



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
*House of Representatives*

Vol. 3

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

No. 50

## 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, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

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

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

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

## REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

## BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4508, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE A HOUSING PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS”

By Representative Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4509, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND WELFARE”

By Representative Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4510, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING MANDATORY TEACHING OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS”

By Representative Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4511, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE GERMAN EUROPEAN SCHOOL MANILA, INCORPORATED AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, GRANTING CERTAIN

PREROGATIVES CONDUCIVE TO ITS GROWTH AS SUCH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Uybarreta  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4512, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING EVEREST ACADEMY AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, GRANTING CERTAIN PREROGATIVES TO HASTEN ITS GROWTH AS SUCH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Uybarreta  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4513, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO RADIO MARINE NETWORK, INCORPORATED, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4607, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7512”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4514, entitled:

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

By Representative Amatong  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4515, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING IGNITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INCORPORATED A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Oaminal  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4516, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ALMEDA HIGHWAY IN NAGA CITY IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bordado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4517, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BALATAS-CARARAYAN-SAN ISIDRO-CAROLINA ROAD IN NAGA CITY, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bordado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4518, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE DEL ROSARIO-CARARAYAN ROAD IN NAGA CITY, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bordado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4519, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE QUEBORAC DRIVE IN NAGA CITY, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bordado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 577, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING WARM FELICITATIONS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO OMBUDSMAN CONCHITA CARPIO MORALES AFTER HAVING RECEIVED A RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD 2016 FOR RESTORING FAITH IN THE RULE OF LAW”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 578, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PLIGHT OF WOMEN PRISONERS AND DETAINEES WITH SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS”

By Representatives De Jesus and Brosas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 579, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT, TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED MISMANAGEMENT AND ABUSE OF AUTHORITY OF THE CURRENT LEADERS OF THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (POC)”

By Representatives Belaro and Salo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Reps. Greg G. Gasataya, Conrado M. Estrella III, Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, Makmod D. Mending Jr., Jose T. Panganiban Jr., CPA, LLB. and Lianda B. Bolilia for House Bill No. 3858;

Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe for House Bills No. 1615, 2862, 2863, 2864, 3852, 3943, 4088, 4174 and 4337;

Rep. Carmelo “Jon” B. Lazatin II for House Bills No. 1615, 2862, 2863, 2864, 3852, 3853, 3943, 4087, 4088, 4089, 4090 and 4337;

Reps. Aileen C. Radaza, Ramon “Red” H. Durano VI and Peter John D. Calderon for House Bill No. 4117;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 4297, 4298, 4300 and 4405 and House Resolutions No. 554 and 555;

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas for House Bills No. 64 and 989;

Rep. Christopher “Toff” Vera Perez De Venecia for House Bill No. 3853;

Rep. Elenita Milagros “Eileen” Ermita-Buhain for House Bill No. 1858;

Rep. Celso L. Lobregat for House Bill No. 3715;

Reps. Johnny Ty Pimentel and Horacio P. Suansing Jr. for House Bill No. 4174;

Reps. Jorge T. Almonte, Romeo M. Acop, Horacio P. Suansing Jr., Teodoro “Ted” G. Montoro, Micaela S. Violago, Eugene Michael B. De Vera, Vini Nola A. Ortega, Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II, Rolando “Klarex” A. Uy, Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III, Joseph Stephen S. Paduano and Sol Aragonés for House Bill No. 1896;

Reps. Jorge T. Almonte, Romeo M. Acop, Teodoro “Ted” G. Montoro, Eugene Michael B. De Vera, Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II, Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, Rolando “Klarex” A. Uy, Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III, Joseph Stephen S. Paduano and Sol Aragonés for House Bill No. 2431;

Reps. Joel Mayo Z. Almario, Emmeline Aglipay-Villar, Enrico A. Pineda, Aileen C. Radaza, Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Vicente “Ching” S.E. Veloso, Manuel F. Zubiri, Arthur R. Defensor Jr., Franz E. Alvarez and Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D. for House Bill No. 1859;

Reps. Maria Valentina G. Plaza, Emmeline Aglipay-Villar, Joel Mayo Z. Almario, Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao, Aileen C. Radaza, Orestes T. Salon, Richard C. Eusebio, Roger G. Mercado, Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., Jose L. Atienza Jr., Greg G. Gasataya, Strike B. Revilla, Vicente “Ching” S.E. Veloso, Melecio J. Yap Jr., Arnulfo P. Fuentebella, Vini Nola A. Ortega, Enrico A. Pineda, Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D., Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez, Dale “Along” R. Malapitan, Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Franz E. Alvarez, Arcadio H. Gorriceta, Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu and Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento for House Bill No. 1858;

Reps. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar, Arnulfo P. Fuentebella and Melecio J. Yap Jr. for House Bill No. 2798;

Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta for House Bills No. 1615, 2862, 2864, 3852, 3853, 3943, 4337, 4087, 4088, 4089 and 4090;

Rep. Geraldine B. Roman for House Bills No. 61 and 3954;

Rep. Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao for House Bills No. 1615, 2862, 2863, 2864, 3852, 3853, 3943, 4087, 4088, 4089, 4090 and 4337; and

Rep. Ron P. Salo for House Bills No. 3943 and 4337.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated October 25, 2016 of Antonio Jesus R. Romasanta, General Manager, Puerto Princesa City Water District, Puerto Princesa City, addressed to Atty. Sheila U. Villa, Commission on Audit, Regional Office No. IV-B, submitting documents to the Commission on Audit as proof of courses of action and measures implemented in line with the 2015 Annual Audit Report.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letters dated November 7, 17 and 22, 2016 of Roger E. Dino, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, furnishing the House of Representatives

certified and authenticated Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas issuances, to wit:

1. Circular No. 929 dated 28 October 2016;
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2016-087 dated 28 October 2016;
3. Circular Letter No. CL-2016-088 dated 3 November 2016;
4. Memorandum No. M-2016-014 dated 2 November 2016;
5. Circular Letter No. CL-2016-089 dated 9 November 2016;
6. Circular Letter No. CL-2016-090 dated 11 November 2016;
7. Circular Letter No. CL-2016-091 dated 10 November 2016; and
8. Memorandum No. M-2016-015 dated 16 November 2016.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated November 15, 2016 of Evelyn S. Marañon, State Auditor V, Commission on Audit, Regional Office No. XVI - Negros Island, submitting copies of the Audit Reports on the following Water Districts of Negros Island Region:

1. Manapla Water District - CYs 2013-2015;
2. Himamaylan Water District - CYs 2014-2015;
3. Kabankalan Water District - CY 2015; and
4. Cadiz City Water District - CY 2015.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, may I move for a suspension of the session?

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

*It was 4:05 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:13 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, with leave of the House, I move that we hold a Privilege Hour.

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 recognize the Hon. Alfred D. Vargas from the Fifth District of Quezon City who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Rep. Alfred Vargas is recognized to deliver his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. VARGAS

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

Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues. Good afternoon.

I distinctly remember watching American movies when I was young and being amazed at how swiftly 911 responded to all kinds of emergencies. The way they dealt with crisis was so impressive, so much so that I wanted to be the one answering the calls and playing hero to a little girl or boy's urgent plea for help. I also used to think how sad it was that we did not have 911 in the Philippines.

Today, thanks to the efforts of the present administration, we now have a dedicated number that serves as the national emergency telephone number. In August of this year, the 9-1-1 emergency hotline was launched nationwide. I take this opportunity to stand before you today to bring to our collective attention the issue of emergency services in the country, particularly on the service of emergency calls.

My interest on this particular issue, Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, was stirred when news reports revealed that the 911 emergency telephone hotline was reportedly flooded with prank calls on the first month that it was launched. In fact, there were more prank calls than legitimate calls, Mr. Speaker. Moreover, barely a month ago, there was a newspaper story about the lament of the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in Davao City regarding the number of prank calls that continue to flood their system. The numbers are indeed alarming and this seriously need our attention, Mr. Speaker. While a number of calls involved requests for ambulance assistance, reports on vehicular accidents, petty harassment, civil disturbances, drag racing, drinking in public places and drug pushing among others, about 68 percent of the calls received were non-emergency in nature. Out of the 43,214 calls received from August to September, only 14,027 were considered valid.

