PURPOSE SECTION 46 AND 389 OF  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CODE OF 1991 ”  
By Representative Acop  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4506, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING  
CENTER IN THE BARANGAY OF  
SINUDA, MUNICIPALITY OF KITAOTAO,  
BUKIDNON”

By Representative Zubiri  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4507, entitled:

“AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAY MAGUGPO  
IN THE CITY OF TAGUM, PROVINCE OF  
DAVAODELNORTE INTO FIVE (5) DISTINCT  
AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO  
BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY MAGUGPO  
POBLACION, BARANGAY MAGUGPO  
EAST, BARANGAY MAGUGPO WEST,  
BARANGAY MAGUGPO NORTH AND  
BARANGAY MAGUGPO SOUTH”

By Representative Alvarez (P.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

## RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 573, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE  
ON TRANSPORTATION AND COMMITTEE  
ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES TO  
INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
THE ACCREDITATION GIVEN BY THE  
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING  
AND REGULATORY BOARD (LTFRB) TO  
TRANSPORT NETWORK COMPANIES  
(TNC’S) AND THE OPERATIONS OF UBER,  
GRAB AND UHOP”

By Representatives Panganiban and Dy  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 574, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN  
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON  
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ELECTRIC  
POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT,  
SPECIFICALLY SECTION 38 THEREOF, ON THE  
POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP OF  
THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
(ERC) FOLLOWING THE SUICIDE OF ERC  
DIRECTOR FRANCISCO JOSE VILLA JR.  
FROM ALLEGED PRESSURE FROM ERC  
CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
JOSE VICENTE B. SALAZAR TO APPROVE  
CONTRACTS WITHOUT PROPER BIDDING  
AND DUE ADHERENCE TO PROCEDURE,  
AND ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION  
BEHIND ERC DEALS, AND THE POSSIBILITY  
OF WITHHOLDING THE ERC BUDGET  
DURING THE PENDENCY OF THE  
INQUIRY”

By Representative Herrera-Dy  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 575, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PROLIFERATION OF FAKE VERSIONS OF FIVE POPULAR DRUGS THAT ARE BEING SOLD LOCALLY THAT PUT MANY PEOPLE’S LIVES IN DANGER”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 576, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY INTO THE LATEST FINDINGS OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION THAT THERE ARE 1.1 BILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE THAT SUFFER FROM HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE WITH THE BURDEN OF THE CONDITION SHIFTING FROM THE RICH TO THE POOR COUNTRIES AND PUTTING TOGETHER A NATIONAL COUNTERMEASURE”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta for House Bills No. 1554, 1555, 1853, 2141, 3556, 3557, 3632, 3945 and 4127;

Rep. Henry C. Ong for House Bills No. 492 and 3975;

Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr. for House Bill No. 4113;

Reps. Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II, Milagrosa “Mila” T. Tan and Suharto T. Mangudadatu for House Bill No. 4174;

Rep. Raul A. Daza for House Bills No. 555 and 558;

Rep. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano for House Bills No. 1554, 1555, 1853, 2141, 3556, 3557 and 3632;

Rep. Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao for House Bills No. 97, 98, 99, 100, 101 and 1047;

Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr. for House Bill No. 1853;

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting for House Bills No. 132, 135, 1387 and 3955;

Reps. Franz E. Alvarez, Anna Katrina M. Enverga, Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso, Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta, Jonas C. Cortes, Eric M. Martinez, Johnny Ty Pimentel, Micaela S. Violago, Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo, Ricardo “RJ” T. Belmonte Jr., Mariano Michael M.

Velarde Jr., Emmanuel F. Madrona, Sherwin N. Tugna, Rodante D. Marcoleta, Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez, Harlin Neil J. Abayon III, Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr., Rodolfo C. Fariñas, Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr., Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr., Isidro S. Rodriguez Jr., Ramon “Red” H. Durano VI, Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao, Wes Gatchalian, Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Romero “Miro” S. Quimbo, Gavini “Apol” C. Pancho, Gerald Anthony “Samsam” V. Gullas Jr., Jose L. Atienza Jr., Mercedes K. Alvarez and Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu for House Bill No. 3946;

Rep. Nancy A. Catamco for House Bills No. 2318, 2319, 2474, 2953 and 3782;

Rep. Gavini “Apol” C. Pancho for House Bill No. 1968;

Rep. Micaela S. Violago for House Bills No. 132, 533, 2774, 3864 and 3904;

Rep. Lianda B. Bolilia for House Bills No. 1554, 1555, 1853, 2141, 3556, 3557, 3632, 3945, 4127 and 4174;

Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto for House Bills No. 3729, 4093, 4146, 4147, 4175, 4205 and 4335;

Rep. Len B. Alonte-Naguat for House Bills No. 1554, 1555, 1615, 1853, 2141, 2862, 2863, 2864, 3556, 3557, 3632, 3852, 3853, 3943, 3945, 4087, 4088, 4089, 4090, 4127 and 4337;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 4171 and 4311 and House Resolution No. 535;

Rep. Carmelo “Jon” B. Lazatin II for House Bill No. 1;

Rep. Ferdinand L. Hernandez for House Bill No. 1859;

Reps. Eric D. Singson, Leopoldo N. Bataoil, Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Sandra Y. Eriguel, M.D., Pablo C. Ortega, Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos, Ramon C. Nolasco, Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, Mark O. Go, Maximo B. Dalog, Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso, Ronald M. Cosalan, Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Arnel U. Ty, Ana Cristina Siquian Go and Randolph S. Ting for House Bill No. 4144;

Rep. Emmanuel A. Billones for House Bills No. 1554, 1555, 1853, 2141, 3556, 3557, 3632, 3945, 4127 and 4174;

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing for House Bill No. 1890;

Rep. Horacio P. Suansing Jr. for House Bill No. 3330;

Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta for House Bill No. 3858;

Rep. Sherwin N. Tugna for House Bill No. 4334; and

Rep. Rodrigo A. Abellanosa for House Bill No. 1858.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Committee Report No. 25), re H.R. No. 580, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO FORMER PRESIDENT BENIGNO S. AQUINO III AND COMMENDING THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION THAT SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED THE PHILIPPINE POSITION IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA ARBITRATION”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolutions Numbered 78, 79, 159 and 185

Sponsor: Representative Villarica

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Committee Report No. 26), re H.R. No. 581, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS) ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL FOR ITS EFFICIENT HANDLING AND FAVORABLE AWARD IN THE ARBITRATION OVER THE CONFLICTING CLAIMS IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 76

Sponsor: Representative Villarica

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Committee Report No. 27), re H.R. No. 276, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO REOPEN THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN BARCELONA, SPAIN”

recommending its adoption without amendment

Sponsor: Representative Villarica

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Committee Report No. 28), re H.R. No. 251, entitled:

“RESOLUTION COMMENDING ARCHITECT BARTHOLOME B. VISTA AND AMBASSADOR J. EDUARDO MALAYA FOR THE PHP 11 MILLION RENOVATION OF THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA AT NO COST TO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT”

recommending its adoption without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Villarica and Turabin-Hataman

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Labor and Employment (Committee Report No. 29), re H.B. No. 989, entitled: “AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF EMPLOYERS IN POSTING NOTICES OF TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OF FORMER EMPLOYEES IN NEWSPAPERS, SOCIAL MEDIA AND OTHER PUBLIC INFORMATION VENUES”

recommending its approval with amendment, in consolidation with House Bills Numbered 1353 and 3267

Sponsors: Representatives Ting, Chipeco, Nograles (K.) and Villarica

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Labor and Employment (Committee Report No. 30), re H.B. No. 64, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING COMPLIANCE WITH OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

recommending its approval without amendment, in consolidation with House Bills Numbered 80, 1044 and 1676

Sponsors: Representatives Ting, Nograles (A.), Aglipay-Villar, De Jesus and Revilla

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 31), re H.B. No. 4524, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SAN RAFAEL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF NAVOTAS, INTO ANATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE SAN RAFAEL TECHNOLOGICAL AND VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 940

Sponsors: Representatives Escudero, Nograles (K.) and Tiangco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

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

*It was 4:09 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:20 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Doy C. Leachon of the First District of Oriental Mindoro for a manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Leachon is recognized and he will have 10 minutes.

You may proceed, Honorable Leachon.

## QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. LEACHON

REP. LEACHON. Mr. Speaker, our dear honorable Ladies and Gentlemen of this House of Congress, good afternoon.

This Representation seldom rises in rare occasions as this as he believes is not his arena. He used to be in a local government unit which he headed for quite a number of years. The present and the past mandates are entirely different, if not exactly opposite. Thus, leading to this Hall, as I stand before you today on a matter of personal and collective privilege, has brought upon me mixed emotions—mixed emotions that have kept me for days to have second thoughts of whether it is still relevant and indispensable to expose findings and facts that I will be sharing before you and to the whole nation today. Why? Number one, I hate naming personalities and dragging them to issues that would negate a friendly working environment contrary to the House's unwritten, traditional precept of brotherhood. Number two, our countrymen admittedly, for years, have been exceedingly flooded already with controversies, large-scale, scandalous or otherwise, issues of corruption and failed leaderships which have brought this country for more than three decades to lag behind the developing and successful economies of countries in Asia. Given these, I was then contemplating if it is really and still logical for Congress to meddle once more rather than to perform and just be in the forefront of chartering a better horizon for this nation. Number three, is it still effective to use this podium considering that whatever exposé that I will be sharing with you might be just a part of those unresolved questions just like in the past?

However, it is my personal position ever since that I could not be happy living a life with the people's mandate if I cannot speak my mind and if this House, which now I am learning to love to be working in, is being used, intentionally or unintentionally, to hide the truth of national significance affecting the integrity and reputation of

Congress, individually or collectively. Equally, I cannot allow that any of my family members would be in a state of threat to their life and security as a result of being in possession of vital information affecting the government's abuses, thereby leaving our people in a hapless and most often disadvantaged position.

Moreso, the fact that disclosing such information through a legitimate avenue—a committee hearing to which, fortunately, this Congress invited him—is only his leverage to such threats and yet he was unreasonably barred from speaking that is, to me, seriously unforgiveable.

Mr. Speaker, to set these things straight, I am regretfully condemning the attempt of some Members of this House present in the hearing in aid of legislation, particularly the Committee on Health chaired by Hon. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D. who, likewise, registered the same regret and condemnation in a press release over preventing the Committee's invited resource persons to speak of what they think they substantially know for the complete resolution of the investigation. I am referring to the Committee hearing which happened last Monday regarding House Resolutions No. 444 and 480 regarding the school-based immunization with the tetravalent dengue vaccine by the Department of Health, authored respectively by Cong. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D. and Cong. Estrellita B. Suansing.

The thrust of the investigation is a public health issue which, by the way, I will not discuss today as this is not part of my discussion and is pending before that Committee. What I am concerned about are two things: number one is the shocking experience of the invited persons of the gagging, if not bullying, by certain Members of this House. The gagging issue which brought about humiliation to concerned persons was basically for me elementary, senseless, and to put it more bluntly, illogically anchored on a certain premise that the invited persons were not given authorization, unmindful of the fact that no authorization was actually needed as they were invited as distinguished independent health advocates. As regards the gagging, Mr. Speaker, I would not dwell on their motivation, but I would like to ask now, “Kailangan mo pa ba ng authorization para ang witness ay magsalita sa isang Committee hearing?”

