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No. 51

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Fredenil "Fred" H. Castro called the session to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is now called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Please rise for the singing of the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer and meditation.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

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

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

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

The approval of the Journal of the previous session is hereby deferred.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we now proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

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

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4520, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF CARAGA REGIONAL HOSPITAL LOCATED IN BARANGAY WASHINGTON, SURIGAO CITY, SURIGAO DEL NORTE FROM ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (150) TO THREE HUNDRED (300) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Barbers
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4521, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONWIDE OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF HAZARDS (NOAH) CENTER TO STRENGTHEN DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Yu
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 4522, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONTINUING NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR HYBRID AND OTHER QUALITY SEEDS PRODUCTION

AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4523, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE CITY OF
MANDAUE FROM THE SIXTH
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE
PROVINCE OF CEBU TO CONSTITUTE
THE LONE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF
THE CITY OF MANDAUE CITY”

By Representative Abellanosa
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4525, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA
OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS”

By Representative Mendoza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS
WORKERS AFFAIRS

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 582, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON
THE PERSISTENT AND PREVALENT
ANOMALIES AND SCAMS CONCERNING
THE LAND REGISTRATION
AUTHORITY”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 583, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND
AMUSEMENTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS
AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE REGULAR
MANDATORY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE
PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES
OFFICE (PCSO), WITH THE END IN VIEW
OF REVIEWING ITS CHARTER AND
ENSURING THAT SAID CONTRIBUTIONS
WERE REMITTED AND UTILIZED FOR
THEIR INTENDED PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 584, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT
AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF

LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND
INTENSIFIED MILITARIZATION IN
SEVERAL TOWNS IN MASBATE, IN
THE GUISE OF ‘OPLAN TOKHANG’,
IN VIOLATION OF THE UNILATERAL
CEASEFIRE DECLARATION OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
THE PHILIPPINES (GRP)”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Reps. Enrico A. Pineda and Frederick W. Siao for
House Bills No. 1615, 2862, 2863, 2864, 3852, 3943,
4087, 4088, 4089, 4090 and 4337;

Reps. Michael L. Romero, Ph.D., Bernadette “BH”
Herrera-Dy, Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr., Benhur
B. Lopez Jr., Salvador B. Belaro Jr., Alfredo A. Garbin
Jr., Teodoro “Ted” G. Montoro and Luis Jose Angel N.
Campos Jr. for House Bills No. 1615, 2862, 2863, 2864,
3852, 3853, 3943, 4087, 4088, 4089, 4090 and 4337;

Rep. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan for House Bills
No. 1615, 2862, 2863, 2864, 3852, 3853, 3943, 4087,
4089, 4090 and 4337;

Rep. Ron P. Salo for House Bills No. 1615, 2862,
2863, 2864, 3852, 3853, 4087, 4088, 4089 and 4090;

Rep. Delphine Gan Lee for House Bills No. 3943
and 4337;

Rep. Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo for House Bills
No. 1563, 2265, 2476, 2513, 2733, 2848, 3201 and
4174;

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting for House Bills No. 894,
1035, 2604 and 2610;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado
for House Bills No. 2319, 2474, 2953, 3782,

3943, 4337, 4356, 4396, 4411, 4478 and 4500 and
House Resolution No. 559;

Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto for House
Bills No. 4020, 4077, 4078, 4102, 4119, 4137, 4263
and 4265;

Rep. Gerald Anthony “Samsam” V. Gullas Jr. for
House Bills No. 416 and 4149;

Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba for House Bills No.
2312 and 2313;

Reps. Evelina G. Escudero, Arnel M. Cerafica,
Napoleon S. Dy, Noel L. Villanueva and Vicente
“Ching” S.E. Veloso for House Bill No. 4174;

Reps. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, Greg G.
Gasataya, Arcadio H. Gorriceta, Joey Sarte Salceda,
Richard C. Eusebio, Celso L. Lobregat, Sandra Y. Eriguell,
M.D., Carmelo “Jon” B. Lazatin II, Arnel M. Cerafica
and Jose Carlos L. Cari for House Bill No. 3931;

Rep. Ma. Theresa V. Collantes for House Bills No.
2864, 3852, 3943, 4088 and 4090;

Rep. Richard C. Eusebio for House Bills No. 2863, 3943 and 4337;

Rep. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy for House Bills No. 565, 567 and 568;

Rep. Arcadio H. Gorriceta for House Bill No. 516;

Rep. Vicente “Ching” S.E. Veloso for House Bill No. 558;

Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe for House Bills No. 1115, 1427, 1428, 1429, 2993, 4356 and 4360;

Rep. Michael L. Romero, Ph.D. for House Bill No. 4117;

Rep. Christopher “Toff” Vera Perez De Venecia for House Bills No. 3254 and 4357;

Rep. Salvador B. Belaro Jr. for House Bill No. 61;

Reps. Elisa “Olga” T. Kho, Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr., Florida “Rida” P. Robes, John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, Raul “Boboy” C. Tupas, Jose “Pingping” I. Tejada, Ben P. Evardone, Aileen C. Radaza, Bellaflor J. Angara-Castillo, Tom S. Villarín, Pedro B. Acharon Jr., Rogelio “Ruel” D. Pacquiao, Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II, Horacio P. Suansing Jr., Jonas C. Cortes, Wilfredo S. Caminero, Benhur B. Lopez Jr. and Peter John D. Calderon for House Bill No. 401;

Rep. Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta for House Bills No. 565, 566, 567, 568, 2318, 2319, 2474, 2953 and 3782;

Rep. Ramon “Red” H. Durano VI for House Bill No. 4093; and

Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo for House Bill No. 3136.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

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

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, we ask for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended.