I find this a serious matter that must be brought to the open, Mr. Speaker and dear colleagues, especially during these times when news of disorder and unrest

from all over the world plague the TV, radio, newspapers and social media. It is during times like these that every Filipino needs to have a strong sense of security and safety. In other countries, the United States for instance, there is a law against what they call "swatting." The term "swatting" is derived from the acronym SWAT or Special Weapons and Tactics. This is a group of highly-skilled and well-trained officers of the law like policemen who are assigned to often very dangerous and critical missions.

"Swatting" is defined simply as an act of deceiving emergency service. It is a crime. There have been many documented cases of swatting in different countries. What is interesting to note, however, is that several cases, some even more complicated than others, had been committed by teenagers. They call themselves "Gamers." Swatting is generally synonymous to prank calls, and I want to bring this issue within the context of the Philippine experience, Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues.

According to newspaper reports, on the first day alone of the activation of the 911 hotline in the Philippines, there were more dropped calls and prank calls than actual emergency calls. According to the PNP, the hotline already received 2,475 phone calls barely even seven hours after activation, but only three percent were legitimate calls. The rest were dropped calls and prank calls. There were even calls asking for lotto numbers. I can imagine how frustrating this must have been for the authorities.

Philippine National Police Chief Ronald Dela Rosa has already appealed repeatedly to the public to stop making test calls because they clog the emergency line. Our PNP and all government agencies that launched 911 only had good intentions when they decided to activate the hotline. I believe it to be timely as many of our people are beginning to become restless with news of crimes all around. The PNP should be lauded. The launch of 911 and its powerful back-end support is a major milestone. The present administration recognized the extreme importance of this service that barely a month after the new administration took over, this service was launched, but we have to address the headlines about the prank calls flooding the hotline.

Mr. Speaker, the 911 hotline is a noble idea and the PNP deserves our praise for pushing it, but we need to spend extra efforts, perhaps more resources, in educating our people about it and insisting that the Filipinos respect and honor the principle of the 911 hotline. The three-digit telephone number has a very solid and respectable history in the US and, I also believe, in Canada. The 911 hotline has been designated as the universal emergency number that when you dial it, within seconds, you will be led to emergency assistance. Its goal is to provide fast and easy access for help.

There is a lot of literature about the benefits of

having one central number to call for emergency situations. There are also a lot of data on why 911 was decided to be the best combination for a quick dial, and still a lot more information on how the 911 emergency hotline has helped many people in need and has saved many lives. The history of the 911 hotline in other countries is long and was with serious legislative work before it arrived to its present status respected by the people, reliable and trusted by the citizenry, and never to be messed around with. Indeed, it is a serious crime to play with the 911 emergency hotline. I have been impressed by how even the little children in the US understand the significance of this hotline and how these children honor this number so much and never play with it.

The initial reaction of our people to the launch of the 911 hotline should not discourage anyone. Instead, it should motivate all of us to ensure that our hotline to safety is protected and not abused. We cannot stop with just the launch of the 911 alone. We need to communicate. The LGUs need to transfer information about this service system from PNP to the communities in the barangays and to the homes. We need to get the importance of 911 to the psyche of every Filipino. We also need to ensure that 911 reaches its maximum potential in bringing protection, safety and security to the Filipino people.

There are a lot of questions still, Mr. Speaker. That is probably why there had been a lot of prank calls in the first place. There is a tremendous amount of interest in wanting to know if this is the real deal. They want to find out if someone with an authoritative voice will really answer at the other end. Is 911 going to be a permanent form of service for the Filipinos? Can it really help the individual Pinoy in dire need? Is it for free? Does it work from outside of Luzon? How fast can help arrive after the initial call? Valid questions indeed, but they do not give Filipino callers the license to misuse this sacred number. Imagine if it were a life or death situation, a girl being raped calling 911 for help but could not be attended to because the very same police team that could have helped her was deployed to another incident that was merely a prank. We cannot allow this to happen.

So how do we protect this system, Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues? We must help answer the question of our constituents. We have to clearly communicate that 911 can only be utilized if we respect the number and give way to true emergency calls. I believe the best thing to do as a start is to spread the message that, yes, no one can mess with the 911 hotline and to do so will be a crime. Congress has to make it a crime because 911 is a holy number equivalent to our people's safety. Our PNP has already issued their commitment and their appeal, that while PNP will absolutely do everything they can to respond to emergency call effectively, they will not

tolerate people who will prevent them from fulfilling their duties successfully. The pranksters should be held accountable and will be dealt with seriously.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our safety and our security is both a right and a responsibility. It will always be a priority. It can never be compromised. Let us be responsible enough in ensuring that this right is never violated or abused because being responsible about 911 is equivalent to protecting each and every Filipino. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, let us not forget that peace and order is not just the responsibility of the government, but of every Filipino. The system protecting our peace and order should be upheld with utmost respect, never taken for granted, never made fun of, and never dishonored.

Thank you very much, and a pleasant afternoon to all.

REP. BATAOIL. Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move to acknowledge the Representative from the Second District of Pangasinan, Cong. Leopoldo N. Bataoil, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The honorable Representative Bataoil is recognized to make his interpellation.

REP. BATAOIL. Mr. Speaker, may I know if the Gentleman from the Fifth District of Quezon City is willing to entertain a few questions from me.

REP. VARGAS. Gladly, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BATAOIL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the initiative of the Gentleman from the Fifth District of Quezon City in bringing this matter to the attention of our colleagues and to the whole nation. I personally believe that indeed this is one important system that we should support not only in our halls of Congress, but in our respective districts. It should become our advocacy because this means immediate response to emergency situations not only in saving lives, but also in helping others save properties and prevent any untoward incidents.

May I know from the Gentleman if he is aware of the former emergency number 117?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BATAOIL. This is the so-called "Patrol 117" which had been established sometime in the early

2000 and thereafter, it moved on to become a national advocacy for emergency. It is called "Patrol 117." May I know if you are aware of the participation of some private agencies that supported Patrol 117 of the DILG, the main government agency which promoted this emergency number 117?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, I believe you are correct, honorable Congressman Bataoil, and there had been a private entity participation.

REP. BATAOIL. Yes, that is right. I think you are aware that the central office of Patrol 117 at that time was in Quezon City, and this was supported very strongly by the PLDT, if I am not mistaken. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, honorable colleague.

REP. BATAOIL. Yes, and it appears that Patrol 117 served its purpose for a while. May I know the reason it is now 911? Is there any compelling reason?

REP. VARGAS. This new administration launched it as a nationwide campaign for peace and order and now, it is supposed to be a universal number and I believe that is the goal of this policy. It is just that this Representation was really surprised that there were so many prank calls and so many people were not taking it seriously. I myself during an emergency a few years ago dialed 117 and from that experience alone, I believe it was an effective number as well.

REP. BATAOIL. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Actually, Patrol 117 also experienced the same problems cited by our dear colleague. We had a lot of prank calls. In fact, we were even receiving orders for pizzas and that was really very disheartening to note. Emergency numbers should be taken seriously by all concerned, and the law which punishes anybody who violates the proper usage should be implemented thoroughly. Now, it seems that 911 is also experiencing the same situation.

So, do you not think, Mr. Speaker, dear colleague, there should be a stricter measure in ensuring that emergency number 911, if it will be a permanent emergency number which we will all adopt—it should be strictly enforced, this matter of ensuring that it will not be joked around by prank callers?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, this Representation agrees 100 percent with the honorable Congressman from the Second District of Pangasinan.

REP. BATAOIL. We have ...

REP. VARGAS. That is correct, and I agree 100 percent, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BATAOIL. Our dear colleague, Mr. Speaker, do you have any particular proposal to strengthen 911 so that it will serve its purpose?

REP. VARGAS. Well, of course, we need to do an information campaign, and we have to really pass an effective piece of legislation for this. The 911 in the US and Canada did not flourish overnight. It had to undergo legislative work, legislation for it to work. I would like to invite or get the advice, of course, of the Gentleman from Pangasinan since this is not really my forte, the peace and order, so maybe we can now work together in filing a House bill exactly addressing this concern.