Tayo po ay saksi sa Senado na sa EJK ang mga testigo ay nasorpresa, hindi imbitado pero pinagsasalita sa Senado. Ako po ay naging miyembro ng House Committee on Justice regarding the investigation on the National Bilibid drug trade. Bakit pinayagang magsalita ang hindi imbitado? Bakit dito pinigilang magsalita? Bakit dito? Sino ang pinigilan? Does this Congress, Mr. Speaker, have a double standard as to the treatment of invited persons? It must be noted that the resource persons were given invitation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, undeniably, these persons are of



unquestioned reputation being leading doctors, medical scientists, awarded as 10 Outstanding Filipinos, 10 Outstanding Filipino Physicians. It is unfortunate that by such actuation, the conduct and dignity of the House Members who gagged up the resource persons are now put in question.

What is deeply hurting, Mr. Speaker, is the remark of those Congressmen that the conduct of the investigation is “only something fishy”. Now, I would like to ask, kung ganoon pala pong something fishy, ako po ay may tanong. This is now a \$3-billion question: what is something fishy there that they attempted to curtail a fair play query of this controversial DOH Program?

Kung ganoon pala, I had my own expedition, at ito po ang aking nakita bigger than fish. Sufficiently enough for me to file a House resolution which seeks to investigate in aid of legislation the apparent, obvious and manifest illegality of the procurement and misappropriation of public funds relative to the dengue vaccination program of the Department of Health amounting to P3.5 billion. And boldly, Mr. Speaker, I am ready to say now, I will rename the Dengue Vaccination Program of the DOH as the Philippines’ “Denggoy” Vaccination Program.

For the record, here are the shocking revelations. Mr. Speaker. Number one, ang gamot po sa Pilipinas para maipagbili ay kailangang rehistrado sa FDA para maging gamot sa Pilipinas. Noong December 22, 2015, six months before the 2016 elections, ito po ay nabigyan ng FDA ng CPR or Certificate of Product Registration sa pamamagitan ng OIC ng FDA na dating Secretary ng DOH noong panahong iyon. Ating tandaan na ang may programa ng Dengue Vaccination ay ang DOH. Bakit kinakailangan na isang FDA director, who happens also to be the Secretary of Health, ang mag-a-approve ng CPR? This is, in fact, an obvious and manifest conflict of interest. Tama po ba?

Pangalawa, atin pong tandaan na ang isang gamot, even if FDA-registered, ay kinakailangan na maging miyembro ng PNDF. This is the Philippine National Drug Formulary na ang nagrerekomenda ay ang Formulary Executive Council (FEC) para po iyong gamot na naaprubahan ng FDA ay maibenta sa mga gobyernong ospital at magamit ang public funds para mabili ito. Malinaw po, dalawang proseso: FDA tapos FEC. By tradition, from FDA to FEC, it would take more than one year para ang gamot ay maging isang awtorisadong gamot sa Pilipinas. Ano po ang nangyari?

My dear colleagues in Congress, please take note of this one, please take note of the dates. Nagkaroon po ng miting ang Formulary Executive Council ng DOH noong January 7 and January 27. Ito po iyong grupo na nag-aaprubahan ng gamot para mabili ng gobyerno ang mga gamot na iyon. Ano ang sabi ng members ng FEC? Bawal ibenta ang dengue vaccine for reasons

grounded on the following: number one, the vaccine may be hazardous; number two, this was not a priority program of the National Immunization Program of the government as the same was not funded under the 2016 General Appropriations Act; and, number three, the amount of P3.5 billion was too costly for only a demonstration program. Ito po ang objection ng FEC na nag-aaprubahan ng gamot. Ano po ang nangyari? But despite not being allowed by the FEC, the subject drug, dengue vaccine, was included in a purchase request on January 19, 2016.

My dear colleagues in Congress, please take note of this one. Isang Departamento, pumirma ng purchase request amounting to P3.6 billion, bibili ng gamot pero hindi awtorisadong ipagbenta ang gamot sa merkado dahil bawal sa gobyerno. Malinaw po na ibi-bid nila ang hindi gamot at bawal na gamot sa Pilipinas. Kung mayroon pong dokumento na nagsasabi nito, I have in my possession, and probably you would ask, saan nanggaling ito? Kung ito po man ay galing sa isang little lady, that will be proven during the investigation.

Ang pinakamalala sa istorya na ito ng Denggoy Vaccination Program ay gaya ng sinabi ko, this is not part of the 2016 General Appropriations Act. In essence, isa lang ang ibig sabihin, may programa, bibili ng P3.5 billion, pero walang pondo na inilaan ang Kongresong ito.

What is the most shocking of them all? The amount is P3.5 billion—saan po nanggaling ang ginamit na pambili ng denggoy vaccine? What made the procurement grossly illegal is the fact that the fund used came from Personnel Services or savings from the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund.

Why is it grossly illegal? Number one, if you have savings of P3.5 billion, that would not be spent because that should revert to the National Treasury. Number two, granting for the sake of argument, as the Supreme Court said, that this would be just an augmentation program, the program must be stated in the General Appropriations Act. Unfortunately, as I said, this program was not included in 2016 GAA. Worst of them all, the procurement and implementation were done illegally under illegal procedures, despite the ruling of the Supreme Court on the Disbursement Acceleration Program, which declared the DAP unconstitutional.

As I said before, it would take one year for FDA-registered drug to be included in the national list of drugs. Very suspicious, magtataka po kayo dahil ganito kasimple. December 22, 2015, binigyan ng FDA ng provisional authority, despite the conflict of interest, pero noong February 3, less than two months, napuwera ang FEC na magbigay ng provisional exemption. Wala pong dalawang buwan, nakakapagtaka. Pero bago nabigyan ng authorization ng gamot ang dengue vaccine, 15 days prior ay napirmahan na ang purchase request kahit hindi awtorisado ang gamot. Ang nakakapagtaka ay

bakit nagmamadali ang DOH, at halos napuwera ang FEC members na mag-aaprubang gamot at magbigay ng provisional exemption sa dengue vaccine base lamang sa naging pahayag sa FEC council meeting ni Usec. Kenneth Go sa mga miyembro ng FEC na ang dapat nilang gawin ay pawang ministerial duty lamang dahil may political decision na ang higher committee, gayun namang P3.5 bilyon ang gagastusin at bibili ng isang milyong dosage or doses, gayun namang 200,000 lamang ang dengue cases sa Pilipinas at napakalaki ng bibigyan ng vaccine, one million.

It was also very surprising, Mr. Speaker, that they were really in a hurry to procure that vaccine because the purchase order signed or the purchase request signed on January 19 was signed on March 9. Pero March 10, 2016, iyong purchase order ay nandoon na sa supplier.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). May I remind the Gentleman that you have already exceeded your time.

REP. GULLAS. May I request, Mr. Speaker, that we just take about a few minutes more.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Yes, please wind up your speech. Thank you.

REP. LEACHON. From the procurement to implementation on March 9, nai-deliver po at nag-implement sa Marikina. Twenty-six days ang Sanofi bago nakapag-deliver. Twenty-six days—this is perhaps the fastest procurement delivery of DOH in history. We must remember that we are talking here of about one million doses of vaccine. Bago po magawa ito, isang taon, pero nai-deliver lang ng 26 days, nakapagtataka. Ano nga ba ang gamot na ito? Tingnan po natin.

Ang dengue vaccine ay may pangalang Dengvaxia, gawa sa France, ang kumpanya ay Sanofi. Ang official distributor niya sa Pilipinas ay ang Zuellig Pharmaceutical Company. Usec. Kenneth Go is connected with Zuellig as the Executive Director from 2001 to 2013—mayroon na namang conflict of interest. The supposed expert na magbibigay ng cost effectiveness ay si Dr. Hilton Lam. Siya po ang inupahan ng Sanofi na mag-conduct ng survey sa Pilipinas. Pero si Dr. Lam ay miyembro ng FEC. Hindi kaya nabili na ng Sanofi ang supplier ng gamot ang FEC?

It must be noted that it is only the Philippines, the only country in Asia na gumagamit ng dengue vaccine. Ang sabi ng ibang bansa like Singapore, it is not cost-effective and clinically viable para gamitin sa dengue. If there are badges of fraud na dapat malaman ng DOH, ang sabi nila sa news report, ang Sanofi daw na galing France ay multinational company, and is of good reputation. Now, if you will ask me on the track record

of Sanofi, it is proven to have been tarnished for years: number one, in the *IndustryWeek*, publication po ng France, September 10, 2007, ang Sanofi ay pinagbayad ng US \$190 million ng Amerika dahil sa false claims nito sa kanilang Medicare and federal health programs—convicted ang Sanofi; number two, *FiercePharma*, dated March 2014, convicted ang Sanofi sa Germany dahil—at convicted ang dalawang empleyado dahil nag-bribe sila at sila ay binigyan ng fine, €28 million; number three, sa China, sila po ay undergoing investigation for fraud and bribery; and number four, in Kenya, ito po ay headline kahapon lamang.

Lastly, would you believe, Mr. Speaker, na ang Pilipinas ay naging tagapagligtas ng Sanofi because based on the report of *FiercePharma*, US\$21 million lamang ang kinita nila noong nakaraang taon na dapat po ay US\$200 million. Nalulugi na po ang Sanofi. Walang bumibili ng dengue vaccine pero ang Pilipinas, P3.5 billion, kahit hindi awtorisado, kahit delikado, pero binili ng Pilipinas at the expense of one million school children. With the foregoing, Mr. Speaker, I have only one further question. Hindi po kaya nauto ang Pilipinas? If anybody here would agree, we can conclude right now that the DOH program regarding vaccination can be renamed as the Philippines' "Denggoy" Vaccination Program.

Mr. Speaker, before I end, we all know for a fact of so many issues besetting our country for almost four decades now, from where we were once, when this nation was considered one of the brightest stars of Asia up to this time that we are struggling to be better again amidst the challenges of recurring failed leaderships. With this new administration, with all its imperfections, this Representation deeply believes, along with the overwhelming number of Filipino people, that the leaders' pure intentions are relevant and indispensable in chartering a new course in this nation's history. This, combined with efforts to drastic action towards development which are being witnessed right now, is already enough indication that good seeds of change are growing. The culmination that probably the Philippines may be a First World country will definitely outlive us. We only have hope to cling on to. This, by the way, will never fail because I do believe that hope will always be the bedrock of this nation.

It is only for the future generations to see who are the children of today. But with the revelations of today that their lives are compromised as they are, and they may be further victims of misled public healthcare, the right to life must be in place. It would be in place if the right to good government will be pursued. Needless to state, Mr. Speaker, an investigation of the subject matter at hand is in order.

God bless this country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ACOP. Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ACOP. May I be allowed to interpellate ...

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend.

REP. ACOP. ... the Hon. Doy Leachon, in so far as his privilege speech is concerned.

REP. GULLAS. I move to suspend.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Gentleman's time has expired. His time has expired. The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GULLAS. I move to suspend the session, Mr. Speaker.

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

*It was 4:43 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:51 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the Honorable Acop for his interpellation.

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

REP. ACOP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

May I know if my distinguished colleague, the Honorable Leachon, would accede to a few clarificatory questions.

REP. LEACHON. Gladly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ACOP. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleague, do you believe that we live in a democracy?

REP. LEACHON. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ACOP. And if we live in a democracy, the

House of Representatives would be the example of such.

REP. LEACHON. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ACOP. Therefore, we must practice the tenets of democracy.