It was 4:05 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:06 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F. H.). The session is resumed.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Gentleman from Party-List AKBAYAN, the Hon. Tomasito “Tom” S. Villarín, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F. H.). Rep. Tomasito Villarín from the Party-List AKBAYAN is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. VILLARIN

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker; thank you, Floor Leader.

My colleagues in the House, good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, today, Vice President Leni Robredo resigned her Cabinet post as head of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC). No, the Vice President did not quit but was fired from her job, as the Speaker opined. Malacañang said that irreconcilable differences with the Vice President led to the falling out and eventual booting from the Cabinet of Vice President Leni Robredo. To this minute, I have heard that President Duterte has accepted with a heavy heart the resignation of Vice President Leni Robredo. Whatever the reasons, Mr. Speaker, she was booted out through a text message. Yes, an SMS—short, methodical, summary execution of an order coming from no less than President Duterte through Cabinet Secretary Leoncio “Jun” Evasco, as forwarded by a text from Christopher “Bong” Go, the loyal aide of the President who heads the Presidential Management Staff. The message said that she is to desist from attending all Cabinet meetings starting this Monday, December 5.

In a statement released to the media, Vice President Robredo stated:

This is the last straw because it makes it impossible for me to perform my duties. Hence, I am tendering my resignation from the Cabinet on Monday, December 5, 2016. With this resignation, you can expect that I will continue to support the positive initiatives of this administration and oppose those that are inimical to the people.

Vice President Leni Robredo further warned us of a plot to steal the vice presidency and she said that recent events indicate that this plot is now being set into motion. But our feisty and admirable Vice President has

this to say, “I will not allow the will of the people to be thwarted. I will continue to serve the Filipino family and fulfill their dream for a better life.”

Mr. Speaker, I know Vice President Leni to be a person of conviction, having a passion for the poor; a silent worker who enjoys being with farmers, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples and those in the fringes of society—ang mga nasa “laylayan ng lipunan.” Having worked with her through the NGO Saligan, an alternative law group, when I was also with a similar NGO called Kaisahan, I came to know this admirable lady to be so bereft of political ambitions or being hungry for power. She was a virtual unknown when she was selected to be the running mate of former DILG Sec. Mar Roxas. VP Leni is not one of those who wanted power nor desperately needed power. Her strength comes from her convictions and that of being a decent person. She is a loving and doting mother to three daughters with the late Secretary Jesse Robredo, himself a decent man and an untainted public official. She is a working mother and a public official who is now thrust to the second highest position of the land.

The media loves her and wanted to portray her as what she really is—a humble, starkly beautiful and fearless woman. Thus, there is no reason her detractors should despise her for appearing in the cover of prestigious magazines. After all, her position and demeanor is a contrast to the grizzly killings and foul-mouthed invectives thrown daily in media.

Mr. Speaker, as the HUDCC Chairperson for less than five months, VP Leni cut the bureaucratic red tape in housing applications for the poor. She argued with Congress not to cut the budget for housing, saying that 5.2 million families living in blighted areas need government’s help. She batted for on-site, in-city resettlement for informal settler families and the provision of livelihood and employment opportunities. She was overseeing the Yolanda housing backlog problems when the axe fell on her. While this is not the first time, nor will it be the last, when the President and the Vice President come from two opposing parties, the treatment she received as a Cabinet member leaves much to be desired. Her resignation reflected how the President draws the line, with the tell-tale saying: “those who are not with me are against me.” This portends of a highly partisan and divisive presidency which is not good for our nation.

As a woman, VP Leni was even subjected to misogynist remarks and marked hostility just because she opposes extrajudicial killings, the Marcos burial at the LNMB and the Marcoses’ return to power, the reimposition of the death penalty, among others, which for a long time has been her advocacy and principle. While she shared the vision of the President to better the lives of the poor, she struggled with him over principles, especially on the dignity of human life and

the human person. In short, she speaks her mind out and is not swayed by the onrush of sycophants willing to do the fist and raise it in Hitler-like salute. Thus, I would agree with her when she said that her stay in President Duterte’s Cabinet is untenable, but I would say that her being booted out was a great disservice to the Filipino people. With a few good men and women in public service, she is a great loss to our country and people.

Mr. Speaker, AKBAYAN Party-List would like to commend VP Leni Robredo for showing grace under fire, for standing for principles over pragmatism, for resisting and exposing a culture of impunity, unbridled machismo, rising patriarchy, intolerance and sheer lack of decency. We are one with her in her call not to let the will of the people be thwarted by insidious attempts to “game the electoral protest” in favor of the late dictator’s son and namesake. We are one with her in rejecting historical revisionism and fighting the darkness that is slowly enveloping this nation. We are with #LabanLeni in fighting against the dying of the light as we rage with fervor over our freedoms and democratic way of life. Now that she is unshackled from the Duterte administration, she has become a beacon of hope for all Filipinos. VP Leni offers compassion over ruthlessness, justice over just moving on, freedom over lies and untruths, and the heart of #EveryWoman. She has no traditional political machinery, save for the courage to tread along a path less travelled.