REP. BATAOIL. Yes, Mr. Speaker. There is a need for us to work together and gather the inputs of our colleagues. Let it be considered by the proper committee so that we will be able to contribute to the strengthening of the system and its observance and respect by all concerned. Let me just cite to you that this is a very important system that we should really support. For example, something happens anywhere in the country, Visayas or even Mindanao or in the farthest end of Luzon and an eyewitness, for example, saw this particular incident and there is no response yet from any agency. For example, kapag may sunog, tapos, wala pang response ang fire station; or mayroong ongoing crime or a crime is in progress, wala pa ring responde ang pulis; or somebody needs to be brought to the hospital, wala pa ring responde ang pulis or medical team. So, anybody anywhere in the country can call or text 911, and the central office which is located in Metro Manila should have the direct access to the provincial director or the regional director of the PNP wherever the incident happened, and the regional director and the provincial director should immediately notify the chief of police of that particular station. That is supposed to be the system, that in a short period of time, and this has to be observed, so that the police station should be able to respond within a three to five-minute period upon receipt of the emergency notice. So, this emergency system has to work effectively and closely, not only with the police but actually, with the fire station department and all LGUs, local government units, which will maintain their respective operations center, hindi po ba?

Are you aware, dear colleague, Mr. Speaker, that our local government units have their own respective emergency operations center?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, dear colleague.

REP. BATAOIL. Therefore, in closing, I would like

to reiterate that this is indeed very important. May I know if there is any particular assistance that this former Patrol 117 which now became 911 will not be changed again whenever there is a change of administration? Do we have that particular or can we possibly have that assurance, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. I think that will be very, very necessary in passing that law. That feature should be very, very necessary and as a matter of fact, we should institutionalize it so that no matter how many administrations come and go, it is still going to be 911. I agree, Mr. Speaker, dear colleague.

REP. BATAOIL. Would you recommend therefore a law which will institutionalize 911 so that it will not be changed from time to time by any administration?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, dear colleague.

REP. BATAOIL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much to our dear colleague from the Fifth District of Quezon City.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Vargas and the interpellation thereon to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move to 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. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker.

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

#### ELECTION OF MINORITY MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I respectfully move for the following committee memberships in behalf of the Minority, and we nominate the following:

The Minority Leader read the names of the House Members elected to the various committees, per Journal No. 50, dated November 29, 2016.

#### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND WELFARE

Rep. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BICOL RECOVERY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Rep. Orestes T. Salon

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

Rep. Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. SUAREZ. We also move to reconsider the election of Honorable Julieta R. Cortuna from the Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests of our Members. We have the guests of the Hon. Sitti Djalila A. Turabin-Hataman of Anak Mindanao Party-List; Dr. Hazi Zulkifly Baharon, the Executive Director of the International Council of Islamic Finance Educators; and Mr. Aleem Diddiqui Guipal, the Executive Director of the Regional Economic Zone Authority.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, we would also like to acknowledge the presence of guests of the Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago, Representative of KABATAAN Party-List. We have Alyssa Gamban, Jhaezel Ocampo, Ranica Meralpis, Alexander Aviñante Jr. and Audrey Hubo, Political Science students from the De La Salle University, Dasmariñas College of Liberal Arts and Communication.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Please

rise to be recognized. (*Applause*) Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

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

*It was 4:39 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:39 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

##### *Continuation*

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, we move to resume the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Hon. Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr. of the Third District of Negros Oriental for his privilege speech.

REP. TEVES. Thank you.

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

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. TEVES

REP. TEVES. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to everybody.

Again, I rise here today to bring an issue that has been a problem to operators of e-games. Ang gusto ko sanang ipaabot dito, lalo na sa Committee on Games and Amusements, sa tingin ko ay dapat imbestigahan ang PhilWeb Corporation dahil hino-hostage nila iyong pera ng operator, iyong BCF na tinatawag namin na naka-deposit sa kanila. Sabi kasi nila noong una, they will release the BCF as soon as the PAGCOR approves but actually, that money is not deposited with the PAGCOR but under the PhilWeb account. Now, kahit pala nag-aprub na iyong PAGCOR, hindi



pa nila niri-release dahil ipa-process pa daw, but that is not even the main problem. The main problem na gusto kong paimbestigahan is, bakit ginagawa nilang prerequisite ang quitclaim bago mo makuha iyong pera mo? Nakalagay doon sa quitclaim na kailangan mong pirmahan na natanggap mo na iyong pera kahit hindi pa.

What am I trying to drive at? These big corporations are forcing small businessmen na pumirma ng kasinungalingan. Wala namang laban iyong maliliit na negosyante dahil iyong pera nila ay nandoon. I think dapat talaga itong imbestigahan at dapat itong mabago dahil hindi talaga puwede na papirmahin mo ng kasinungalingan iyong isang tao at isa pa, wala silang laban dahil kahit hindi nila ibigay iyong pera, pumirma ka nang quitclaim, lugi ka na. They even told me na wala daw nagreklamong ibang operators. So, I told them, “Siyempre, wala naman silang laban sa inyo pero ako, magreklamamo talaga ako in behalf of the other operators.” I think it is—kung sa Bisaya iyan, “panlupig” but I do not know what is the correct term in English and in Tagalog—pero mali ito. So, sana lang, nananawagan ako sa ating Committee on Games and Amusements na paimbestigahan natin iyong PhilWeb Corporation doon sa pangho-hostage nila sa mga BCF ng kanilang mga previous operators.

That is all for now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Teves to the Rules Committee for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). There is a motion to refer the speech of the Gentleman to the appropriate committee. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr. of the BUHAY Party-List who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Representative Atienza of the BUHAY Party-List is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ATIENZA

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mme. Floor Leader.

This gives us an opportunity to bring to the national attention something which is very positive for all of us. This is a matter of national interest.

Mr. Speaker, President Duterte made a dramatic announcement that we can consider unprecedented when he said, upon arrival from Peru, the APEC meeting, that he was directing the dismantling of fishpens in Laguna de Bay. Ako po ay natutuwa sapagkat ito ay isang bagay na ipinaglaban ko noon, ipinaglalaban ko ngayon, at ipaglalaban ko sa darating na panahon, na ang ating yamang dagat, yamang tubig ay pakinabangan ng mamamayan at ng ating ekonomiya.

For the information of our colleagues, Laguna de Bay is the biggest freshwater lake in the Philippines and the biggest in Asia—99,000 hectares of open waters where aquatic life has always flourished, where fisherfolks from Rizal, Laguna, even Metro Manila, are given a livelihood opportunity due to the abundance of aquatic life in the lake. Diyan po nagmumula pati na iyong ating mga national pride na “balut” kung tawagin natin, sapagkat diyan nabubuhay ang mga itik na nangingitlog at ang itlog ang ginagawang balut dahil po sagana sa pagkain ng itik iyong lawa na iyan.

Subalit sa pagdaan ng panahon, ito po ay namonopolize ng mga mayayaman na nagtayo ng kani-kanilang fishpens diyan sa Laguna de Bay. Iyong fishpens can range from 500 hectares to 5,000 hectares, at ngayon ay bumubuo na halos sa mahigit kalahati ng lawa na iyan. So, these 99,000 hectares are no longer serving the purpose of the common good. We have called the attention of the government on this matter in the past administration, and we have not succeeded in any manner, not even one iota of a reaction. The problem persisted and the waters of Laguna de Bay continued to deteriorate. Ito pong bagay na ito ay nagbibigay ng malaking problema sa mga mangingisda ng Laguna, Rizal at mga karatig-probinsiya. Ito pong kapabayaang ito ay nagdudulot ng problema sa atin na mga taga-Metro Manila. Ang baha sa Metro Manila ay nagmumula at nag-uugat kadalasan sa hindi pagdaloy ng tubig na nagmumula po sa Laguna de Bay. When the fishpens were allowed to proliferate, the lake waters are blocked and rainwaters are not allowed to flow freely.