REP. LEACHON. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ACOP. You mentioned in your privilege speech that in one of the Committee hearings in which I attended, one of our resource persons was not given the appropriate treatment. Is that true, Mr. Speaker?

REP. LEACHON. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ACOP. I think, Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleague, the treatment of guests, as we call them, should be with respect simply because we have accorded them the appropriate invitation and, therefore, it is incumbent upon the Members of Congress to see to it that proper respect be accorded them. Would you agree with that?

REP. LEACHON. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ACOP. Thank you.

Now, we go to the meat of your privilege speech this afternoon. You stated that the funds for the dengue vaccination came from savings.

REP. LEACHON. Yes. Actually, it is the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund.

REP. ACOP. How could there be savings when the funds were from the 2015 Budget, and as you have stated a while ago, in the third quarter, they were already discussing the expenditures insofar as the P3.5 billion is concerned?

REP. LEACHON. Yes. Precisely, Mr. Speaker, iyon ho iyong itinatanong ko ngayon. That is why I said I rose on the matter of collective privilege because alam ninyo po iyong trabaho natin bilang mga Congressman, tayo po iyong nag-aaprubo and then, for all we know, the honorable Members of this House should realize that we have that noble duty and the mandate of the Constitution to do the appropriation of any amount particularly those savings, and those savings cannot be spent without going back to the Treasury and then submitted to Congress for appropriation. What is shocking in this, Mr. Speaker, and I do not know if we will just believe in this one with deaf ears, but precisely, as I am telling you, what we are talking about here is not just a measly sum of money. We are speaking here of a gargantuan sum of money

amounting to P3.5 billion. And if we have problems that are being faced right now, just like any problems across the nation like traffic and the rehabilitation of the MRT, they are not even authorized—and yet, we will be spending—there is not even a declaration of an outbreak, and worst of them all is that the fund is illegal, precisely because may declaration na po ang Korte Suprema regarding the DAP pero inulit pa rin po natin. Kaya po, sabi ko nga, I am taking this one that I do not know where this thing will be heading to. But I am telling you right now, Mr. Speaker, that what was done was grossly illegal because apart from the money, the disbursement, actually, did not follow any standard procedure as to the disbursement of fund.

REP. ACOP. So, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, wala pa pong savings na pinag-uusapan noong October, November, December of 2015 dahil hindi pa tapos iyong fiscal year. Tama po ba?

REP. LEACHON. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ACOP. Tama?

REP. LEACHON. Yes.

REP. ACOP. If my memory serves me right, iyong pondo ng 2015, ang life span ng lahat ng pondo ng GAA in 2015 ay dalawang taon. Kung ganoon din ang mangyayari, let us assume na two years ang life span ng pondo. Lahat ng pondo sa GAA 2015, di hindi rin po considered na savings ito. Tama po ba?

REP. LEACHON. Yes.

REP. ACOP. Tama?

REP. LEACHON. Tama.

REP. ACOP. So, iyon pong konklusyon ninyo dito sa inyong privilege speech na ito po ay iyong procurement ng dengue vaccine, in which the preparation and up to its culmination in April 2016 ay napakabilis. Therefore, can we conclude, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, that the preparation, procurement and the administration of this dengue vaccine were done in due haste? Would you agree with that, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. LEACHON. Yes, definitely. In fact, the most glaring of them all was the fact that the purchase request, a public document of the government, was already signed, authorizing the purchase and procurement of vaccines that were not authorized during the time that the purchase request was signed by the Department. Hindi po awtorisado e, hindi po awtorisado. Hindi ko

ma-imagine na bibili ka ng gamot na hindi awtorisado because hindi pa ito authorized by the government during the time that the initiation of the procurement was done.

REP. ACOP. Iyong sinasabi po ninyo, hindi po nabigyan ng Certificate of Product Registration ng FDA at hindi po naisama doon sa Philippine National Drug Formulary na dapat ipinapasa ng Formulary Executive Council, iyon po ba ang ibig ninyong sabihin?

REP. LEACHON. Yes. Dahil po sa—uulitin ko po, bago po ang isang gamot ay maibenta sa publiko, dapat po ito ay nasa loob ng PNDF, which is the Philippine National Drug Formulary. Kapag wala po doon, bawal ibenta. During the time the procurement was made, that drug was not included in the list of drugs authorized to be sold and to be procured for distribution in the country.

REP. ACOP. Would you know, Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleague, how this was procured?

REP. LEACHON. Ang nakapagtataka dito, gusto ko hong maintindihan, e nauna ho iyong negosasyon e. The negotiation was done ahead of time prior to the authorization of the drug to be authorized for circulation in the country. The Department already negotiated with the supplier in France prior to that drug being authorized for distribution in this country. In fact, the delivery was so fast. In a matter of 26 days, they were about to deliver one million doses. In fact, for the record, any drug company can only manufacture one million doses for one year, but they were able to deliver it in a matter of 26 days. I am sure right now that is the fastest procurement delivery in the DOH history.

REP. ACOP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

You mentioned certain cases where the vaccine manufacturer was involved. I think if I remember it right, there were four of them. Is that correct?

REP. LEACHON. Yes, there are actually four instances when the drug company was entangled in bribery and corruption in other countries, and that should have incited the Philippine government not to deal with Sanofi, the manufacturer and supplier of that drug. That should have incited the consciousness of the Philippine government not to deal with that company because that company was convicted four times by the different courts in different countries of the world.

REP. ACOP. What you are trying to tell this Representation, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, is that, if these information were known by the Department of

Health, many red flags would have been raised insofar as the procurement is concerned.

REP. LEACHON. Precisely, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ACOP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. You mentioned certain documents in your possession. May I be privileged to be provided copies of these documents that are presently in your possession.

REP. LEACHON. Yes, I will be glad to show you the official documents pertaining to our allegations that the procurement was done ahead of the authorization, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ACOP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. I would like to thank the honorable Representative of the First District of Mindoro for granting me the privilege to interpellate him this afternoon and, Mr. Speaker, that would be the last question that I would ask. Maraming salamat po.

REP. LEACHON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GULLAS. I move for a minute of suspension of the session.

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

*It was 5:01 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:02 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Doy C. Leachon and its interpellation to the Committee on Rules.

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

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, it being a Monday,

and pursuant to our Rules, I move that we hold a Privilege Hour.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon Salvador B. Belaro Jr. of Party-List 1- ANG EDUKASYON, who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Hon. Salvador Belaro is recognized to deliver his privilege speech.

REP. BELARO. First of all, this Representation would like to acknowledge the presence of his guests, the youth volunteers and visitors of 1-ANG EDUKASYON Party-List from Metro Manila and other parts of the country, led by Professor Rey H. Jetajobe of the University of Caloocan and Professor Marina Cadabuna of Kalayaan National High School. Kindly stand to be acknowledged.

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

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BELARO

REP. BELARO. The search for truth is never easy. It may be painful but it is always worth it.

By the way, Ladies and Gentlemen, the title of my speech is “The Search for Truth in the Bilibid Drug Trade Issue.”

My dear colleagues in Congress, Ladies and Gentlemen, this Representation rises on the basis of a personal and collective privilege arising from the bashings both from traditional and social media that this Representation received over the weekend. On his cross-examination of Mr. Ronnie Dayan, the driver of Sen. Leila De Lima, during the hearing held last November 24, 2016 by our Committee on Justice, of which, this Representation is a member. Apparently, such bashings were triggered by an article appearing at the online site, *Rappler*, entitled: “Kailan kayo nag-climax! Nonsense questions at the Bilibid drugs hearing.” The article, Ladies and Gentlemen, contained disjointed quotations from my questions to Mr. Dayan and a corresponding video clip which featured not the entire portion of my questioning, but only that portion which tended to condition the minds of the readers that, indeed, the questions this Representation asked were indeed nonsensical. To add insult to injury po, sana naman, mas maganda-gandang picture ang inilagay nila sa akin, siguro naman hindi naman ako ganoong kapangit.

Apparently, the said *Rappler* article was the primary basis of netizens and other journalists who heaped

criticisms on this Representation, the other Members of this Body who participated in such investigation, as well as upon the whole institution of the House of Representatives. It also appears that most of these bashers and critics did not view the entire participation of this Representation during the said investigation. To date, the said article is still trending and peddling to the netizens a slanted view of reality.

The most acute criticism this Representation received, Ladies and Gentlemen, is that he should be ashamed of himself, considering that this Representation represents the Education sector in Congress. Thus, this Representation is dedicating this speech to all educators and teachers nationwide to whom he wishes to convey clarification on this speech, and to all stakeholders of the Philippine educational system—parents, students, schools and school personnel—to affirm to all of you and the entire citizenry that the participation of your Representative in Congress is not a deviation from his legislative role; instead, it is an affirmation of what we educators espouse, which is the search for truth.

For the record, I wish to state that the said *Rappler* article and other similar media coverage which followed suit are unfair as they were taken out of context, selective in presentation, and slanted to suit preconceived biases and prejudices.

Please allow me to cite three reasons: First, the very purpose of summoning Dayan to the Justice Committee hearing is to probe the nature of the relationship of Dayan and then Sec. Leila De Lima and how such relationship was used or not used in the drug trade. Such purpose per se is mature and, thus, it is expected that the consequent investigation cannot but delve on the parameters of such intimacy not because of curiosity but due to the logical necessity of raising specific questions as to whether such intimacy was used to further the drug trade. By way of analogy, in a prosecution for rape or seduction, it is an absolute necessity to ask questions that would either establish or demolish the factual basis of such a crime. If, in our criminal law justice system prosecutors are even allowed to ask questions which are delicate in nature, so should we in our investigation in Congress. We cannot be stricter than our courts of justice.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the fact that the parties already admitted their relationship is immaterial as we cannot take those admissions at face value. With such admission, all the more we have to dig deeper as there is a need to probe the metes and bounds of such relationship so as to know the exact power relations between them; whether Dayan was of such character to overpower the good Senator and to enable him to intervene in government affairs in his capacity as driver-bodyguard and be seen in various

ways such as receiving money, meeting people and making decisions for the latter, and appointing people at the Bureau of Corrections. Or is it the other way around that Ronnie Dayan is just being used by the good Senator, or is there simply no such connection to the drug trade, that both parties are not guilty of anything other than being lovers at the wrong place and at the wrong time?

In Korea, Ladies and Gentlemen, we got news that there is a nationwide protest that was part over the alleged interference in government affairs of an adviser to the sitting President. We admire the Koreans for having such high ethical standards that even if that intervention is not yet proven, there is already a mounting call for the sitting President to resign from office. In stark contrast, here in the Philippines we are merely conducting an investigation, and we are already raising the House up to the highest mountains in an effort to prevent the truth from coming out. And we, Congressmen, who are only doing our duty of hurling the necessary yet hurtful questions, are being accused of hurling nonsense questions. On the contrary, to our detractors, let me say this: You have a perverted sense of nationalism as our questions are not nonsensical but are, in fact, questions of national interest.

Given such a purpose in making Dayan testify in Congress, there is absolutely nothing wrong with the way the Members of this Body participated in the questioning of Dayan, as they asked relevant questions. After all, Rule 128, Section 4 of the Rules of Court has persuasive influence in a congressional investigation in aid of legislation. Accordingly, for evidence or a question to be relevant, it should have, and I quote, “such a relation to the fact in issue as to induce belief in its existence or non-existence.” Notably, the same rule even provides that evidence on collateral matters may be allowed, “when it tends in any reasonable degree to establish the probability or improbability of the fact in issue.”