Mr. Speaker, she is my Vice President, come hell or high water, for she will be the last woman standing in this fight. Thank you, and mabuhay si VP Leni Robredo at ang sambayanang Pilipino.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. H. Harry L. Roque Jr. from KABAYAN Party-List for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Cong. Harry Roque is hereby recognized.

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

Will the Gentleman from AKBAYAN Party-List yield to a few points of interpellation?

REP. VILLARIN. Yes, I will, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ROQUE (H.). My first question, of course, is in the minds of most of our people. May I know what was the official reason given by the Vice President when she resigned as member of the Cabinet of the administration.

REP. VILLARIN. I think the Office of the Vice President submitted a formal letter to the Office of the President, and what was stated in my earlier remarks in her media statement released yesterday was the irreconcilable differences between her and the President.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Irreconcilable differences, Mr. Speaker. May I know, in the first place, why the Vice President sought and accepted a Cabinet position in this administration, knowing fully well that they did not belong to the same party. In fact, even during the campaign, she should have known that they already had irreconcilable differences with the President.

REP. VILLARIN. For the information of the Hon. Harry Roque, the Vice President did not seek that Cabinet position; it was offered to her.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Mr. Speaker, I may have been mistaken, but I read in many newspaper reports that, in fact, the Vice President expressed the wish to be appointed because she wanted to have an active role in governance. That is why I am now surprised at the statement of the Gentleman from AKBAYAN Party-List that the Vice President did not seek the appointment.

In any case, the question then is, if she did not seek the position, why did she accept knowing fully well that she ran under a different party from the President, and that if she were, in fact, a public persona interested in the platform of government, then they have different platforms of government?

REP. VILLARIN. Again, Mr. Speaker, for the information of the Hon. H. Harry L. Roque Jr., when a Cabinet position is offered by no less than the President of the land to any loving citizen of this country, and that if the terms of that offer would be for the benefit of the Filipino people, nobody, I mean, no citizen can say no to the President. Again, I would like to reiterate that, as the elected Vice President of the Philippines and by tradition in any administration, the Vice President is usually offered a Cabinet post in any administration even if the two highest positions of the land come from two opposing ideological forces, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Mr. Speaker, my question earlier was why she accepted and I did not hear any response other than it was offered and had to be accepted. My question, Mr. Speaker, was, when you want to join the Cabinet of the administration, is it not true, and I would like the Gentleman from AKBAYAN to confirm this, that you share in the vision of government of that particular administration? So, my question now is, when she accepted that position, did not the Vice President accept the same program of

government of the administration of President Duterte even if initially in the elections, they did not belong to the same party?

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I think that, after every election, there is always a call for unity. The elected President, President Duterte himself called for that unity, and one way for that unity to happen is to offer the post to even opposing personalities from other parties. In any democratic tradition, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, this kind of approach of seeking unity and healing is not just happening here in the Philippines but in other democratic countries. Although we are not in a parliamentary system, we are in a multiparty unicameral system, and even if our elections are a winner-take-all affair, the usual call is always for unity and that came from no less than President Duterte himself, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ROQUE (H.). So, Mr. Speaker, I take it that the reply of the Gentleman from AKBAYAN is “yes” because the Vice President wanted unity in the nation; she shared the same view, the same governance goals as our President Rodrigo Duterte. Is this not correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VILLARIN. When you say the governance view, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, it is basically for the service of the Filipino people. These are very broad and laudable objectives. Again, as in any new administration, as in any new government for that matter, when you set up your Cabinet, your policies, it slowly evolves, and from that broader perspective, the finer details of governance are laid before us and even laid before the very eyes of our Vice President. For sure, when she attends Cabinet meetings, as I have said, the Vice President speaks her mind out and in so doing, she opposes specific policies of the Duterte administration that she deems inimical to the Filipino people. I think that is the kind of governance that is being pursued by our Vice President.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Mr. Speaker, again, I am not sure of the response of the Gentleman from AKBAYAN in reply to my question and that is, when she decided to join, it was for purposes of unity, which called for adopting the same platform of the President. Nonetheless, I will move on if the Gentleman will not give us a categorical answer.

My next question then is, how long did this envisioned unity with the Duterte administration last, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VILLARIN. It lasted up to this day, Mr. Speaker, her being a Cabinet Member. As I had said in my privilege speech, her offer of resignation was accepted by the President.

REP. ROQUE (H.). So, how ...

REP. VILLARIN. It does not mean, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, that the Vice President has departed from what she believes should be the function of a public official, especially being the Vice President, the second highest elected official of the land. In doing so, Vice President Robredo has stated that she will continue to support the positive initiatives of this administration but will oppose those that are inimical to the people. That is her statement, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Let me rephrase my question, Mr. Speaker. How many months did this desire for unity last? Was this desire for unity effective until today when her resignation was accepted by the President, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VILLARIN. As I had said, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I already answered that question.