Laguna de Bay is a gift of nature. Laguna de Bay is a gift of God to all of us. Puwede pong ito ay nagagamit sa kagalingan ng ating ekonomiya, nagbibigay ng pagkain sa mga mangingisda, at nagbibigay ng pagkain sa lahat ng mamamayan dito po sa ating kapuluan. Subalit, dahil dito po sa kapabayaang ito na nagdaan sa maraming dekada magmula noon martial law, hindi na po tumigil ang pananatili at paglaki ng mga fishpens diyan. You may not believe it, but there is one company there that maintains 5,000 hectares of our public waters. Papaano po nangyayari ang ganyan? Papaano po pinabayaan ang ganyan? Nagtayo pa tayo ng authority na kung tawagin ay Laguna de Bay Authority or Laguna Lake Development Authority, na wala po namang ginagawa upang bigyan ng proteksyon ang interes ng lahat, lalo na ng mga mahihirap na mangingisda.

So, we are definitely supporting the directive of the President. He said that if by middle December the fishpens are still there, he will hold everybody responsible, especially the departments in charge of our aquatic wealth. Andiyang po ang Department of Agriculture, andiyang po ang Department of Environment, andiyang po ang Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, andiyang po ang Philippine Fisheries Development Authority—andiyang po silang lahat. Alam ko, pananagutin po sila ng ating Pangulo at ang kasunod na warning niya at pagpapaalala niya ay huwag silang maglaro-laro sapagkat alam niya ang puno at dulo ng lahat ng ito. Ako ay natutuwa sapagkat marahil pagdating ng ating Pangulo, nakita niya sa eroplano na wala na tayong Laguna de Bay, at doon niya naalala, pag-landing niya dito sa ating airport, doon niya binanggit na hindi na siya papayag na ang ating mga public waters ay manatiling monopolized ng mga malalakas, mayayaman, makapangyarihan, mayroong malalaking puhunan, at mayroong pambayad sa kinaaukulan.

Para magtayo kayo ng fishpond ngayon, ang babayaran na lang ninyo ay iyong gobyerno. Hindi na kayo bibili ng lupa, hindi na kayo mamumuhunan, magbabakod na lang kayo, kung gusto ninyo sa Laguna de Bay, kung gusto ninyo sa Manila Bay, pati ang Taal Lake, Mr. Speaker, which is a protected landscape area. It is not only a protected area but a protected landscape. Hindi dapat nagkakaroon ng anumang sagabal sa kagandahan ng ating kalikasan sa Tagaytay at Laguna de Bay at Taal Lake. Subalit ngayon, napupuno na iyan ng fishpens, na hindi ko maintindihan sapagkat ito po ay nangyayari sa ilalim ng tungkulan, sa ilalim ng mga ilong ng ating mga provincial, municipal and city authorities and of course, the government entrusted with the care and protection of our public waters.

We are very elated, we are very happy that we have a President now, the only President that I know who has confronted the issue squarely. “You better remove these fishpens or I will call the military”—can you imagine that? He will call the military to remove these fishpens by force. Iyan po ay tamang pag-iisip na hinihintay natin sa ating pamunuan.

Para po sa kaalaman ng ating mga Miyembro, ang Laguna de Bay is just a monument, the face of the problem, but the problem is all over the island. We are blessed with more than 200 lakes all over the country, most of which are in Mindanao—20 of them are in Region X, 19 of them are in the ARMM area, Region XI has 14 of them, while Region XII has 15 lakes, Region XIII has 13 lakes. Spread all over the islands are bodies of water that should be giving us not only livelihood but food on our tables. Ito na po ang pagkakataon. Maganda pong suportahan natin. I am committed to support the President on this issue. As we have repeatedly said, when the President does something good for the nation,

he can rely on BUHAY Party-List to be behind it. When he is wrong, we will not hesitate to call his attention to this wrong decision. This particular decision, Mr. Speaker, will liberate our public waters of all of these encroachments which are illegally being done because of corrupt practices.

Sa ngayon, ang sinasabi po ng Laguna Lake Development Authority ay bahagya lang daw naman ang abuso. I got their latest figures and according to their records, there are only 12,000 hectares occupied by fishpens, only 12,000 out of 99,000. Mr. Speaker, they are practically pulling the wool before the eyes of the President. Kaya tinatawagan po natin ang pansin ng ating Pangulo: Niloloko kayo ng Laguna Lake Development Authority. Hindi po 12,000 lang kung nasaan ang fishpens diyan. Kung titingnan po ninyo iyan, at ito po naman ay ginawa na namin nang ilang ulit, sumakay po kayo sa isang helicopter at makikita ninyo iyong tubig ng lawa ay halos wala na sapagkat burdado nang fishpens ang Laguna de Bay. This is a major catastrophe for our God-given resources, which should be benefiting the Filipinos and not only the rich and the foreigners who are financing them. Yes, many of these fishpens are even foreign-owned, Mr. Speaker. So, ito po ay hindi dapat nangyayari. Wala po akong napuntahang bansa na pinabayaan ang kanilang katubigan katulad ng pagpapabaya na ginawa ng administrasyon. Sa anim na taon ng nakaraang administrasyon, wala po itong ginawa, not even one effort to even comply with not only our man-made laws, but with the natural law of providing benefits for the people from our environmental wealth. Mayaman ang ating bansa, mayaman ang kalikasan, subalit hindi po aangat kailanman ang pamumuhay natin kung ang abuso ng ilan ang mananaig at maiiwan pa rin ang korapsyon sa ating sistema.

Kaya ang aming panawagan: Ituloy po ninyo, Mr. President, and complete your threat for everyone to follow—“Kapag kayo ay nagpumilit, I will pound you.” Iyon po ang kanyang salita, “I will pound you,” meaning, pupukpukin ko kayo. Iyan po ay aming babantayan at iyan ay aming hihintayin sapagkat alam namin na marami sa ating gobyerno ngayon ay hindi naniniwala sa pamumuno ninuman, at naniniwala sila sa kapangyarihan ng salapi na patuloy na dumadaloy sa kanilang mga tanggapan. We believe that the President is sincere and we will support him all the way, as we will continue to call his attention on matters which pertain to the clearing of our water bodies. We have more than 212 lakes, Mr. Speaker, and we have more than 700 rivers in our country. Iyong mga taga-Bulacan na mga Miyembro ng Kongreso, tingnan ninyo ang kalagayan ng Bulacan River, puno na rin po ng fishpens, lalo na iyong palabas na sa Manila Bay. Iyong mga taga-Pampanga, tingnan po ninyo ang kalagayan ng Pampanga River, puno na rin po ng fishpens iyan na bumabara ng tubig kaya binabaha kayo sa Central Luzon. Ang dulot po ng abusong

ito ay hindi natin masusukat sapagkat buhay ang naisasakripisyo kadalasan dahil po sa kapabayaan.

Collectively, the national government, the provincial and local governments, the Congress of the Philippines, both lower and upper Houses, should be one in the efforts to liberate the nation from all these abuses on our natural wealth. We will benefit. Tayo po ang aani ng biyaya ng ating kalikasan at hindi lang para sa atin ngayon, kung hindi para sa mga darating na Pilipino. Maaalala nila na once upon a time, there was a Congress of the Philippines that supported the efforts of the national leadership so that we may free our water bodies from all of these abuses. Hindi po mangyayari ito, Mr. Speaker, kung hindi nabibigyan ng corrupting money ang mga namamahala. Ito po ay dugtung-dugtong, at ako ay natutuwa sa mga kataga ng ating Pangulo that if they do not believe what he is saying, they better be ready as he will pound them. Hihintayin ko po iyong pound na iyon. Palagay ko po ay matindi-tindi ang mangyayari kung hindi po aaksiyon ang mga kinauukulan.