Given such a definition of what is relevant under our laws on evidence, it is easy to see that questions that tend to establish the degree of intimacy such as knowledge of the favorite food of one party by the other, awareness of an anniversary or even the predilection for sili, you know, Ladies and Gentlemen, sili, the Bicolano staple, all tend to establish the limits of such intimacy. These are all legitimate jumping-board questions to the logical implication that such intimacy translates to power over the decision-making powers of the parties in relation to drug trade. Given that context, I would say that even the question of whether the parties share the same bedroom is legitimate as it tests whether Dayan has seen receipt of such amount of received money, which would naturally be kept in the bedroom or an area known only to persons with intimate relations.

At this juncture, Ladies and Gentlemen, it baffles me that most of my critics are making it appear that with

the questioning of Dayan, we have already disrespected the good Senator. No, Ladies and Gentlemen. Let it be put on record that it is never our intention to disrespect Senator De Lima who is a co-equal member of the legislature. After all, the person whom we cross-examined was not Senator De Lima but Ronnie Dayan. Dayan was the witness who appeared before us and not Senator De Lima, and thus, it is but fair that our examination should only be evaluated with respect to our handling of Dayan but not of the good Senator. It is a continuing source of amazement for this Representation why nobody even complained that the rights of Dayan was ever violated but that of Senator De Lima who was not even the witness during our investigation.

Then there are basic rules of evidence that we have to follow. When a witness appears, it is fair game to test the consistency of his statements, to take note of his demeanor in relation to certain questions, however offbeat they may be as they are reflective of his character and personality. The body language of the witness speaks a thousand words. Such language can only be reflected in his courtroom behavior by triggering words which the interrogator can ask.

Yes, the language used by many Members of Congress who participated in the questioning of Dayan may have been colorful, but that is called for by the situation not only because the witness himself displayed a penchant for such colorful language such as “sinasalat” and “walang basagan ng trip,” but also because the subject matter of the inquiry is in itself very delicate in nature. In fact, instead of lambasting the Members of Congress who asked questions which may be perceived as colorful, credit should be given to them. Credit should be given to them for being so prudent and careful that not a graphic word or phrase, which explicitly detail the sexual act, was ever used by any of the cross-examiners.

The second point, Ladies and Gentlemen, that I would like to raise with respect to the said *Rappler* article is its selective presentation of the questions I raised. For instance, the *Rappler* article only featured that portion wherein I was referring to a “climax.” That was a myopic and shortsighted thing to do as it deprived the question of its proper context. In this regard, I challenge my critics that if only they would care to view the entire portion of my questioning, they would all agree that there is a context to my question. At that juncture in the proceedings, Dayan playfully answered that the relationship he and Senator De Lima had reached typhoon intensity “5.” What this Representation did was only to take off from there and asked Dayan in view of their admitted relationship from 2007 to 2014, whether in what year the relationship reached intensity “5,” to which Dayan admitted to have occurred in 2010 when Senator De Lima was then our Secretary of Justice.

Moving forward, this Representation took pains in having Dayan identify the intensity of their relationship on a per year basis from 2007 to 2014 as a pretext to subsequent questions detailing certain functions that were already entrusted to him by the good Senator, for example: depositing money, receiving money, suggesting appointments and securing appointments in the Bureau of Corrections. Clearly, it is as clear as it is, being that the context of the “climax” question is the specific year, not the sexual act which my detractors would like to make it appear.

It is my detractors, I repeat, it is my detractors who are imputing malice in the word “climax” as climax by itself is a neutral word. In fact, at that moment in my questioning, I could not have possibly meant climax in a sexual way. Why? Because it is physically and humanly impossible, because my reference is the year. I could not have probably meant it literally as it is a biological fact that climax in the medical or even the physical sense lasts only a few minutes unless one is a superman. Nobody could ever attain climax continuously for one whole year. That is ludicrous and outlandish interpretation. However, there is also the view that probably I could have used another word other than “climax.” Reviewing the available words in any Thesaurus of the English language of whatever version, we can probably use any of the following as you know—we can use summit, top, vortex, cap, zenith or in Tagalog, to borrow from the rich Tagalog phraseology of the Honorable Deputy Speaker Castro, “sukdulan,” “tuktok,” “tugatog” and others. But even if I used these words, Ladies and Gentlemen, there would be negligible difference. It is my humble opinion that even if I used the plain words “highest point” or “pinakamataas” or “pinakamalakas” to refer to their relationship, all such words would anyway be viewed with malice by somebody who has a prejudiced or biased mindset.

The third point that I would like to raise, Ladies and Gentlemen, is that it is very unfortunate that the *Rappler* article slanted its presentation to make it appear that we encourage sexism, disrespect for women and display the most callous manifestation of gender insensitivity. In this regard, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are severely missing the forest for the trees, the bushes for the stalks and the greenery for the stems. We are investigating the honorable Senator not because she is a woman, but because she happens to be the sitting Secretary of Justice at the time when drug trade is at its highest point. We are probing the relationship of Dayan and the good Senator not because we are interested in the lurid details of their intimacy, but because we want to get details as to how their intimacy served as a conduit in the proliferation of the drug trade. For God’s sake, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are not peeping Toms or voyeurs, as what our detractors would like us to appear. We only want specifics as to how the said affair fuelled

the channel of drug money from the New Bilibid Prison to Secretary De Lima, if ever that is the case.

At this juncture, I wish to apologize to all my friends and supporters who were hurt by the said article. I also wish to apologize to all the women and men who reacted negatively to the said article. It is never the intention of this Representation that in doing my job, I shall cause much pain and injury to anyone. To those who were hurt, I cannot blame them given the selective, myopic and slanted presentation in the said article. I understand that any person in that situation would feel the same. However, please do not blame us, all those who participated in the investigation, as we are also victims of this selective reporting of the media who, instead of focusing on the relevant matters of the investigation, focused on the personal lives of the Members of this Body.

Mataas po ang aming paggalang sa ating mga kababaihan, sa ating mga asawa, mga kapatid, mga anak, at bawat babae sa ating lipunan ay karapat-dapat lamang igalang. Mataas din po ang aming pagtingin sa LGBT. In fact, ako po ay isa sa mga author ng Anti-Discrimination Bill na pending ngayon sa Committee on Women and Gender Equality.

I therefore would like to appeal to members of the media to be balanced in the presentation of articles and to be accountable to the public for any mind-conditioning that they will ever make. I am especially worried of certain features of some online news sites which have controlled mechanisms for feedback from the public as they are susceptible to manipulation by certain interest groups. Ang ibig ko pong sabihin, ang mga online sites na ito, kahit mag-post ka ng comment, hindi tatanggapin ang comment mo because they are resorting to mind-conditioning. They even have these mood meters—angry, happy, sad. My staff and I tried registering our comments as happy, and yet, it is still registered the same, unhappy or angry. It is retained at 81 percent despite the so many people who already registered a happy vote. I believe a congressional investigation is in order to prevent these online sites from peddling opinions which only suit their interest.

We also appeal to the other Members of this Body. My dear colleagues in Congress, we should protect the integrity of our institution from the intrusion on our right to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation. Article VI, Section 21 of the Constitution expressly provides Congress such right, and let us not allow bias and prejudice to becloud our judgment by unwarranted attacks on the personalities of the Members of this Body.

I also appeal to the entire Filipino nation to be cognizant of what really is at stake in this investigation. It is the future of our country which is right now being victimized by the drug malaise. Recent statistics is that mayroon nang five million out of 80 million na drug addicts sa Pilipinas. Roughly around five percent who

are potential criminals as we take judicial notice that those who are into drugs are potential rapists and thieves and who already do not know how to distinguish right from wrong. The gravity of the drug problem should make us worry not only of our safety but of our children and the generations to come, if it does not remain unabated. Let not an investigation on the love affair of persons in power becloud that judgment.

Lastly, Ladies and Gentlemen, I appeal to educators and teachers, stakeholders of the Philippine educational system—schools, parents and students to whom we owe our being in the halls of Congress today. I wish to assure all of you, that this Representation in Congress, by participating in the investigation on Dayan and by just doing his job as a member of the Committee on Justice, did not ever renege on the most basic of values that we treasure and teach our children—the continuous search for truth. I have my chin up, Ladies and Gentlemen, when I say this, that the purpose of any investigation should be to bring out the truth. Preconceived biases on alleged sexism and gender insensitivity should never get in the way in the search for truth despite the fact that they may hurt some people. The truth per se is always worth it; the truth is liberating and as the cliché states, it shall set us free.

Thank you very much and good afternoon.  
(Applause)

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

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

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

#### ROLL CALL

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to call the roll of Members.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is as follows, per Journal No. 49, dated November 28, 2016:*

PRESENT

Abaya

Abayon



Abellanosa	Chipeco	Lagman	Roman
Abu	Co	Laogan	Romero
Abueg	Cojuangco	Lazatin	Romualdez
Acharon	Collantes	Leachon	Romualdo
Acop	Cortes	Lee	Roque (H.)
Acosta-Alba	Cortuna	Limkaichong	Roque (R.)
Advincula	Crisologo	Lobregat	Salo
Agarao	Cua	Lopez (B.)	Salon
Aggabao	Cuaresma	Lopez (C.)	Sambar
Aglipay-Villar	Dalipe	Lopez (M.L.)	Sandoval
Albano	Dalog	Loyola	Santos-Recto
Alejano	Daza	Maceda	Sarmiento (C.)
Almario	De Venecia	Malapitan	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Almonte	De Vera	Mangudadatu (S.)	Sema
Alonte-Naguiat	Defensor	Marcoleta	Siao
Alvarez (F.)	Del Mar	Marcos	Singson
Alvarez (P.)	Del Rosario	Mariño	Suansing (E.)
Amante	Deloso-Montalla	Marquez	Suansing (H.)
Angara-Castillo	Dimaporo (A.)	Martinez	Suarez
Antonio	Dimaporo (M.K.)	Matugas	Sy-Alvarado
Aragones	Elago	Mending	Tambunting
Arcillas	Enverga	Mendoza	Tan (A.)
Arenas	Erice	Mercado	Tan (M.)
Atienza	Eriguel	Mirasol	Tejada
Bagatsing	Ermita-Buhain	Montoro	Teves
Baguilat	Escudero	Nava	Tiangco
Banal	Espina	Nieto	Tinio
Barzaga	Espino	Noel	Tolentino
Bataoil	Estrella	Nogralles (J.J.)	Tugna
Batocabe	Fariñas	Nogralles (K.A.)	Ty
Bautista-Bandigan	Ferrer (J.)	Nolasco	Umali
Belaro	Ferrer (L.)	Nuñez-Malanyaon	Unabia
Belmonte (F.)	Flores	Olivarez	Ungab
Belmonte (J.C.)	Fortun	Ong (E.)	Unico
Belmonte (R.)	Fortuno	Ong (H.)	Uy (R.)
Benitez	Fuentebella	Ortega (P.)	Uybarreta
Bernos	Garbin	Ortega (V.N.)	Vargas
Billones	Garcia (G.)	Pacquiao	Vargas-Alfonso
Bolilia	Garcia (J.E.)	Paduano	Velarde
Bondoc	Garin (S.)	Palma	Velasco
Bordado	Gasataya	Pancho	Velasco-Catera
Bravo (A.)	Gatchalian	Panganiban	Veloso
Bravo (M.V.)	Geron	Papandayan	Vergara
Brosas	Go (M.)	Pichay	Villafuerte
Bulut-Begtang	Gomez	Pimentel	Villanueva
Calixto-Rubiano	Gonzales (A.D.)	Pineda	Villaraza-Suarez
Campos	Gonzalez	Primicias-Agabas	Villarica
Cari	Gullas	Quimbo	Villarín
Casilao	Hernandez	Radaza	Violago
Castelo	Herrera-Dy	Ramirez-Sato	Yap (M.)
Castro (F.L.)	Hofer	Ramos	Yu
Castro (F.H.)	Javier	Relampagos	Zamora (M.C.)
Celeste	Kho	Roa-Puno	Zamora (R.)
Ceramica	Khonghun	Rocamora	Zarate
Cerilles	Labadlabad	Rodriguez (I.)	Zubiri
Chavez	Lacson		