REP. ROQUE (H.). If I remember correctly, it lasted, more or less, four months, with her having been appointed about two months after the President was sworn in as President. Is this not correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker, I had said that her appointment and her taking on the job as Chairperson of the HUDCC lasted less than five months. That, I think, is the timeframe when she was with the Duterte Cabinet, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ROQUE (H.). So, Mr. Speaker, this unity lasted only five months. My first question is, before opting for unity the Vice President, because she was the highest elected official of the opposition party, could have instead opted to become head of the Opposition. Is this not correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VILLARIN. For the information of the good Gentleman from KABAYAN, I do not know which opposition party he is talking about because her party, the Liberal Party, is aligned with the super Majority. So, I do not know which opposition party the good Gentleman from KABAYAN is talking about.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Well, Mr. Speaker, my question precisely was on the possibility that instead of forming part of the Majority, the Vice President, as the second highest official of the land and as the highest elected official from her political party, could have led the opposition. Of course, I know what the reality is, and the reality is that party coalesced with the Majority. I have a reason for asking this question because now that

the Vice President has deemed that this unity with the administration should end, what will happen to her party now? She cannot distance herself from her political party. She is second highest official of the land, and the highest elected official of that party. Do I take it now that that party has also sought an end to this unity with this administration, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to inform Cong. Harry Roque that I cannot speak for Vice President Leni's party because I belong to another political party. I believe that the leaders of her political party can gladly stand up and answer Congressman Harry Roque's questions.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Well, it is with much regret, Mr. Speaker, that the Gentleman from AKBAYAN could not answer these questions. When one takes the floor and extols an official for an act that she has recently done, it is only but proper that, perhaps, he should be in a position to answer legitimate questions arising from that act of that particular official.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, I know that the Gentleman from AKBAYAN comes from a different political party, but we also know that that political party is in very close political alliance with the political party of the Vice President. So I am now surprised that the good Gentleman from AKBAYAN appears to be distancing himself now from the party of the Vice President. Now, is this really the case now, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VILLARIN. Again, Mr. Speaker, to make a point of order, it is not I who can speak for the party of the President. Again, I want to make it a point, and it was expressed in my privilege speech, that I stand behind Leni Robredo. I stand behind her convictions and because of that stand and because of her political party, I am not saying that I am distancing from her political party. What I am saying is that the AKBAYAN, my party, extols what the good Vice President has done for this country and her people. AKBAYAN also affirms its commitment to the principles that VP Leni Robredo stands for and it, the AKBAYAN, will continue to stand and support the Vice President as the second highest elected official of this land.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Mr. Speaker, the Gentleman from AKBAYAN raised a point of order. May I know the particular rule he is invoking for his point of order?

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, you are demanding from this Representation to answer correctly or, as what you would say, to answer substantially your questions, and I am saying that I have answered your questions. The basic fact remains

that I am not from the political party of the Vice President, so what more could I say? So, are you now saying that I should be forced to answer questions I am not in a position to answer?

REP. ROQUE (H.). Mr. Speaker, it was not I who raised a point of order. The records are very clear or will make it very clear that it was the Gentleman from AKBAYAN who raised a point of order. It is only but proper that we find out what rule of the House I am violating now because he raised a point of order. I would like a ruling from the Chair if I am, in fact, violating any rule of this House in making this line of interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. VILLARIN. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, if I could say that my use of a hyperbole would suffice to answer and mitigate the hurt feelings of the good Gentleman Roque, then I would say that the point of order that I had said is not basically a technical point of order. I am just saying it plainly and as a matter of fact that I cannot speak for the political party of the Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). In considering the request of Cong. H. Harry L. Roque Jr. for the Chair to rule on the point of order posed by the Gentleman from AKBAYAN, the Chair wants to hear the position of the Floor Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move for a few minutes suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended.

It was 4:35 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:38 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed.

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, after clarifying with the Gentleman from AKBAYAN, it would seem that no point of order was raised and we explained it to the Gentleman, Congressman Harry Roque, who wishes to continue with his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Is Congressman Harry Roque satisfied with the explanation of the Dep. Majority Leader?

REP. ROQUE (H.). Well, Mr. Speaker, with that clarification that there was no point of order, I am satisfied. If the Chair will allow me, I would like to continue with my interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). You may continue with your interpellation, Congressman Harry Roque.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Well, actually, Mr. Speaker, this is not now by way of interpellation but perhaps, a few observations arising from the speech of the Gentleman from AKBAYAN.

I have no personal axe to grind against the Vice President, Mr. Speaker. Truth to tell is that the Vice President and I lived in the same building, in the same dormitory for one year. In 1986 to 1987, we were dormmates in Nakamura Residence Hall. In 1982—thank you, I stand corrected by Congressman Belmonte—up to 1983. So, I have no axe to grind against the Vice President. However, my observations are: number one, I did find it odd that she accepted a Cabinet post in an administration that does not share her vision of government; number two, because she should, in my view, never have accepted that position if she did not join the platform or she did not believe in the platform of government of this administration. I am, therefore, not surprised that she had come to a point of irreconcilable differences after only five months in office.

Of course, no one can compel her to continue in office, but she should have known from the very beginning, if she opted to join this Cabinet on the bases of principles and a platform of government in the first place, perhaps, that she would have this difficulty.

I have no further questions, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, before we resume, we would like to acknowledge the presence of guests in the gallery of the Hon. Harry Roque. They are from the League of Assembly Members of Nippon Kaigi (Japan Conference) delegation visiting the House of Representatives, namely: Mr. Masaru Fujii, the Deputy Planning Manager; Koji Ogata from the Preparation of Asian Global Promotion; and, Ms. Tamami Nakahara, a student of Waseda University.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

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

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Floor Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Congressman ...