All lakes, all rivers and all water bodies—these are all public waters. Ang dapat ang nangingisda diyan ay ang karaniwang Pilipino at ang dapat nakikinabang diyan ay ang mga mangingisda. Isipin ninyo, ang mga mangingisda ngayon, pinakamahirap na sektor sa ating bansa. Ang pinakamahirap na Pilipino ay nagmumula sa ating hanay ng mga mangingisda. Hindi po ba iyan ay malaking kababalaghan? Ang ating kapuluan ay mayroong katubigan na maaaring magbigay ng lamang-dagat para sa buong mundo. According to studies of the World Food Organization, the Philippine waters can feed the whole world with aquatic food if only the Philippine government would act on it and manage it well. Ito na ang hinihintay natin, hindi na natin puwedeng pabayaang ito. Tulungan natin ang ating Pangulo sapagkat hindi niya makakayanan ang mga nambobola, nanloloko at nandadaya sa ating mga namamahala.

To even say that for Laguna de Bay, only 12 to 15 percent of the area is occupied, that is one big lie. If anybody can prove me wrong on this matter, I am willing to resign from my post as a Member of Congress. Anybody who questions what I am trying to deliver now—that Laguna de Bay has about 50 to 60 percent of its waters already occupied by fishpens—huwag ninyong lokohin ang ating Pangulo. Huwag ninyong lokohin ang ating bansa sapagkat mayroon pa ring mga Pilipino na handang lumaban para sa kapakanan ng bayan.

Maraming, maraming salamat po sa pagkakataong ito.

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Gentleman from AKBAYAN Party-List is recognized.

REP. VILLARIN. Would the kind Gentleman of BUHAY Party-List yield to an interpellation?

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Gentleman may proceed to interpellate the Gentleman from BUHAY.

REP. ATIENZA. Gladly, coming from a Gentleman who is also concerned with the plight of the poor. I would gladly clarify anything that I had said and entertain any questions coming from him.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). You may proceed, the Honorable Villarín.

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

As what you have said, Mr. Speaker, that the President already said that he will dismantle all the fishpens and that he will call on the military to do it, do you think that this issue is a law enforcement issue, and if it is a law enforcement issue, it should not be the military which will be called to do this duty?

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, as one who has been involved in the efforts to dismantle these very well-funded and well-founded illegal activities, siguro, si Pangulong Duterte, out of frustration, nasabi na niya, “kung hindi ninyo aalisin iyan, kayong mga civilian governments, tatawagin ko na ang militar, tatawagin ko na ang Philippine Navy at gigibain naming lahat iyan sa pamamagitan ng motorized vehicles and motorized bancas, and the military’s might.” I could understand him that out of frustration he may not hesitate to call on the military.

REP. VILLARIN. So, if he calls on the military, Mr. Speaker, do you think that it would be going beyond what is mandated under the law—that you call on the military only in cases of invasion; that when you invoke the Commander-in-Chief powers, it is only during times of very extreme emergencies. Do you consider this Laguna Lake problem falling within that category of a very extreme emergency of national importance?

REP. ATIENZA. We support the view of the Gentleman that there should be very, very severe and extreme cases when the military should intervene in purely civilian matters. Clearing a lake should not involve the military, but if the provincial governments in Rizal and Laguna do not react, if the Laguna Lake Development Authority does not move—alam po ninyo parang nahirati na itong mga ito, sa palagay ko ay mayroon na silang mga physical cramps and mental block dahil hindi na po nakikinig ang mga ito, sapagkat noon pa man ako ay bata pa, noong binata pa ako, nakikipaglaban na ako para sa kalikasan nitong

Laguna de Bay, especially because we used to swim in that lake. We used to sail our little boats in Laguna Lake. We used to water ski in Laguna Lake. Ang ganda po ng lawang iyan pero through the decades, more than six decades, magmula noong binuo po iyong Laguna Lake Development Authority, doon po nagpatuloy ang problema. Kaya palagay ko, extreme na ito ...

REP. VILLARIN. So, sa palagay ninyo ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... kaya nasabi ng Pangulo, “militar na ang tatawagin ko rito because this is a national economic sabotage.” That lake could be the engine of development for our nation. That lake can provide the national economic miracle that we have been seeking. If nothing is done, and this is occupied by fishpens alone, then the President, to my mind—and I would support him even on his view—can call on the military to dismantle all of these fishpens.

REP. VILLARIN. But in bringing in the military, Mr. Speaker, there could be consequences, there could be legal issues and challenges that might be raised and, of course, being in a situation that we are not in a Martial Law or even if there is a declaration of such, there are certain procedural requirements that are needed. Even that power of being a Commander-in-Chief should always be used sparingly and if ever, there should also be an oversight from Congress.

Are you saying now that these powers or this exercise by the President to call on the military specifically for the purpose of dismantling the illegal fishpens in Laguna de Bay, would still fall under those na masasabi natin na hayaan na lang natin si Pangulo na gagamitin iyong ganoong kapangyarihan? Would that also be a precedent for all other emergencies for which the President alone can say that this is of extreme emergency? Ang tinutumbok ko po dito ay baka magiging precedent ito of using the Commander-in-Chief powers in all other situations that could be deemed as an extreme emergency by the President himself alone.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, I join the Gentleman in his apprehension as one who is also very sensitive. I am sensitive to any military intervention. Dumaan po tayo sa Batas Militar at ipinangako natin sa ating sarili, never again. Absolute powers produce absolute corruption kaya hindi po natin puwedeng katigan muli ang anumang militarization ng ating bansa.

Subalit dito sa problemang ito, hindi pa naman pinag-uusapan ang pag-aalis ng anumang karapatang pantao, paglabag sa ating mga karapatan bilang malayang mamamayan, kundi, ang pinag-uusapan dito ay iyong hindi magawa ng civilian government na alisin ang illegal, sa palagay ko, abnormal situations, because these abnormal situations sometimes require abnormal

solutions. Kaya sinasabi ng ating Pangulo ay militar na ang tatawagin niya, baka magpatawag siya ng dalawang bapor, lalagyan niya ng kadena at baka hihilahin niya para lahat ng fishpens doon ay matanggal.

Otherwise, iyong sinasabi ng Laguna Lake Development Authority, narinig ko po iyong announcement nila ngayon, nag-uumpisa na raw sila na magtanggal at magbaklas. Mahigit 100 square meters na raw ang natatanggal nila. Kung bibilangin po ninyo ang 62,000 hectares at 100 square meters na tinatanggal nila araw-araw, tapos na po iyong term ni Pangulong Duterte, wala na po siguro tayong lahat dito sa Kongreso, ay patuloy pa rin iyong kanilang makupad at dahan-dahang pagtupad sa batas. This is a continuing violation and a gross violation of our laws.

Palagay ko ho ay iyan nagmumula doon, and I will join the Gentleman whenever we notice that the President is unduly calling on the military for a purely civilian function. But at this point in time, as one who is also equally frustrated—I have been frustrated even when I was Secretary of Environment—hindi ko po nagawa na linisin ang lawang iyan. Alam ninyo kung bakit? Ang kumakalaban sa akin ay mga sangay din ng gobyerno, and they were the ones who were speaking out against the efforts to clear it of all the structures. Sabi nila, mawawalan na raw ng pagkain ang Metro Manila kapag inalis iyong mga fishpens na iyan. Bakit mangyayari iyong mawawala ang isda? Lalo nga pong magiging malusog ang isda. Ngayon, iyong mga isdang galing po diyan sa mga baklad diyan, huwag na po kayong kakain niyan, iyan po ang advice namin sa inyo. Ang kinakain na po niyan ay burak sa ilalim ng tubig, kasama na po ang mga poisonous substances na kinakaladkad noong mga tauhan nila roon.

Now, another factor that I agree with as regards the frustration of the President, he may call on the military because the normal forces of the local governments may not be sufficient to fight the well-entrenched security guards guarding these fish pens. Alam po ba ninyo na ang nagpapatrolya diyan ay hindi po naman mga pulis kundi mga private security guards. Kapag may mangingisdang pumasok po sa lugar ng kanilang area ay babarilin ng mga security guards. Marami na pong nasawi diyan sa ganoong paraan.