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 224 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). With 224 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, before I move that we resume the Privilege Hour, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guest of our Asst. Minority Leader, Rep. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III, the honorable Janice Peñamente, Councilor of the municipality of Panukulan, from the First District of Quezon. *(Applause)*

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, we would also like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of our Asst. Majority Leader Salvador B. Belaro Jr. of 1-ANG EDUKASYON Party-List. We have the student-scholars, namely: Darrylyn Bonifacio, Rolly Serviano, Jomar Babas, Carlo Caubang, Justine Escano, John Mark Lagmaw, Elmar Delos Santos, Romnick Encanto, Liza Mae Alceso, Rose Marie Jean Jadman, Angelique Salino, Sheena Rivero, Kim Janessa Duran, Shaira Cerro, Ma. Yolanda Lacsa, Jorna Cyrus Masangya, Jovi Jomar Castro, Rosbert John Castro, Raven Aldueso, Paul Mark Llagas, John Simon Manaois, Pocholo Alexis Manguinao, Jazen Ramielle Balidio, Ralfh Silvia, Albert Dimante, Shella Daulong, Grace Barcelona, Gerald Villegas, Emmanuel Anthony Blacer, Prof. Marina Cadabuna of Kalayaan High School and Prof. Rey Jetajobe.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

##### *Continuation*

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the Privilege Hour, and for this purpose, may we recognize the Hon. Salvador B. Belaro Jr. to respond to the interpellation of the honorable Lady from the Third District of Nueva Ecija, Rep. Rosanna “Ria” Vergara.

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

The Honorable Belaro is recognized.

REP. VERGARA. Mr. Speaker, fellow colleagues, good afternoon.

Would Congressman Belaro be open to some interpellation?

REP. BELARO. Gladly, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Lady may proceed.

REP. VERGARA. Mr. Speaker, as Congressman Belaro correctly said, could he have rephrased his question in another way so as not to have elicited the kind of negative press that was generated soon after the committee hearing?

REP. BELARO. In all candor to a fellow Member of Congress, yes, it was possible. But, as I have stated in my privilege speech, what are my alternatives? I have searched the Thesaurus of all possible versions of the English language dictionary and the difference would be negligible. Perhaps, I could have used “vortex,” “summit,” “cap,” “mountain top,” and or in Tagalog, as I have said earlier, I could have used “tugatog,” “sukdulan,” or even the very plain words “pinakamataas” or “pinakamalakas” would elicit a very negligible difference if I used the word “climax.” And besides, the reference to the word “climax” as I used it, is a year, the years 2007 to 2014. So, I could have not possibly referred to it in a sexual way. Instead, it is my detractors who are malicious because they have imputed malice in an apparently what is a neutral word.

REP. VERGARA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am neither a detractor nor someone who wants to criticize Congressman Belaro. However, as a woman and as a Member of this Congress, I admit that I felt offended when I was watching the meeting of the Committee on Justice. However, the way the question was phrased, specifically using the word “climax,” I felt it was uncalled for, and offensive to me and to several other Congresswomen and I say this with sincere intention.

As public officials, we must be aware that all our actions and words are monitored closely by the media. Whether we do something positive or negative, they depend on the perspective of the individuals passing judgment. And this cannot be regulated and neither should it be. As a woman, I find that his use of that specific word is unnecessary especially since the witness was known to have had a relationship with the former Secretary of Justice. We are men and women entrusted with positions of authority and we must use this position responsibly, cognizant that all eyes are on us. Hence, we have to be careful with our choice of words, ideas that we wish to impart, lest we be misunderstood as what happened to Congressman Belaro. We must conduct

ourselves with a higher standard our constituents expect nothing less from us.

Media is media, and to censure them for distorting our words and maligning us when they are merely reporting what lots of women felt was misplaced is not fair. I just say this with the sincerest of intentions and not to criticize but to just to impart to this honorable Body what most of my colleagues and women friends felt.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you Congressman Belaro.

REP. BELARO. This Representation, Mr. Speaker, would also like to thank the honorable gentle Lady from Nueva Ecija for such candid assessment and for being so honest in her assessment about it. And I reiterate—this Representation most humbly reiterates his apology to all the Congresswomen who felt offended. But he also wishes to reiterate that it was never the intention of this Representation to cast such insult or injury. I think, as in criminal law, what is important is the motive. There was no such motive. That is why in my speech, I adverted clearly that there was no motive for heaping such insult or injury. I really hope that perhaps there was a wrong choice of words. But given the context of the situation, if you are a cross-examiner and you have to deliver points to the dot at a certain instance, then, context becomes necessary. I really hope that the Members of Congress evaluate it in that way because, first, there was no motive, there was no malice, and it was the way the article presented it.

So, thank you very much for the kind assessment to the honorable Lady from Nueva Ecija.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Arlene D. Brosas from GABRIELA Party-List for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Brosas is recognized to interpellate the Gentleman.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, colleagues in the House of Representatives, will the Gentleman from 1-ANG EDUKASYON Party-List yield to a question from a Representative of GABRIELA Women's Party-List?

REP. BELARO. Gladly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. The Gentleman from 1-ANG EDUKASYON Party-List said na ginamit niya iyong

salita na iyon kasi wala nang ibang magagamit. His line of questioning ay talaga namang hindi po katanggap-tanggap sa Women's Party-List namin dahil sa tingin po namin, marami pang paraan para makuha ang gusto nating sagot sa sinasabi ninyo or gusto ninyong patunguhan na sagot ni Mr. Dayan noon.

Ano po'ng masasabi ninyo roon?

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, to the Honorable Lady from GABRIELA Party-List whom I hold in high esteem, ang masasabi ko po diyan is that, unang-una po, sasabihin ko na wala pong intensyon to cast us harm or injury. The other thing is that style is personal. Kumbaga, nobody could impose upon anybody the style of his language, the style of his reasoning, of his questioning. What matters is the substance. Ano po ba iyong substance? The problem comes when in fact with that substance, it is still interpreted to suit a prejudiced state of mind. That is the problem. So, iyon po.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, with due respect to the Chairperson and the Members of the Committee on Justice, this Representation would like to reiterate the objective of conducting a hearing in aid of legislation.

Kami man sa GABRIELA Women's Party ay kaisa sa layuning masawata ang problema ng iligal na droga at mapanagot ang sinumang nasa likod ng paglaganap nito. Ngunit ang ilang mga katanungan ay lampas na sa layuning itinakda ng Komite. Ang ilang mga katanungan ay sexist, unnecessary at naghihikayat ng kaisipang macho at pang-iinsulto sa kababaihan.

Actually we commend the honorable Speaker for acknowledging the excesses in last Thursday's hearing and apologizing in his interview this morning with ANC. Thus, Mr. Speaker, ito rin ay—last Friday, we commemorated the National Consciousness Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children by virtue of Republic Act No. 10398. Pamilyar po ba kayo sa Republic Act No. 10398?

REP. BELARO. Ano po iyong title noon? Pasensya na po. Pag tumatanda ka talaga ...

REP. BROSAS. Iyon po iyong National Consciousness...

REP. BELARO. ... hindi ko na matandaan iyong title.

REP. BROSAS. Oo. Iyon ang National Consciousness Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children.

REP. BELARO. Opo, naaalala ko na po.

REP. BROSAS. Ang Kapulungan pong ito ang lumikha at nagpasá ng batas na iyan. Huwag na sanang maging bahagi ang Kapulungang ito ng pagpapalaganap ng mga ideya at gawi na maaaring magpababa sa pagtingin ng lipunan sa kababaihan na siyang nagpapalala ng kanilang bulnerabilidad sa karahasan.

Alam ninyo naman po ang statistics natin. I am sure, dahil isa po kayong educator at kayo po ay mula sa—well, kayo po ang nagsabi sa inyong Party-List na you want meaningful changes in our educational system. Alam po natin na bawat salita natin ay napakahalaga lalo na kung tayo ay nagsasalita sa mga hearings, sa mga komite at kung saan pang mga mahahalaga, lalo na kung ito ay may live coverage. Kaya po ganoon na lang kaingat dapat tayo sa pagsasabi ng ating mga—para ito ay hindi magbago.

Ngayon po ay nakatanggap po ng mga reklamo ang GABRIELA Women's Party-List kung kaya po kailangang i-address itong mga ito. Sa tingin po namin, we would like to ask that pertinent portions of the aforementioned Committee Hearing dealing with the intimacies of the relationship between Senator De Lima and Mr. Ronnie Dayan be stricken off the record, Mr. Speaker.

And thus, I end my interpellation. Thank you very much po sa inyong pakikinig.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, to the honorable Lady from GABRIELA Party-List, gusto ko pong magpasalamat sa inyong very honest and candid, if not heartfelt, assessment of the questions that this Representation asked during the last hearing.

Ako po ay kaisa ninyo sa pagsulong ng inyong adhikain na mapataas ang antas ng mga kababaihan sa ating bansa at lahat ng mga disadvantaged sectors ng ating lipunan. Ako rin po ay aktibista noong college at nakikisimpatiya po ako sa inyong pananaw. Naiintindihan ko po kayo. I can feel your pain. I can feel your hurt. Pero ang sinasabi po ng Representasyon na ito, hindi po kaya misplaced iyon kasi wala naman pong motive? The other thing po, iyong sinasabi ninyo po na we should be careful in the statements that we utter in Congress. I agree with you po 100 percent, but the thing here is that we have to consider what is the issue at hand. Issue spotting po ang kailangan dito.

Let me tell you a story, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Noong ako po ay first year sa College of Law, medyo mababa po iyong aking grades. Hindi po ganoon kataas, although nag-aaral naman ako kasi hindi ko po na-realize iyong ganoong klaseng skill masyado—issue spotting. Ang ibig pong sabihin ng issue spotting, kung ano po iyong isyu, iyon po ang sagot. Your answer is delimited by the kind of questions that are being hurled. That is the issue in fact. Kung ang tanong po ay what, huwag po tayong sumagot ng where. Kung ang tanong po ay when, huwag po tayong sumagot ng how. Ganoon din po dito sa imbestigasyon na ito. Ang issue at fact

po, the very reason why Ronnie Dayan was summoned by this august Congress is to probe into his intimacy with Senator De Lima and how that intimacy figured in the drug trade.

Doon pa lang po sa isyu sa parameters na delimit na kung ano iyong mga puwedeng itanong. Hindi po dito isyu kung may sexism. Hindi po dito isyu kung may insensitivity, insensitivity to gender matters. Hindi po ganoon ang isyu. Ang isyu po at hand is how to establish at ang duty po ng mga investigators during that investigation was to ferret out the facts however painful they are at all costs available at that time.