REP. ATIENZA. As we requested, we would like to interpellate the Gentleman from AKBAYAN who delivered a very principled statement on the resignation of the Vice President from the Cabinet. If he is willing, we would like to ask some more questions of him to elaborate on this issue.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Chair has not recognized yet Congressman Atienza. Kindly wait for your recognition.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, the Floor Leader already recognized me.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Chair has not made a ruling ...

REP. ATIENZA. I am seeking the Chair's ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). ... on the motion of the Floor Leader.

REP. ATIENZA. I am seeking the Chair's recognition now.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Chair has not made the ruling on the motion of the Floor Leader.

Now, I will recognize Congressman Atienza.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Upon motion of the Floor Leader, Cong. Lito Atienza of Buhay Party-List is hereby recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. I thank the Chair for his magnanimity and broad-mindedness with his ruling in this Chamber. With the permission of the Gentleman from AKBAYAN Party-List, we would like to pose more questions on what he cited to us in his message this afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). According to the Rules of the House, the moment that a Congressman or Member of the House has already taken his seat, he signifies that he is not available for any further interpellation. Therefore, ...

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). ... since the good Gentleman from AKBAYAN is now again standing after sitting down, is the Chair to understand that he wants to be interpellated further?

REP. ATIENZA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we understand the Gentleman from AKBAYAN because ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Chair does not understand him. That is why we want to know ...

REP. ATIENZA. The Floor Leader postponed ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). That is why I want to know this from him: Does the Gentleman want to be further interpellated?

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to stand again and I am willing to be interpellated, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Okay.

REP. ATIENZA. Indeed, we have a very magnanimous speaker today and a very well-versed parliamentarian.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Congressman Lito Atienza is now recognized to interpellate the Gentleman from AKBAYAN.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, following the reactions on the floor to the message of the Gentleman from AKBAYAN, we would like to ask him if he is fully aware of the reasons for the resignation of the Vice President from the Cabinet, which he readily declares to be a principled stance? Ano po ba ng tunay na dahilan? Mayroon po ba siyang maibibigay o maibabahagi sa atin upang tayo ay maliwanagan dito sa principled stance na ito?

REP. VILLARIN. G. Ispiker, G. Atienza from the BUHAY Party-List, ang masasabi ko po, ayon sa mga ulat at ayon mismo sa official posting ng ating Vice President Leni Robredo sa kanyang official site and in the letter she sent to the President, I could sum it up to say that while she supported the positive initiatives of

the Duterte administration, there came a time when those irreconcilable differences, and after being dismissed as Chairperson of the HUDCC, made her submit her letter of resignation, G. Ispiker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, we would like to express our opinion on the matter since, obviously, the information of the Gentleman from AKBAYAN is also the same as the limited impression that we have coming from the pronouncement, announcement, and probably “Internet statements,” for which we have no basis to say that they are authentic. So, if the Gentleman says na wala po naman siyang alam na mga detalye ng katotohanan, I will accept that coming from him. But let it be of record that he stood up to defend this so-called “principled action” of the Vice President without any real, personal knowledge of the issues involved. If he is willing to accept that, I am willing to shift to another question.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, Mr. Speaker, hindi ko po nakausap personally si Vice President Leni Robredo pero ang aming mga kasamahan mula sa AKBAYAN na naglilingkod din sa ilalim ng Office of the Vice President ang may direktang kaalaman hinggil sa kanyang pagbibitiw bilang HUDCC Chairperson. Ayon din mismo sa mga accounts coming from social media, from the mainstream media, it has been stated that at 9:05 a.m., a letter of resignation was submitted by Vice President Leni Robredo to the Office of the President and later this afternoon, I heard that the resignation was accepted by the President.

For the reasons cited, Mr. Speaker, in her media statement released yesterday afternoon, it pointed out that they have irreconcilable differences with regard to the position taken by this administration, especially on extrajudicial killings, thus promoting the culture of impunity, the restoration of the death penalty and other measures that the Vice President thinks are against her principles, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, it is very important that when we react to a national issue, and when the mother of our land, being the Vice President, takes a course of action which is in collision with that of the President, we be clarified with the exact details of the reasons. Otherwise, when the father and the mother are quarreling and do not see eye to eye, its impact and repercussions would be nationwide and would be felt all over the land. So at this point, I would like to ask the Gentleman from AKBAYAN, is it more of his impression, to say that that move is a principled move, out of the principled position and thinking of the Vice President? Would he say that it is his personal impression and not really related whatsoever to the personal reasons that the Vice President may have

in her heart and mind now that she has resigned and dissociated herself from the President? It is more of his personal thinking and character to consider that that action is a principled course of action.

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker, I said I share her sentiments when she said that her being with the Duterte administration as a Cabinet member has become untenable. I also share the reasons, especially her saying that it is based on principles that she now wants to dissociate herself after being dismissed from the official family of the Duterte administration. Again, I also share the sentiments of the good Gentleman from BUHAY when he said that if there is this conflict between the two highest positions of the land, then our people have the right to know, have the right to be apprised of the situation. Now, as a Member of this House, Mr. Speaker, I am in a way expressing such views made by the Vice President even, as I have said, I am not a member of her political party.

REP. ATIENZA. So, would the Gentleman from AKBAYAN say that he agrees and supports this decision of the Vice President, that she is doing it out of principle and she is now dissociating from the administration, the President, and his programs because of her principled stance? Iyon po ba ang pananaw ng ating kagalang-galang na Kinatawan ng AKBAYAN?