So, who will implement and enforce the law? That is why I mentioned that this may be an abnormal situation where there is total failure of enforcement of law. This may be the time wherein the President will be justified to call on the military to enforce the law, not to enforce martial rule, but rather to put order in an otherwise anarchy situation. Ang nananaig po diyan talagang ay iyong mga nakapuwestong may-ari ng fishpens. Sala pong laban ang mga mangingisda natin, wala pong laban iyong mga pulis ng mayor o mga pulis ng governor kung sila ang papasok diyan at tatanggi po ang mga security forces.

REP. VILLARIN. Ako po ay nakikiisa, Your Honor, doon sa inyong analysis na ang problema na ito ay bunsod ng napakahabang panahon ng pagpapabaya dito sa ating Laguna Lake. Hindi ba nakikita natin na ang pinag-ugatan nito ay mismo iyong ating konsepto kung paano gamitin iyong lawa? Dahil what we have now is a Laguna Lake Development Authority and being a development authority, its role is basically to extract the resources within Laguna de Bay, meaning, I think the problem stems from our conception, from our regulatory framework of Laguna Lake. So, the point that I would raise here is, of course, you have this drastic immediate solution of militarizing the bay but if we do not change the framework of how we treat Laguna de Bay from just purely an extractive resource-generating activity, unless we change it, we will not solve the problems that you have mentioned.

So, this Representation, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, is proposing that, maybe, from this extractive framework, regulatory framework perhaps we could now shift to the conservation framework for Laguna de Bay and we will not allow the massive extraction of the limited resources of Laguna de Bay. I think that this one should be the focus of our intervention especially in Congress. We need to review and revisit the law. Now, if the immediate solution is to bring in the military but we still would not change the regulatory framework of Laguna Lake, then I believe that solution will just be temporary, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, alam ninyo, ang sitwasyon ngayon ay buhul-buhol na, patung-patong na. Iyong Laguna Lake Development Authority, if I remember it correctly, in the 1960s when this was organized by law, I was there in the Senate when it was being passed and I was clapping my hands. I remembered Senator Ilarde, if anybody still remembers Senator Ilarde, he was very proud of that piece of legislation, at isa na po kami sa mga nagsaya sapagkat nabigyan ng local authority ang pangangalaga ng napakalaking lawa.

Ano po ang nangyari? Magmula noong binuo iyong Laguna Lake Development Authority and up to the present, until today, up to this hour, ay hindi po ginagawa iyong trabaho nila. Sila nga ang nagiging problema. Sila ang nagbibigay ng lisensiya, kaya sila ang nagpapabaya. Alam ba ninyo na ang Laguna Lake Development Authority ay walang budget? Patuloy ko pong tinatawagan iyan sa nakaraang budget deliberation. Bakit hindi binibigyan ng budget iyan? Dahil daw iyong kanilang suweldo ay galing sa mga koleksiyon sa mga lisensiya. Kaya ang nangyayari ay mas maraming violations, mas malaki ang kinikita nila at baka may bonus pa sila, kaya wala pong pumupuna. So, tama po ang ating kagalang-galang na Congressman Villarín that there is a need to revisit the law. I will join him

in any effort on that matter as we are already prepared also to look into the law creating the Laguna Lake Development Authority. I feel, if the President commits the mistake of asking me, as he will not ask me, he will probably ask the Majority Members of Congress, but if he does ask me, "What do you suggest, Congressman?" my first move will be to abolish the Laguna Lake Development Authority and to put in place enforcement, a maintenance department, iyong manganalaga ng katubigan para tayong lahat ay makinabang na muli sa Laguna de Bay. As I had mentioned, Laguna de Bay is just the face of the problem. Lumingon po tayo sa Manila Bay. Ang Manila Bay is one big sewage plant, a sewage area, at iyong mga fishpens diyan magmula sa Cavite—malapit na po sa Parañaque, Las Piñas—wala pong pumupuna. Kaya sabi po siguro ng Pangulo, kailangan ko na rito ay muscle kaya niya naisip iyong militar.

Do not get me wrong, and I would like to stress my point in consonance, in agreement, with the observations of the Gentleman that we should be very, very careful in allowing the military to take on purely civilian functions. With that reminder, we should all be one in observing how this goes as the important thing is to clear Laguna de Bay, clear Manila Bay, clear Taal Lake and the 200 other lakes in the nation.

REP. VILLARIN. I am glad that the Gentleman brought the matter of abolishing the LLDA because this Representation has already filed a bill seeking the creation of the Laguna Lake Conservation Authority because even the local stakeholders also see this as a big problem. There is a need to have a paradigm shift. Again, as I had said, in the short term, my advice is, let us not be too drastic in saying that this is already a very extreme emergency over which our local government units, and even Members of Congress who represent the immediate stakeholders in Laguna de Bay, will not be consulted on any major actions or interventions as that would, again, I believe, lead to some violations of the rights of individuals and of communities in Laguna de Bay, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Again, Mr. Speaker, we would like to express our appreciation for the Gentleman's questions and interpellations and his own point of view addressing the problem. I am sure it enriches the discussion and adds more knowledge and information to the topic that we brought to the floor today because we want all our Members to be interested in protecting our water bodies. Ang yaman ng bansa natin ay naka-ugat sa yaman ng ating katubigan. We have an abundance of this—we have an abundance of drinking water, in fact, but we are wasting it away rather than gaining from it.

Kailangan po ng aksyon ng Kongreso rito, and I

will join the Gentleman in his efforts to also help solve or address the problem with a final solution. Unless the fishpens are removed, the face of the government will always be stuck on the wall dahil walang masasabi ang gobyernong hindi marunong magpatupad ng batas. Kaya ako po naman ay hanga kay Pangulong Duterte sa kanyang mga binanggit. I like the phrase, "I will pound you." Ang ibig sabihin po noon, humanda kayo, pupukpukin ko kayo. Matutuwa po ako, papalakpakan ko kapag ginawa po niya iyan sa mga binanggit kong nagkukulang na mga ahensiya.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you for providing me the opportunity, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, to interpellate the good Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List. So, I have no more questions, Your Honor. Again, my sincere thanks.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales Jr. of the Third District of Pampanga for his interpellation.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). You may proceed.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Sa ating Sr. Dep. Minority Leader, puwede ho bang magtanong nang kaunti sa kanya?

REP. ATIENZA. By all means, Mr. Speaker. Again, I call on the Representatives from Bulacan, Pampanga, to name a few of the areas which are suffering from flood waters, polluted waters, and as a Gentleman-leader of Pampanga, I would be very happy to answer his questions.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you mentioned Senator Ilarde. What year was that, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ATIENZA. I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Anong taon ho naging Senador si Senator Ilarde?

REP. ATIENZA. That time it was about, probably, 1964-65, mid-60s.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Noong 1964, dalawang

taon pa lang ako, Mr. Speaker. Tanong ko lang po, ilan po iyong width ng ating Manila de Bay? Ilan iyong width ng Pampanga River? Ilan itong area ng Laguna Lake Development Authority? Noong panahon na iyon po, marami bang obstruction na mga illegal squatters, mga fishpens during your time?

REP. ATIENZA. Noong panahon pong iyon, ang aking naaalala ay malinaw ang tubig ng Laguna de Bay. Napakalinaw ng tubig ng Manila Bay. Ang Manila Bay noong araw ay talagang sentro ng kabihasan, komersyo, ekonomiya. Diyan po ay nakakahuli pa kami ng isda at nabubuhay diyan ang shellfish. Ang talaba sa Manila Bay ang pinakamasarap sa buong Pilipinas. Ngayon, hindi na po natin pwedeng kainin lahat nang mga iyan kung magmumula sa Manila Bay dahil sa kapabayaang ng mga nakaraang pamamahala.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, alam po ninyo, kaya tinanong ko lang po iyon kasi ngayon mag-i-start na po sa Region I going to Region III—Region III, I am saying the Pampanga River. If you are going to inspect Pampanga River now, ang pagkaalam ko ho diyan, ang width ng Pampanga River, for all I know, at sa mga matatanda sa akin ay tinatanong ko po iyan, 200-250 meters ang width nito. Ngayon po, siguro mga two or three years ago, bilang Kinatawan ng Tercera Distrito ng lalawigan ng Pampanga, ini-inspeksyon ko po ulit iyan. Alam po ninyo kung ilan ang width ngayon? Tama po kayo, 50 meters ang width. Minsan 30 meters, so, it is an irregular width.