Alalahanin po natin, ang prinisintang affidavit ni Ronnie Dayan ay very selective. How can you then prove inconsistency? How can you refute the character if we will not observe the demeanor of the witness? How can you establish other things which can be established by body language? Sinundan pa lang po.

So again po, nagpapaumanhin po ako sa mga kababaihan at iba pang mga na-hurt pero iyon po yata ay uncalled for kasi hindi naman po ito sinadya. Iyon po ay dini-demand lamang ng aming trabaho bilang investigator at inquisitor during that particular juncture in the investigation.

Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List, Rep. France L. Castro, for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Castro is recognized to interpellate the Gentleman.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Floor Leader.

Iyong akin po bang co-teacher na mula sa 1-ANG EDUKASYON ay puwede pong mag-ano ng tanong mula po sa Representasyong ito?

REP. BELARO. Puwede po at salamat po sa inyong pagtatanong.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, kayo po ba ay aware na iyong ating deliberation, iyong ating pagdinig noong nakaraang Huwebes ay pinapanood nationwide and worldwide?

REP. BELARO. Opo.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Kayo rin po ba ay aware na ito ay pinapanood din ng mga kabataan, mga bata na

interesado, lalung-lalo na po doon sa usapin tungkol sa droga?

REP. BELARO. Opo.

REP. CASTRO (FL.). So, Mr. Speaker, gusto ko lang pong mag-manifest na bilang isang guro, marami din pong mga estudyante ang nagtanong sa akin doon sa nangyaring hearing, doon sa manners ng pagtatanong ng ating mga—lalung-lalo na po iyong Representasyon ng 1-ANG EDUKASYON, tungkol doon sa salitang “climax.”

Alam ninyo po, ang mga kabataan, very learned na sila ngayon at alam na nila iyong mga ganoong mga term na kung tingin ninyo po ay hindi maiintindihan ng kabataan na mayroon iyong ibang kahulugan sa ating mga kabataan, nagkakamali po kayo. Matatalino na po ang ating mga kabataan ngayon at alam nila iyong mga salita na binibitawan natin. Kaya na nilang i-interpret iyon sa kanilang sariling karanasan. So, huwag po tayong mag-assume na iyong sinasabi natin na depende iyon sa tumatanggap at nagbibigay lang ng malisya. Ang kabataan po, iba po ang pag-iisip ng kabataan. Naglalaro po iyong pag-iisip ng kabataan. Kaya kung tayo pong mga Mambabatas ay karirangan po, Mr. Speaker, ng mga ganoong mga termino, ay sa tingin ko po ay hindi ito proper dito sa Kapulungang ito or dito sa ating institusyon. So, alam ko po na bilang bagong nag-aaral na Mambabatas, at bilang galing sa sektor ng edukasyon, malaki po ang ating impluwensya at iyong mga nangyayari po dito sa Kongreso ay pinag-aaralan po ito. In fact, noong naging teacher po ako, nagbibigay din po ako ng current situation, kaya aware na iyong mga bata sa ganyan. So, gusto ko lang pong i-manifest, Mr. Speaker, dapat po na maging maingat po tayo sa mga pagtatanong, na huwag pong magbibigay ng ibang meaning or double meaning, at diretso po tayo doon sa ating katungkulan. Sinasabi po doon sa atin pong katungkulan. The said measure in aid of legislation should be enacted on the following:

1. supervision which connotes a continuing informed awareness on the part of a congressional committee regarding executive operations in a given administrative area;
2. scrutiny primarily intended to determine economy and efficiency of the operation of government activities exercised through budget hearings, the “question hour” and the power of confirmation; and
3. investigation which is also known as the “inquiry in aid of legislation.”

So, kung tayo po ay magtatanong din at tayo po ay talagang nagse-search ng truth, pati ang bayan po ay kaisa ng Kapulungang ito at ng ating Presidente

na talagang alamin po iyong mga kadahilanan o mga problema natin sa droga at kaisa din po ang ACT TEACHERS Party-List kaugnay nito.

So, ito lang po, Mr. Speaker, at marami pong salamat.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that ...

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, may I reply to the question of the honorable Representative of ACT TEACHERS Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Is that a question or was it a manifestation?

REP. BELARO. Manifestation, Mr. Speaker. This Representation is about to reply to the manifestation of the good Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Yes, you may do so.

REP. BELARO. Muli po, ako ay nagpapasalamat sa very candid assessment din ng Lady from ACT TEACHERS Party-List, at ako po ay nagpapaumanhin kung mayroon man pong hurt na nadama ang inyong mga constituents about it. Pero uulitin ko po, wala po talagang intensyon na gawin iyon o ipadama iyon sa inyo pong mga kaibigan, kapamilya at sa mga kababaihan sa ating bansa. Ang gusto ko lang pong sabihin is that, iyon pong sinabi po ninyo na ang mga kabataan ay nakikinig, ako po ay lubos ang paniniwala na ang mga kabataan natin ngayon ay already mature. They are already, in fact, receiving so much information from all over, from the Internet. This is now the era of information revolution and I do not think that it makes sense to prevent them from hearing the truth.

Ito po ang pangalawa kong comment. The search for truth may be painful. Ang katotohanan po ay puwedeng makasakit. Pero kailangan po nating palabasin ang katotohanan bago po tayo magsulong ng mga adbokasiya—justice, peace—which should be premised on the truth. Iyon po ang una nating palabasin. If in the process there are casualties made, then let them be because the truth, by itself per se, is worth pursuing as an end in itself.

Iyon po at maraming salamat.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we

refer the privilege speech of the Hon. Salvador “Bong” B. Belaro Jr. to the Committee on Rules, along with all interpellations.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, next to avail of the Privilege Hour is the honorable Representative from ANAKPAWIS Party-List, the Hon. Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Hon. Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CASILAO

REP. CASILAO. Daghang salamat, Mr. Speaker, Dep. Majority Leader.

Ang topiko ko po ay hinggil sa parating na ika-153 kaarawan ng ating unang Pangulo, pambansang bayani na si Gat Andres Bonifacio. Ito po ay ikinakabit namin doon sa popular na binanggit noong nakaraang hearing, “Tunay, Tapat at Wagas na Pag-ibig para sa Bayan.”

Honorable Speaker, mga kapwa Mambabatas, mga staff at mga manggagawa ng House of Representatives, mapagpalayang hapon po sa inyong lahat.

Sa darating na Nobyembre 30, ang ika-153 taong kaarawan ng ating dakilang lider ng Rebolusyong Pilipino, ang Supremo ng Katipunan at ng masang anakpawis laban sa kolonyalismong Kastila, ang bayani at unang Pangulong si Gat Andres Bonifacio. Sa bahagi ng ANAKPAWIS Party-List, kinikilala namin ito bilang Araw ng mga Anakpawis dahil kami ay kumukuha ng inspirasyon sa pakikibaka at pagbigkis niya sa masang manggagawa at magsasaka para sa paglaban, para sa tunay na kalayaan at demokrasya.

Ngayong araw hanggang bukas, nagaganap ang pulong ng Pambansang Konseho ng ANAKPAWIS Party-List. Dinaluhan ng mga kinatawan mula sa iba’t ibang rehiyon mula Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao, at mayor na isyung usapin pa rin ay nanatili sa usapin ng lupa, sahod, trabaho, pabahay at karapatan bilang mga banggit ng kanilang mga reports o ulat sa nagdaang eleksiyon 2016.

Mr. Speaker, at kapwa ko Mambabatas, naniniwala akong kumbinsido kayo na mayorya sa ating mamamayang Pilipino at populasyon ay nakabatay o namumuhay sa kanayunan. Ayon din sa datos ng Philippine Statistics Authority, 55 percent ng populasyon ay nasa kanayunan. Kaya sa mahigit na 100 milyong Pilipino, 55 milyon ang nasa mga probinsiya. Samakatuwid, wala silang ibang pagkukunan ng kabuhayan kundi ang pagbubungkal

ng lupa, at kung ibabatay sa demokrasya, na isa sa mga mayor na mithiin ni Bonifacio, ito ay ang kanilang demokratikong karapatan para sa lupa na sinasalamin ng tunay na reporma sa lupa, na pinapasimulan ng libreng pamamahagi ng lupa. Alam naman po natin dahil ito po ay panahon ng kolonyalismong Espanyol, ang pagsakop sa ating lupain at ang pagkamkam ng daan-daang libong ektaryang lupain ng mga conquistadores, ng gobernador-heneral, at ng ibang kanilang itinayong gobyerno, ay pang-agaw ng lupa sa mga mamamayan na tinawag nilang mga “indio.”

Mga kapwa Mambabatas, may bago tayong pangulo, si Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na nagtagumpay noong eleksiyon dahil sa kanyang pangako na “Change is Coming.”

Naghihintay ang masang Pilipino ng mga pundamental na pagbabago. Una rito ang pagbabago para sa tunay na reporma sa lupa. Mahalagang usapin ito dahil ang Pangulo ay nangako ng pagbabago na kung saan ipapamahagi ang mga lupang ito at kongkretong maisabatas ang tunay na reporma sa lupa. Nakasalang po ang mga panukalang batas na iyan.

Noong Pebrero, sa Presidential Challenge Forum na inorganisa ng Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas o KMP, ipinangako ng noong kandidato pagkapangulo na hindi lamang sapat na bigyan ng lupa ang mga magsasaka, bagkus, dapat silang bigyan ng ayuda. Kasunod nito, sa kanyang speech sa Tarlac, ipinangako din ng ating kumakandidatong pangulo at ngayon ay Pangulo, ang free irrigation services para sa mga magsasaka. Tayo rito sa Kongreso noong budget hearing na ipinanukala ang paglalaan ng dagdag na P4 bilyon na subsidy sa budget ng NIA para di na maningil ng Irrigation Service Fee o ISF, pumupustura pa rin ito na maningil dahil ito raw ang nakasaad sa kanilang charter.

Napakaraming isyu ang umaapekto sa mga magsasaka sa kasalukuyan. Maging ang multi-billion na Coco Levy Fund na hinuthot sa mga magsasaka, na ipinangako ng Pangulo na ibabalik sa kanila ay hindi pa rin naibabalik sa kasalukuyan.

Sa isyu ng mga manggagawa, matinkad ngayon ang pagbabasura ng kontraktuwalisasyon. Ipinangako rin ito ng ating Pangulo na sa isang linggo lang ng kanyang administrasyon ay ibabasura na ito. Mahigit 100 araw na po sa kanyang panunungkulan ay umiiral pa rin ang kontraktuwalisasyon. Si DOLE Secretary Bello ay inaasa na rin sa Kongreso ang pagbabasura nito. Walang hakbanging ginawa ang kanyang Departamento, ang Ehekutibo, para magkaroon ng moratorium sa implementation ng Department Order 18-A.

Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, ang sahod ng manggagawang Pilipino ay malinaw na mababa. Ang pinakamataas na minimum wage ay sa NCR, P491 per day, habang ang pinakamababa ay P260 sa Region VIII o Eastern Visayas. Ang tanong ko ukol rito, may nabubuhay pa bang pamilyang manggagawa

sa P260 kada araw? O para mabuhay ay titipirin nila ang kanilang pagkain? Minsan, dapat tatlong beses sa isang araw kumakain, dalawang beses na lamang. Mababaon sa utang ang mga manggagawa at iba pang porma ng pagtitiis hanggang sa kinalaunan ay namamatay sila sa gutom o sakit. Ang mababang sahod ng mga manggagawa ay pagkondena sa kanila sa kamatayan, Mr. Speaker.