REP. VILLARIN. Well, Mr. Speaker, as I had said, ganoon din po iyong aking pananaw at paninindigan na, kapareho ni Vice President Leni Robredo, noong una ay gusto niyang tumulong, gusto nating tumulong doon sa panawagan na pagkakaisa, sa panawagan na magbuo ng programa para sa nakakaraming mga Pilipino, pero gaya ng nabanggit ko na sa nauna, G. Ispiker, habang nag-e-evolve or gumugulong itong pamahalaan ng Duterte administration, marami pong mga polisiya na hindi ho tugma doon sa pananaw at paninindigan ko, mga pananaw at paninindigan din ni Vice President Leni Robredo. So, ang masasabi ko po sa tanong, oo, nakikiisa po ako at sumusuporta sa desisyon ng ating Bise Presidente.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, with that position of the Gentleman from AKBAYAN, may I ask him now a direct question. Would he recommend this principled move to those who do not agree with the President’s programs and the President’s initiatives now engulfing the whole nation? To start with, would he recommend to AKBAYAN members all over the country, in the Senate, and in all local government units where they have—hold sway, any influence, to do the same and dissociate themselves from the President’s programs? Would he advise that or would he want to keep it just to himself?

REP. VILLARIN. As a political party, Mr. Speaker, AKBAYAN is in constructive engagement with any administration regarding specific policies and programs that will benefit this nation and our people. AKBAYAN has proposed legislation in support of the Anti-Poverty Program of this government. AKBAYAN has proposed policies especially on shelter for informal settlers that this administration might want also to implement. AKBAYAN has sat down with DILG Secretary Mike Sueno, who is himself a former colleague in AKBAYAN, to discuss policies related to local governance, with the bottom-up budgeting process, with the programs that would redound to strengthening fiscal decentralization and other legislative measures. I think that is how we conduct ourselves—not just as an opposition party but a political party that is willing and eager to engage any administration, but again, as I had said, there are certain bottom lines, there are certain issues where we would greatly differ with this administration. Over time, Mr. Speaker, those issues—it could come to a point when we would readily and totally disengage, especially if the democratic space was closed and an authoritarian regime will be put in place.

REP. ATIENZA. We are forced to now accept the fact that there are no principles involved because if principles were involved, I believe or this Representation believes that the party of the Gentleman from AKBAYAN, the whole AKBAYAN Party-List, should be principled enough to dissociate themselves from the President's efforts and program. Hindi puwede po iyong kasama kami sa biyaya, kalaban kami sa lahat. Hindi puwede po iyon. Sa isang demokrasya po, kailangang mayroon po tayong panig, kung kayo ay for or against. Hindi puwede po iyong we are for but we will be dissociating ourselves from the President. I am a bit more confused now with that position.

I would like to ask him one question though, affecting all of us here. Would he recommend to the Liberals who are identified with the Vice President to also dissociate themselves from the administration, like for the chairmen of committees to resign their committee chairmanships if they cannot identify themselves with the President? Would he recommend that or would he not?

REP. VILLARIN. Well, again, as I have stated, Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to impose, to recommend publicly what the Liberal Party should do in this matter but, again, as I had said, in any engagement, in any constructive measure that a political party pushes, if there is no response or if the response from the present administration would be to set it aside or to do the very opposite of what we believe and other people believe are principles that guide us, then I would say, I could

say, that individually, I would recommend that to individuals or members of any political party, not just the LP. I might also convince the good Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List to also reconsider his position with regard to the Duterte administration.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, the position of BUHAY Party-List is very clear—we are with the Minority and we are the opposition in this Chamber. I would like to ask the Gentleman from AKBAYAN now, who says and talks about principles, if he would do the same. Would he take that advice to himself? Siya na po ang tinatanong ko. Kayo po ba ay magbibigay ng payo sa mga Liberal na kasama po ng administrasyon ngayon, samantalang iyong leader ninyo, si Vice President Robredo, has already dissociated herself? I am not talking about the Liberal Party now in general; I am talking about the Gentleman from AKBAYAN. Siya po ba ay mag-iisip nang ganyan? Siya po ba ay magbibigay ng payo coming from himself, or he would rather just forget about this issue after this afternoon's interpellation?

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker, nasabi ko na po sa mga private conversations, sa mga one-on-one discussions sa mga members ng LP and any other Member of this House, that I have been advocating for policies which AKBAYAN thinks should be pushed under this administration, and if these policies are rendered hopeless, or I could say hindi katanggap-tanggap o taliwas doon sa aming paniniwala, then ang nabanggit ko po, dadaan kami sa isang proseso ng pagsusuma, sa proseso ng pag-uusap sa loob ng partido, sa loob ng anumang koalisyon na kinapapalooban namin.

Ibig kong sabihin, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, hindi lang ho ako ang nagdedesisyon because under party rules, under the operations of a genuine political party, the voices of other leaders within the party should also be heard.

REP. ATIENZA. So, am I to understand, Mr. Speaker, that the Gentleman is saying, even in his opinion, that there should be no further movement because he would like to wait for more developments? In other words, there is no principle involved in the issue today. Not yet, according to him. So, tatanungin ko siya, sa opinyon ninyo, tama po ba iyong ginawa at tama po bang mag-resign ang mga Liberal sa administrasyon o hindi, even leaving the matter to the conscience of the individual? Again, I would like to say, or would he rather na kalimutan na muna natin ito at magtrabaho na lang tayo?