Ngayon, ang sinasabi ko po, ito ay napakakitid na po nito. Tama po iyong sinasabi ninyo na, humahanap po tayo ng solusyon kung paano natin mapapaalis, kung paano natin mareresolba itong probelma. Kapag umulan, bumabaha na po sa ating mga lugar. Tapos, ang sinisisi kaagad itong mga nanunungkulan sa gobyerno.

So, Mr. Speaker, papaano ho kaya natin mareresolba itong mga illegal fishpen, illegal squatting?

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, kaya nga ang panawagan ko kay Pangulo, huwag ho titigan masyado ang Laguna de Bay lang sapagkat nandiyan po ang lahat ng ating katubigan, ang mahigit 200 ng ating mga lakes at mahigit 700 ng ating mga ilog. Marami po diyan, kagaya po ng sinabi ng ating Kongresista sa Pampanga, ay kumikitid na at nagiging dahilan na sa paglala ng problema natin sa baha.

Tuwing makikita ko po iyong baha sa Pampanga, Bulacan, Metro Manila, at makikita ko po iyong Pasig River at makikita ko po ang Laguna de Bay, ay talaga pong hindi ko maiwasang sabihin sa sarili ko, "Aba'y, kailan pa tayo gigising?" Ang ating yaman na ito ay hindi natin talaga pinapakinabangan ngayon, bagkus nagiging problema. Iyang mga ilog natin, mga freshwater lakes natin, diyan po nagmumula ang lahat

ng ating tubig na iniinom. Nagmumula po iyan sa dam, sa bundok, dumadaloy sa lawa, tumatakbo sa ilog na kung iyan ay ating pangangalagaan, Mr. Speaker, ay hindi po mananalo sa atin ang mga fresh water, mineral water suppliers ng mundo as we can supply all the fresh water requirements of Asia, Hong Kong, Singapore—all of them kung iyan po ay aasikasuhin lang ng gobyerno. Kung hindi natin lilinis ang tubig, aba ay malalason po ang iinom diyan.

Just to give everyone an idea, we have an oversupply of fresh water. Rain water, even from typhoons and low pressure areas may be sometimes destructive but these are blessings of nature that pour on all of us. If the Middle East has oil reserves, the Philippines has an abundance of fresh water. Ang gasolina ngayon, mas mura pa kaysa sa isang bote ng tubig. Kapag bumili tayo ng tubig ngayon, kung minsan P50, lalo na iyong imported, pero ang gasolina ay mayroong P27, mayroong P30. Mas mahal ngayon ang tubig kaysa gasolina. So, you can imagine if we develop our water resources by cleaning and clearing all the water bodies, we will not worry about our economic problems affecting us out of the deterioration of the peso, the peace and order conditions, and other elements that are giving us problems now dahil sobra-sobra po ang ating supply ng tubig na dapat ay iniinom at hindi naaksaya dahil sa kapabayaan.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Salamat, Mr. Speaker. Alam ko po, Congressman Atienza, during your time, you were one of the Cabinet members of the Arroyo administration under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Ito ho bang problema na ito ay nandito na noong kayo ho ang Kalihim ng DENR, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ATIENZA. Andoon na po sapagkat inaksiyunan namin ito at kami ay unti-unting nagtatagumpay hanggang gumalaw at kumilos ang mga kinauukulan. Hinihingi nga nila iyong puwesto ko, kung puwede raw ay paalisin na ako. Buti na lang ang Pangulong Arroyo ay naniniwala sa aking intensiyon at naniniwala sa aking integridad, at sinuportahan ako sa mga isyung iyan subalit hindi po nagtagumpay, hindi po nakumpleto. Nalinis namin ang malaking bahagi ng Manila Bay. Nalinis namin ang maliit na bahagi ng Laguna de Bay. Sinabi kong maliit dahil nakaharang ang Laguna Lake Development Authority diyan. Sila ang defender ng illegalities diyan and in fact, nagtatalo kami sa Malacañang. Buti na lang kinakampihan ako ng Pangulong Arroyo. Sabi nga niya, “Huwag kang magsumbong sa akin, kay Secretary Atienza ka magsabi ng sinasabi mong kabalbalan.”

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Naniniwala po ako, Mr. Speaker, kasi one time during those days na nasa palasyo ako, sinasabi niya, “One of the brilliant

Secretaries is Secretary Atienza of the DENR. If he can continue his program, he can solve the problems all over our country.” Totoo po iyong sinasabi niya, naniniwala ako. Sana po iyong mga programa ninyo na naiwanan during your time na puwedeng ipagpatuloy, kailangan namang ipagpatuloy, not only in this major channel, but also this tributary channel. You know, I said tributary channel because it is not only the urban areas, but also the rural areas.

Tingnan po natin ang daloy ng mga tubig sa bawat probinsiya natin, halos barado na ho iyan. Kung baga sa tao, Mr. Speaker, kapag inatake ka, sabi niya inatake siya, bakit inatake? Kasi may bumara sa prinsipal na ugat sa ulo, hindi ho ba, ano? Mayroon tayong prinsipal na ugat, mayroon tayong iyong ugat na sinasabi na—hindi ako duktor pero pag pumutok iyong prinsipal na ugat, mamamatay iyong tao. Ibig sabihin, pag iyong major channel ay pumutok at isinara ay lalabas iyong tubig, tapos, magkakaroon tayo ng flooding. Kaya hindi lang po dapat iyong mga major channels, isama po natin iyong mga small tributaries. So, Mr. Speaker, iyon po ang puwede kong masabi sa ating dating Kalihim at ngayon ay ating kasama dito sa Kamara, na sana po ipagpatuloy kung ano po ang inyong magandang programa—kasi ho ang Pampanga, halos malapit na lang po iyan sa Metro Manila kaya kapag bumaha sa Metro Manila, siguradong babaha o magbackflow po iyong tubig sa amin sa probinsiya.

So, on that note, Mr. Speaker, nagpapasalamat po ako sa Sr. Dep. Minority Leader na si Congressman Atienza. Salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, we would like to express full appreciation and commendation to the interest of Congressman Gonzales (A.D.) on the topic which we brought forth this afternoon. Kung lahat po tayo ay magkakaroon nang interes dito sa ating problema sa kalikasan ngayon, sa palagay ko ay makatutulong tayo ng malaki.

We thank him for his insight. We thank him for his questions. I must admit, if there is one frustration in my 44 years of public service, Mr. Speaker, my frustration is that as Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, hindi ko po nagawa iyong gagawin ni Pangulong Digong na aalisin niyang lahat ito sa isang iglap. If only I could had done that, I would consider myself as having contributed already to conserving a great portion of our natural wealth. Kaya inaamin ko po, hindi natin nagawa ang lahat ng gusto nating gawin. Ngayon, mayroon tayong Pangulo na gumagawa ng tama kaya tulungan natin. Kung hindi natin siya tutulungan, hindi rin papansinin ng mga gobernador, hindi papansinin ng mga mayors, aasahan ko po iyong sinabi niya, “I will pound you.” Iyon po ang inaasam ko sa ating Pangulo.