Ang panawagan ng masang manggagawa sa pangunguna ng Kilusang Mayo Uno at All Workers' Unity ay P750 national minimum wage at lubos naming sinusuportahan ito. Noong Setyembre, nagsalita na rin ang Pangulo ukol sa pantay na sahod sa Metro Manila at mga probinsiya, ang pagtanggap sa mga provincial rate.

Ang sector ng urban poor ay napakarami ring kinakaharap, mula sa malawakan at mararahas na demolisyon ng kanilang komunidad hanggang sa kawalan ng kabuhayan, maging sa mga utilities sa mga relocation sites.

Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa Mambabatas, habang ang mga marginalized sectors ay nag-iinisayatiba na para isulong ang kanilang mga interes at karapatan, ang gobyerno, particular ang pulis at militar, ay tinuturing pa silang mga target ng militarisasyon, harassment at Oplan Bayanihan na nagdudulot ng mga human rights abuses.

Ang mga katutubong Lumad ng Mindanao, na dahil nga sa kawalan ng serbisyong panlipunan mula sa gobyerno ay nagtayo ng kanilang mga paaralan, ngunit ngayon ito ay nagiging target ng mga militar. Sa kasalukuyan, 18 Lumad schools sa Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat ang biktima ng threats, harassments and intimidation ayon sa Save Our Schools Network. Nagpapakana ang militar at LGU na ang Center for Lumad Advocacy and Services o CLANS ay front daw ng New People's Army.

Sa Masbate, sa mga bayan ng Montreal, Dimasalang at Cawayan, todo pa rin ang mga military operation kahit pa may ceasefire. Ang mga militar sa ilalim ng 9th Infantry Division ng Philippine Army ang nagpakana ng mga civil military operation, na disenyo pa ng Oplan Bayanihan ng dating administrasyon. Ito ay nagbubunga ng mga human rights abuses at pag-abala sa kanilang kabuhayan sa sakahan. Kung kaya't mahigit 3,000 magsasaka ang nag-rally sa munisipyo ng Cawayan para ipanawagan ang pull-out ng militar dahil nga hindi nga sila makapagsaka at nasisira ang kanilang mga pananim.

Sa Caraga Region, patuloy ang malawakang militarisasyon kung saan 78 na barangay sa 22 bayan ng Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte at Butuan City ang binabaraan ng militar sa ilalim ng 4th Infantry Division, Philippine Army.

Mr. Speaker, mahalaga ang isyung karapatang pantao dahil habang isinusulong ng Pangulo ang peace talks sa National Democratic Front of the Philippines o NDFP ay todo naman sa operasyong militar at nilalabag ang mga karapatan ng mga magsasaka.

Mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, Mr. Speaker, mula pag-upo ni Pangulong Duterte hanggang SONA, sa kanyang first 100 days, hanggang sa kasalukuyan, lupa at kapayapaan pa rin ang panawagan ng masang magsasaka.

Kung si Bonifacio ay nilabanan ang kolonyalismong Kastila, tayo naman ay nahaharap sa dominasyon ng US at iba pang kapitalistang bansa sa mga programa at patakaran ng gobyerno.

May kalayaan ba ang bansa kung ang dikta ng bansang US na mag-deploy sila ng mga sundalong Amerikano ay susundin na lamang ito ng ating gobyerno? Kapag iniutos nila ang pananatili ng VFA o ng EDCA ay hindi ito mababali? Bagama't makailang beses nang tinuligsa ng ating Pangulo ang US sa panghihimasok nito, pero sa dulo ay nanatili pa rin ang mga patakarang idinikta nila. Kami sa ANAKPAWIS ay matagal nang nananawagan na ipawalang-bisa ang Visiting Forces Agreement, ang EDCA at ang Mutual Defense Treaty at iba pang mga hindi pantay na kasunduan ng Pilipinas sa US.

Kung ibabatay sa mithiin ng ating bayaning si Gat Andres Bonifacio, malayo sa kalayaan at demokrasya ang kalagayan ng masang anakpawis. Hindi malaya ang mga magsasaka na magbungkal ng lupa, pinapalayas sila at kinakamkam ang kanilang mga lupa. Diktado pa rin ng mga dayuhan ang mga patakaran ng gobyerno tulad ng mga neo-liberal na polisiya. Mababa pa rin ang sahod at pasahod ng ating mga manggagawa. Walang matirhan ang mga urban poor o mga illegal settlers. Inaagawan ng lupang ninuno ang ating mga katutubo o mga Lumad sa Mindanao. Inaagawan din ng pangisdaan ang ating mga mangingisda at hindi sila makapangisda. Ang mga manggagawang bukid ay naghihirap sa mga hacienda, daan-daang mga hacienda.

Bilang pagtatapos, Mr. Speaker, ay hahalaw ako sa tula ng bayaning si Gat Andres Bonifacio:

Aling pag-ibig pa ang hihigit kaya  
Sa pagkadalisa'y at pagkadalila  
Gaya ng pag-ibig sa tinubuang lupa?  
Aling pag-ibig pa? Wala na nga, wala.

Ito ang aming panawagan, ang dapat na dalisa'y, wagas at tapat ay ang pag-ibig sa bayan. Isadiwa ang mithiin at pakikibaka ng ating bayani na si Gat Andres Bonifacio para sa kalayaan at tunay na demokrasya:

Tunay na reporma sa lupa, ipatupad.  
Sahod ng mga manggagawa, itaas.  
Kontraktuwalisasyon ay ibasura.  
Pag-pull out sa mga militar sa mga komunidad.  
Lupa at kapayapaan, maka-mamamayang pagbabago, dapat ngayon na.  
Pambansang kalayaan at demokrasya, ipaglaban.

Magandang hapon, Mr. Speaker. Kapwa Mambabatas, daghang salamat.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the honorable Gentleman from ANAKPAWIS, Ka Ayik Casilao, to the Committee on Rules.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). There is a motion to suspend the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker.

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

#### DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE BICAM. CONF. CTTEE.

REP. FARIÑAS. I move that we designate the following as members of the Bicameral Conference Committee on House Bill No. 3408, namely: Reps. Karlo Alexei B. Nograles, Rodolfo C. Fariñas, Maria Carmen S. Zamora, Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II, Dakila Carlo E. Cua, Elenita Milagros “Eileen” Ermita-Buhain, Juan Pablo “Rimpy” P. Bondoc, Reynaldo V. Umali and Danilo E. Suarez.

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

The Members nominated are so designated.

REP. FARIÑAS. The Bicameral Conference Committee on the budget will meet tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. at Senate Conference Rooms No. 2 and 3.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Privilege Hour is resumed.

REP. DE VENECIA. Next to avail of the Privilege Hour is the honorable Lady from Kabataan Party-List, Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Hon. Sarah Jane Elago is recognized to deliver her privilege speech.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ELAGO

REP. ELAGO. Ginoong Ispiker, mga kapwa Mambabatas, magandang gabi.

Sa darating na ika-30 ng Nobyembre, ipagdiriwang natin ang ika-153 anibersaryo ng kapanganakan ni Andres Bonifacio. Hayaan ninyo akong magbalik-tanaw sa ilang mahalagang araw sa buhay ng dakilang Supremo.

Nitong taong 2012, ibinigay ng Hukbong Sandatahan ng Espanya sa ating gobyerno sa pamamagitan ng National Historical Commission of the Philippines ang mga digital copies ng daan-daang dokumento ng Katipunan na nakatago sa Archivo General Militar de Madrid. Isa sa mga dokumento ng Katipunan mula sa Madrid ay ang dokumento ng pagtatatag sa Katipunan na nakakagulat na ang petsa ay mas matanda pa sa alam nating petsa ng pagkakatatag ng Katipunan na ika-7 ng Hulyo, 1892 sa buwan ng Enero ng nasabing taon, mas maaga ng anim na buwan.

May pamagat ang mga dokumentong ito na “Casaysayan,” “Pinagcasunduan,” at “Manga Daquilang Cautosan.” Hayaan ninyo akong sipiin ang introduksiyon ng dokumento.

Pagsasaysay ng mga dahilanan ng paghiwalay ng Kapuluang ito mula sa pag-aangking Inang Espanya. Ang umuudyok sa amin na humiwalay sa Espanya ay ang malabis niyang ugali, matigas na loob, kataksilan at iba pang mga karumaldumal na gawa na hindi dapat gamitin ng sino mang Ina sa alin mang anak. Isinasaysay na ang mga Kapuluang ito ng Pilipinas ay humihiwalay sa Espanya magbuhat sa araw na ito at walang kinikilala at kikilalanin pang Puno at makapangyayari kundi itong Kataastaasang Katipunan. Ang pangalawang pinakamatandang dokumento ng Katipunan mula sa ibinigay sa atin ng Espanya ay may petsang Agosto 1892, at ganito ang nakasulat:

At kaya sa mga iniilog kong mga kapatid na si Gomez, Burgos at Zamora na nilait sa pagsintang lubos sa ating bayang Pilipinas, at sa mga ngayo’y nawawakawak, nagdurusa, at nangamatay nang iba sa pagkakapatapon, inihahandog ang aming puso at buhay sa pagdamay sa ilalim ng isang mahigpit at dakilang Katipunang itatatag ngayon sa pagpipilitang maagaw sa kukong masakim ng mga Kastila itong ating bayan at mapalaya sa hirap ang sariling bayan.



Ano ang saysay ng aking pagsipi sa mga pinakamatandang dokumento ng Katipunan na nadiskubre sa Madrid? Isang bagay lamang: batid ng mga nagtatag ng Katipunan ang kalagayan ng bayan na lugmok sa pang-aapi at pagsasamantala sa panahon ng kolonyalismong Espanyol. At sinu-sino ang mga namuno sa pagtatatag ng Katipunan? Isang manggagawa ng kumpanyang Briton at Aleman na nangganggalang Andres Bonifacio at abogadong si Ladislao Diwa, kapwa 28 years old; at estudyante ng abogasya na si Teodoro Plata, 25 anyos. Ilan sa mga nakiisa sa kanilang paninindigan at sumama sa Katipunan ang makata at manunulat na si Aurelio Tolentino, 25 anyos; estudyante ng medisina na si Pio Valenzuela, 23 anyos; at estudyante ng abogasya na si Emilio Jacinto, 19 anyos.

Narinig ba ninyo ang mga edad ng aking mga nabanggit? Bonifacio at Diwa, 28 anyos; Plata at Tolentino, 25; Valenzuela, 23; Jacinto, 19. Kung hindi man sila buhay noong binitay sa Luneta ang tatlong paring martir na Gomburza, may muwang na ba sila sa mga taong 1872 para balikan ang araw na iyon at gamiting dahilan para mapoot sa pananakop ng Espanya? Kasaysayan ang humaplos sa diwa at damdamin ng mga kabataan at estudyanteng ito para gumawa ng malalaking sakripisyo para sa mas malalaki pang bagay sa kanila—ang magsabog ng liwanag ng kalayaan, katarungan at pagkapantay-pantay sa bayang ito. Kung hindi sila tumindig at lumaban noon, paano kaya tayo ngayon? Tayo ang nakikinabang ngayon sa kalayaang isinulong, ipinaglaban at pinanindigan nila. Tayo ang nakikinabang ngayon sa kalayaang isinulong, ipinaglaban at pinanindigan nila; kalayaan na pangarap lamang noon ng mga 28, 25, 23 at 19; pangarap na hindi lamang nananatiling pangarap kundi isang binhi na kanilang itinanim na ngayo’y isang matayog nang puno na hitik sa bunga ng pakikibaka, ang Republika ng Pilipinas.