Where there are benefits, we are part of the administration; where there are none, we will be very vigilant to guard against any abuses. Ganoon po ba ang

pagkakaintindi ko na, sa opinyon niya, hindi po dapat na saklawan ninuman, maski na sa salita at sa payo, ang anumang desisyon ng mga sumasama sa administrasyon pero kumakalaban sa administrasyon? Sapagkat nakikita ko po dito e, mayroon pong mga mass action against the President's programs and policies, kasama sila; pagdating po sa paggo-gobyerno kasama rin sila. Gusto ko lang malaman po, nasaan po ba sila—sila po ba ay nasa loob o nasa labas? Kami po, malinaw na kami po ay nasa labas. Sila po, nasaan po ba sila? The Gentleman may answer this or not, but what I am trying to stress is that we cannot consider that as a principled position if we cannot even simulate or we cannot even replicate the actions of their leader.

REP. VILLARIN. I respect, Mr. Speaker, the opinion of Congressman Atienza. I do hope that he also respects the position taken by other personalities and political parties. Again, as I had said, I beg to disagree with what he said that it is not principles that we are standing up here. AKBAYAN's struggle encompasses several decades, several presidencies, and as a legitimate political party, as a political party that espouses engagement in governance, we will not resort to go to the hills or take up arms, as if that would be the implication of saying or going out from this government. Again, as a legitimate political party in any democratic country, in any democracy, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the role of the opposition, the role of political parties especially those belonging to the opposition is to fiscalize and when we say fiscalize, it does not mean that anything the government does is totally irreconcilable.

Again, as I had said, we stated the irreconcilable positions that we have with this administration and we have, time and again, struggled to make that stand known not just here in the halls of Congress, but also outside as part of the protest of our people.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, let me end this interpellation to clarify the so-called principled issues involved, if the Gentleman will not commit even to give his opinion that those who cannot stand the heat must get out of the kitchen. Iyon po ang talagang kasabihan na dapat nananaig sa atin. Ang ating demokrasya po ngayon ay nakasalalay sa effective management and an effective fiscalizer—a Majority and a Minority, iyong nagpapatakbo at iyong pumupuna po. Kung ayaw po niyang tumaya at magsabi ng kanyang opinyon diyan sa bagay na iyan, e hindi ko na po itutuloy ang aking pagtatanong. Umasa na lang kayo na ang BUHAY Party-List will remain with the Minority and we will continue fiscalizing, and we will never agree with anyone who cites principles but cannot stand by it and cannot even influence anyone to follow his ideals.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Gentleman from AKBAYAN for trying to give me a lot of runaround, to and fro, gobbledygook—this is what we call it in plain and simple language. Hindi po niya sinagot iyong aking katanungan. Ako po ay hindi na magpapatuloy sa aking pagtatanong. Maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Gentleman from the First District of Albay is hereby recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the distinguished Gentleman from AKBAYAN yield to some questions?

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

REP. LAGMAN. The distinguished Gentleman was queried on the principles why the Vice President relinquished her post in the Cabinet and he has repeatedly answered these questions. He articulated the reasons, but let me just reinforce his answers with this interpellation.

Righteous indignation compelled the Vice President to quit the Cabinet because no self-respecting official can suffer further the grievous assaults against her person and position. Is that a correct observation?

REP. VILLARIN. That is a correct impression, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. LAGMAN. It is the height of imprudence and discourtesy to bar the Vice President, a member of the Cabinet, from attending meetings of the Cabinet and for one who is barred, it is a principled reaction to resign from the Cabinet. Is that correct?

REP. VILLARIN. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think Cong. Edcel Lagman pointedly stated what happened, that this barring from attending Cabinet meetings was not even personally conveyed to her but was only sent through an SMS or what I say, a short, methodical and summary execution of an order made by no less than President Duterte.

REP. LAGMAN. The series of macho rubbish directed at the Vice President during Cabinet meetings

and other occasions would offend decency, and for the Vice President to resign on a principled reaction to this series of macho rubbish against her would be to stress what is obvious already. Is that correct?

REP. VILLARIN. Yes, that is correct, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker. As I had said in my privilege speech, the misogynistic remarks, the intolerance shown her during Cabinet meetings and even the overtly sexist remarks done publicly by no less than President Duterte would suffice for any decent person, and a woman at that, to say that enough is enough.

REP. LAGMAN. It is too much an insult to a sitting Vice President for President Duterte to intimate his preference for Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as Vice President, the very person whom the Vice President beat last election and who has an electoral protest which, from all indications, the President would be inclined to help. Resigning from the Cabinet because of this grave insult is a principled reason to quit her Cabinet post. Is that correct?

REP. VILLARIN. That reason alone wherein a sitting and duly elected Vice President would be at the mercy of a polycyspeak or of pronouncements that would debunk her office, is a principled reason to quit the Cabinet. I would add also that in her statement, the Vice President has warned us of a scheme, a plot to take away the Vice Presidency from her.

REP. LAGMAN. In other words, these are principled reasons to leave the Cabinet, and I cannot understand why some of us could not see these very obvious principled grounds for her resigning as Housing Secretary.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, for giving me this opportunity to make this short interpellation.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, Your Honor; and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the Privilege Hour.

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

The Privilege Hour is suspended.