Maraming, maraming salamat sa pagkakataong ito. We thank the Body for listening to our message this afternoon. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Thank you, the Honorable Atienza.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Atienza to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the interpellations thereon as well to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado of the First District of Bulacan as well as the Hon. Edward Vera Perez Maceda of the Fourth District of Manila, and Dr. Ramon Ricardo Roque, the Deputy Secretary General. They have in the plenary today their guests, Dr. Enrico Torres and his seven doctoral students from the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

#### ROLL CALL

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is as follows, per Journal No. 50, dated November 29, 2016:*

PRESENT

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Abaya             | Cojuangco       |
| Abayon            | Collantes       |
| Abellanos         | Cortes          |
| Abu               | Cortuna         |
| Abueg             | Crisologo       |
| Acop              | Cua             |
| Advincula         | Cuaresma        |
| Aggabao           | Dalipe          |
| Aglipay-Villar    | Dalog           |
| Alejano           | Daza            |
| Almario           | De Venecia      |
| Almonte           | De Vera         |
| Alonte-Naguiat    | Defensor        |
| Alvarez (F.)      | Del Mar         |
| Alvarez (M.)      | Del Rosario     |
| Alvarez (P.)      | Deloso-Montalla |
| Angara-Castillo   | Dimaporo (A.)   |
| Aragones          | Dy              |
| Arenas            | Elago           |
| Atienza           | Eriguel         |
| Bagatsing         | Ermita-Buhain   |
| Baguilat          | Escudero        |
| Banal             | Espina          |
| Barzaga           | Espino          |
| Bataoil           | Estrella        |
| Batocabe          | Fariñas         |
| Bautista-Bandigan | Ferrer (J.)     |
| Belmonte (F.)     | Ferrer (L.)     |
| Belmonte (J.C.)   | Ferriol-Pascual |
| Belmonte (R.)     | Floirendo       |
| Benitez           | Fortun          |
| Bernos            | Fortuno         |
| Billones          | Fuentebella     |
| Biron             | Garbin          |
| Bolilia           | Garcia (J.E.)   |
| Bondoc            | Garin (S.)      |
| Bordado           | Gasataya        |
| Bravo (A.)        | Go (M.)         |
| Bravo (M.V.)      | Gomez           |
| Brosas            | Gonzaga         |
| Bulut-Begtang     | Gonzales (A.P.) |
| Calixto-Rubiano   | Gonzales (A.D.) |
| Campos            | Gonzalez        |
| Cari              | Gorriceta       |
| Casilao           | Gullas          |
| Castelo           | Hernandez       |
| Castro (F.L.)     | Herrera-Dy      |
| Castro (F.H.)     | Hofer           |
| Celeste           | Jalosjos        |
| Cerafica          | Kho             |
| Cerilles          | Labadlabad      |
| Chavez            | Lacson          |
| Chipeco           | Lagman          |
| Co                | Laogan          |



|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Lazatin          | Roman            |
| Leachon          | Romualdo         |
| Limkaichong      | Roque (H.)       |
| Lobregat         | Roque (R.)       |
| Lopez (B.)       | Sagarbarria      |
| Lopez (C.)       | Salo             |
| Lopez (M.L.)     | Salon            |
| Macapagal-Arroyo | Santos-Recto     |
| Maceda           | Sarmiento (C.)   |
| Malapitan        | Sarmiento (E.M.) |
| Mangaoang        | Savellano        |
| Mangudadatu (S.) | Sema             |
| Marquez          | Siao             |
| Martinez         | Singson          |
| Matugas          | Suansing (E.)    |
| Mellana          | Suansing (H.)    |
| Mercado          | Suarez           |
| Mirasol          | Sy-Alvarado      |
| Montoro          | Tambunting       |
| Nava             | Tan (A.)         |
| Nieto            | Tan (M.)         |
| Nogralas (J.J.)  | Tejada           |
| Nogralas (K.A.)  | Teves            |
| Nolasco          | Tiangco          |
| Nuñez-Malanyaon  | Tinio            |
| Ong (E.)         | Tugna            |
| Ortega (P.)      | Tupas            |
| Ortega (V.N.)    | Turabin-Hataman  |
| Pacquiao         | Ty               |
| Paduano          | Unabia           |
| Palma            | Ungab            |
| Pancho           | Unico            |
| Panganiban       | Uy (J.)          |
| Panotes          | Uy (R.)          |
| Papandayan       | Uybarreta        |
| Pichay           | Vargas           |
| Pimentel         | Vargas-Alfonso   |
| Pineda           | Velarde          |
| Primicias-Agabas | Veloso           |
| Quimbo           | Villafuerte      |
| Radaza           | Villanueva       |
| Ramirez-Sato     | Villarica        |
| Ramos            | Villarín         |
| Relampagos       | Violago          |
| Revilla          | Yap (M.)         |
| Roa-Puno         | Yap (V.)         |
| Robes            | Yu               |
| Rocamora         | Zarate           |
| Rodriguez (I.)   | Zubiri           |
| Rodriguez (M.)   |                  |

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). With 207 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

1. House Bill No. 1473, from the Committee on Health to the Committees on Basic Education and Culture and Higher and Technical Education;

2. House Bill No. 898, from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;

3. House Bill Nos. 985 and 1915, from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Women and Gender Equality;

4. House Bill No. 1998, from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Trade and Industry;

5. House Bill No. 1339, from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Local Government;

6. House Bill No. 2006, from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;

7. House Bill No. 1367, from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;

8. House Bill No. 2551, from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Dangerous Drugs;

9. House Bill No. 1084, from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Local Government;

10. House Bill No. 1719, from the Committee on Agriculture and Food to the Committee on Agrarian Reform;

11. House Bill No. 1669, from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Local Government;

12. House Bill No. 2595, from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Games and Amusements;

13. House Bill No. 2594, from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Games and Amusements;

14. House Bill No. 767, from the Committee on Health to the Special Committee on Food Security; and

15. House Bill No. 3419, from the Committee on Agriculture and Food to the Special Committee on Food Security.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

#### REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the Rules Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation, I move that we refer the following House Resolutions to the appropriate Committees:

1. House Resolution 335 – on the structure of the Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB) to protect the benefits and rights of World War II Philippine Veterans, to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;

2. House Resolution No. 338 – on the extent of the presence of ISIS in the Philippines, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;

3. House Resolution No. 545 – on the threats, harassments, vilification of students and teachers of the CLANS Lumad School Diya Menuwa in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat, and their community leaders by the police, military and representatives of national government agencies and the local government, to the Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples;

4. House Resolution No. 546 – on the proliferation of illegal gambling, to the Committee on Games and Amusements;

5. House Resolution No. 547 – on the implementation of RA 9003, otherwise known as the “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000,” to the Committee on Ecology;

6. House Resolution No. 549 – on the implementation, particularly reports of irregularities and abuse, of the Emergency Shelter Assistance (ESA) Program by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), to the Committee on Social Services;

7. House Resolution No. 552 – on the nationalization of health services and other jobs in Saudi Arabia and its immediate impact on overseas Filipino workers and their families, and the national economy, to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;

8. House Resolution No. 556 – on the implementation of Republic Act 10639 or Act mandating the telecommunications service providers to send free mobile alerts in the event of natural and manmade disasters and calamities, particularly when super typhoon Lawin struck and damaged much of Northern Luzon, to the Committee on Public Information;

9. House Resolution No. 557 – on the alleged water crisis and the revival of the construction of the Kaliwa Dam and the Laiban Dam Project, to the Committee on Public Works and Highways;

10. House Resolution No. 558 – on the plight of our overseas Filipino workers- household service workers in Kuwait and into the oft-repeated demand for ban/moratorium on their deployment of Filipino organizations in Kuwait, to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;

11. House Resolution No. 561 – on the alleged misuse of funds released to the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), and controversies involving the election of the POC President and other officers on November 25, 2016, to the Committee on Youth and Sports Development;

12. House Resolution No. 563 – on amending the Number Coding Scheme to reduce vehicle volume in major thoroughfares in Metro Manila, to the Committee on Transportation;

13. House Resolution No. 565 – on the circumstances that compelled Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) Director Francisco Jose S. Villa, Jr. to commit suicide, including alleged pressure from ERC Chair and Chief Executive Officer Jose Vicente B. Salazar to approve contracts without proper bidding and due adherence to procedure, as well as allegations of corruption behind ERC deals, to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability; and

14. House Resolution No. 566 – on the alleged midnight deals of the Manila Electric Company (MERALCO)-affiliated generation companies and the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) which may be disadvantageous to the public and may cause power rate hikes, to the Committee on Energy.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

#### APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker I move that we approve Journal No. 49 dated November 28, 2016.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until four o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, December 6, 2016.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). There is a motion to adjourn...

REP. GULLAS. December 5.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). We will resume the session on December 5, 2016, Monday, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

*It was 5:43 p.m.*