Bago itatag ang Katipunan, naganap ang mga pag-aaklas sa iba’t ibang mga lalawigan at ilang dekada rin ang ginugol sa pagsusulong ng mga reporma sa mga opisyal sa Madrid, kaya’t itong sina Bonifacio at iba pang mga kasamang kabataan sa Pilipinas ay hindi na natutuwa sa pagsasawalang-kibo ng pamahalaang Espanyol sa mga repormang itinutulak. At noong 1892 nga, itinanim ang binhi ng kalayaan at kasarinalan sa Tondo sa tawag na Kataastaasang, Kagalanggalangang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan.

Ilan sa mga kilalang bayani ng bayan ngayon ang hindi sang-ayon noon sa Katipunan—sina Jose Rizal, Antonio Luna at Apolinario Mabini. Reporma ang hinihingi nila at ayaw nilang mapurnada ito dahil lamang sa paghihinala ng mga awtoridad noon na mauwi lamang ito sa isang rebolusyon. Noong una, kabaliwan ang mag-isip na lumaya ang Pilipinas mula sa Espanya. Katwiran ni Rizal, kailangan munang mulatin ang mga Pilipino sa

pamamagitan ng edukasyon. Katwiran ni Luna, hindi kakayanin ng mga Pilipino ang lakas ng puwersang Espanyol na tatlongdaang taon nang naghahari sa Pilipinas at daan-daang pag-aalsa na ang natalo at nasawata. Buo pa rin ang pananalig ni Mabini na madadaan pa sa pakikipag-usap sa Espanya ang mga pagbabago nang walang pagdanak ng dugo at pagkalagas ng buhay.

Hindi pa kasama rito ang mga personalidad noon na kuntento na sa maituturing na nilang kaunlaran at kaayusang panlipunan na mayroon noon—palibhasa’y nakikinabang ang mga pamilya nila sa negosyo at pulitika, at nagpapakasasa sa mga titulo, mga medalya at mga parangal. Ito ang mga tipo nina Pedro Paterno at Felipe Buencamino na kasama sa mga itinuturing nating mga dakilang Pilipino, bagaman ngayon ay nagdurusa na dahil hinusgahan na sila ng kasaysayan.

Samantala, ibinintang kina Rizal, Luna at Mabini ang rebolusyong sinimulan nina Bonifacio. Binitay si Rizal, ipinatapon si Luna, at na-hospital arrest naman si Mabini dahil sa kanyang pagiging lumpo. Ang tulad ni Paterno ay sinamantala ang pagkakataon na makapagpasikat sa mga Espanyol at nagyabang na kaya niyang kumbinsihin ang mga rebolusyonaryo na sumuko sa isang kondisyon na tawagin siyang “Prinsipe ng Luzon” pagkatapos. At si Buencamino ay bumuo pa ng hukbong loyalista sa Espanya na lumaban sa puwersa ni Emilio Aguinaldo sa Cavite.

Sa huli ay tinanggap ni Rizal na hindi na mapipigilan pa ang mga Pilipino na mag-asam ng pagbabago sa paggamit ng dahas gayung dahas din ang pilit na pinapalunok sa bawat naghihirap na sambayanang Pilipino. Hayaan ninyong sipiin ko mismo ang matamis na pagtanggap ni Rizal sa kanyang kapalaran mula sa “Mi Ultimo Adios,” gamit ang saling Tagalog ni Bonifacio ng nasabing tula:

Ika’y guminhawa, laking kagandahang ako  
ay malugmok at ika’y matanghal, hininga’y  
malagot, mabuhay ka lamang. Bangka’y ko’y  
masilong sa yong kalangitan.

Gayundin sina Luna at Mabini na niyakap din kalaunan ang rebolusyong sinimulan ni Bonifacio at nanguna pa sa pagtatanggol ng kalayaan nang dumating ang mga Amerikano.

Ito ang sinabi ni Mabini tungkol kay Bonifacio sa kanyang talambuhay na *La Revolucion Filipina* noong 1902:

Ang dismayadong si Andres Bonifacio ay parating sinasabi noong siya’y nabubuhay pa na huwag matakot kanino man—huwag matakot kanino man kundi sa kasaysayan, at tunay ngang ang kasaysayan ay hindi bulag sa hustisya, at ang hatol nito ay malupit sa sinumang nagkasala.

Hindi lang si Mabini ang nakapagtala sa sinabing ito ni Bonifacio na katakutan ang kasaysayan. Maging ang magiting na bayani mula sa Batac, Ilocos Norte na si Artemio Ricarte, na gumawa rin ng sariling talambuhay. Ayon kay Ricarte:

Si Bonifacio ang taong nagturo sa bayang Pilipino ng tunay na landas, upang maibulid ang pang-aalipin ng mga dayuhan—na sa tuwing kausap ng kanyang mga kasama—ay lagi nang nilalabasan sa bibig ng mga ganitong pangungusap:

“Pagsikapan ninyong huwag makagawi ng mga pagkakasalang makadudungis sa inyong mga pangalan. Matakot kayo sa kasaysayan, na siyang di mapagkakailaan ng inyong mga kagagawan.”

Ang maybahay din mismo ni Bonifacio, na si Gregoria de Jesus, ay nagbilin sa mga kabataan noong 1928 gamit ang sumpa ni Bonifacio: “Matakot kayo sa kasaysayan pagka’t walang lihim na di nahahayag.”

Biktima rin mismo si Bonifacio sa tahasang pagbura sa alaala ng kanyang buhay at mga nagawa. Matapos siyang paslangin noong taong 1897 sa Cavite, nabura rin ang mga aral ng Katipunan, ang mga simbolismo nito at simulain. Hindi na rin binabanggit ang kanyang pangalan sa mga okasyon, talumpati, at pagpaparangal noong administrasyong Aguinaldo. Napaulat pa na ipinasunog ang bahay ni Jacinto sa Tondo upang maabo nang tuluyan ang mga dokumento ng Katipunan, bagay na agad na natunugan kaya’t naibaon sa ilalim ng lupa ang bangang pinagtaguan ng mga dokumento ng Katipunan na di bababa sa 10 piraso. Hanggang sa isang araw, matapos ang Digmaang Pilipino-Amerikano, natagpuan ang mga dokumentong ito na nakatago sa lukuban ng manok sa Bataan. Ang Bonifacio at Katipunan na pilit binura sa alaala ng mga Pilipino ay nabuhay lamang matapos mawala sa kapangyarihan ang mga taong nasa likod ng pagpatay sa kanya. Taun-taon mula noon, nagtitipon na ang mga tao sa Balintawak at inaalala ang November 30 bilang, una, Araw ng mga Bayani, bago pa man ito gawing pista opisyal.

Isang siglo ang nakalipas, ang sasampung dokumento ng Katipunan na alam noon ng mga Pilipino tungkol sa Katipunan, ay nadagdagan nang nadagdagan ng napakarami pang pahina nang magkaloob ng kopya ang mga bansa kung saan may rekord ng ating mga bayani.

Tunay ngang walang sikretong maitatago sa kasaysayan. Matakot tayo. May hustisya sa kasaysayan. May hustisya sa hatol ng sambayanan.

Si Bonifacio ay namuno sa pakikibaka ng mamamayang Pilipino laban sa kolonyalismo ng Espanya at naging katawan din siya ng laban ng masang anakpawis. Ating gunitain ang kanyang anibersaryo ng kapanganakan sa diwa ng pagpapatuloy ng kanyang laban at sa diwa ng pagpapatibay ng ating pagkakaisa para sa KKK—karapatan, katarungan at kapayapaan. Ipakita natin na tayo ay handang humarap sa hamon ng ating panahon.

Bilang pangwakas, sa hirap at salimuot ng laban para sa karapatan, katarungan at kapayapaan, tayo ay sasalalay sa ating sama-sama at organisadong pagkilos. At sa dinami-dami ng ating kailangan na gawin ang mga katungkulan sa ating mga pang-araw-araw na pakikibaka, alalahanin na sa dinami-dami ng mga salitang maaaring piliin para makilala si Bonifacio sa loob ng Katipunan, “May Pag-asa” ang kanyang piniling pangalan sa pakikibaka. May Pag-asa, May Pag-asa, May Pag-asa! Dakilang paalala sa pagsambit ng kanyang pangalan, “May Pag-asa,” na nasa ating tuluy-tuloy na paglaban para sa magandang bukas para sa ating henerasyon at sa mga susunod pa, may bukas na napakaganda. May Pag-asa!

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the honorable Lady from KABATAAN Party-List, Representative Sarah Jane I. Elago, to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). There is a motion to terminate the Privilege Hour.

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

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 48, dated November 23, 2016.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of the following measures:

1. House Bills No. 61 and 256, from the Committee on Agriculture and Food, and the Special Committee on Food Security, to the Committee on Human Rights;
2. House Bill No. 1645, from the Committee on Health, to the Committee on Human Rights;
3. House Bill No. 3938, from the Special Committee on Food Security, to the Committee on Human Rights;
4. House Bills No. 342, 1415 and 2593, from

the Committee on Health, to the Committees on Government Reorganization and Health;

5. House Bill No. 3049, from the Committee on Health, to the Committees on Government Reorganization and Health;

6. House Bills No. 386 and 607 from the Committee on Health, to the Committees on Government Reorganization and Health;

7. House Bill No. 1279, from the Committee on Health, to the Committees on Government Reorganization and Health;

8. House Bill No. 630, from the Committee on Health, to the Committees on Government Reorganization and Health;

9. House Bills No. 3033 and 3336, from the Committee on Health, to the Committees on Government Reorganization and Health;

10. House Bill No. 609, from the Committee on Health, to the Committees on Government Reorganization and Health;

11. House Bill No. 210, from the Committee on Health, to the Committees on Government Reorganization and Health;

12. House Bill No. 4468, from the Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation, to the Committee on Economic Affairs;

13. House Bills No. 1721 and 3375, from the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, to the Committees on Government Reorganization, and Housing and Urban Development;

14. House Bill No. 83, from the Committee on Revision of Laws, to the Committee on Housing and Urban Development;

15. House Bill No. 3591, from the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, to the Committees on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and Housing and Urban Development.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

##### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider the Bills under the Calendar of Business for Thursday and Friday. And, Mr. Speaker, pursuant to our Rules, allow me to put forth an omnibus motion for the consideration of the following:

1. House Bill No. 4402, contained in Committee Report No. 19; and

2. House Bill No. 937, contained in Committee Report No. 20.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider the respective Explanatory Notes as the sponsorship speeches on the said measures.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). There is a motion to consider the respective Explanatory Notes as the sponsorship speeches on the said measures.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate on the said local bills, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we terminate the period of amendments.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Second Reading on the following House Bills: House Bill No. 4402 and House Bill No. 937.

##### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Is there any objection to the motion? (*Silence*)

As many as are in favor of the approval of the aforementioned bills, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye.*

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until four o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, November 29, 2016.

APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS  
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The *ayes* have it; the aforementioned Bills are approved on Second Reading.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The session is adjourned until Tuesday, November 29, 2016, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

*It was 6:34 p.m.*