ROLL CALL

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). 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. 51, dated December 5, 2016:

PRESENT

Abaya	Canama
Abayon	Cari
Abu	Casilao
Acharon	Castro (F.L.)
Acop	Castro (F.H.)
Acosta	Catamco
Acosta-Alba	Cayetano
Advincula	Celeste
Agarao	Ceramica
Aggabao	Cerilles
Aglipay-Villar	Chavez
Alejano	Chipeco
Almario	Co
Almonte	Cojuangco
Alvarez (F.)	Collantes
Alvarez (P.)	Cortes
Andaya	Cortuna
Angara-Castillo	Cosalan
Antonino	Crisologo
Aragones	Cuaresma
Arcillas	Cueva
Arenas	Dalipe
Atienza	Daza
Aumentado	De Venecia
Bag-ao	De Vera
Bagatsing	Defensor
Banal	Del Mar
Barzaga	Deloso-Montalla
Bataoil	Dimaporo (A.)
Bautista-Bandigan	Dimaporo (M.K.)
Belaro	Duavit
Belmonte (F.)	Durano
Belmonte (J.C.)	Dy
Biron	Elago
Bolilia	Erice
Bondoc	Eriguel
Bordado	Ermita-Buhain
Bravo (A.)	Escudero
Bravo (M.V.)	Espina
Brosas	Espino
Bulut-Begtang	Estrella
Calderon	Eusebio
Calixto-Rubiano	Evardone
Caminero	Fariñas
Campos	Fernando

Ferrer (J.)	Nogralles (J.J.)	Uy (J.)	Villaraza-Suarez
Ferrer (L.)	Nogralles (K.A.)	Uy (R.)	Villarica
Ferriol-Pascual	Nolasco	Uybarreta	Villarin
Flores	Nuñez-Malanyaon	Vargas	Violago
Fortun	Oaminal	Vargas-Alfonso	Yap (A.)
Fortuno	Olivarez	Velasco	Yap (M.)
Fuentebella	Ong (E.)	Veloso	Yu
Garcia (G.)	Ong (H.)	Vergara	Zarate
Garcia (J.E.)	Ortega (P.)	Villanueva	
Garin (R.)	Ortega (V.N.)		
Garin (S.)	Pacquiao		THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 219 Members responded to the call.
Gasataya	Palma		
Go (A.C.)	Panganiban		THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 219 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.
Go (M.)	Panotes		The Floor Leader is recognized.
Gomez	Pichay		
Gonzaga	Pimentel		REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, considering that copies of the Journal of the previous session had been distributed to the Members, I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journal.
Gonzales (A.P.)	Pineda		THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Is there any objection? (<i>Silence</i>) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.
Gonzales (A.D.)	Primicias-Agabas		
Gonzalez	Quimbo		APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL
Gorriceta	Ramirez-Sato		REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 50, dated November 29, 2016.
Herrera-Dy	Ramos		THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Is there any objection? (<i>Silence</i>) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.
Hofer	Roa-Puno		
Jalosjos	Rocamora		
Javier	Rodriguez (I.)		
Kho	Rodriguez (M.)		
Khonghun	Roman		
Labadlabad	Romero		
Lagman	Romualdez		
Lanete	Roque (H.)		
Laogan	Roque (R.)		
Lee	Sacdalán		
Limkaichong	Sagarbarria		
Lobregat	Salceda		
Lopez (B.)	Salon		
Lopez (C.)	Sandoval		
Lopez (M.L.)	Sarmiento (C.)		
Macapagal-Arroyo	Sarmiento (E.M.)		REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business.
Maceda	Savellano		THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Is there any objection? (<i>Silence</i>) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.
Madrona	Siao		The Secretary General will please read the Additional Reference of Business.
Malapitan	Silverio		
Manalo	Singson		
Mangaoang	Suansing (E.)		
Mangudadatu (S.)	Suansing (H.)		
Marcoleta	Suarez		
Marcos	Sy-Alvarado		
Marquez	Tambunting		
Martinez	Tan (A.)		
Matugas	Tan (M.)		
Mellana	Tiangco		
Mending	Ting		
Mercado	Tinio		
Mirasol	Ty		
Montoro	Umali		
Nava	Unabia		
Nieto	Ungab		
Noel	Unico		

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 219 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 219 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, considering that copies of the Journal of the previous session had been distributed to the Members, I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journal.

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

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 50, dated November 29, 2016.

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

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following House Resolutions on First Reading and Message from the Senate, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 585, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD, MARITIME INDUSTRY

AUTHORITY, OFFICE OF TRANSPORT SECURITY, LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO INTENSIFY AND COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS THE TRAFFICKING OF ILLEGAL DRUGS WITHIN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Sarmiento (C.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Resolution No. 586, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION TO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ADMINISTER A FAITHFUL INVENTORY OF ALL ITS POLICE OFFICER AND PERSONNEL ON THE MATTER OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE, CIVIL OR CRIMINAL CASES FILED AGAINST THEM AS THE PARAMETERS FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM THE SERVICE AND RID THE PNP OF ROQUE COPS IN THE PROCESS”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 587, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT CURSORY CHECK, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REAL CURRENT STATUS OF STEM CELL THERAPY IN THE PHILIPPINES, IF THERE ARE ALREADY EVIDENCE AND DATA TO PROVE THAT SUCH TREATMENTS WORK ON A PER DISEASE BASIS, ATTENDANT ETHICAL ISSUES SURROUNDING THE REGENERATIVE MEDICINE (IF ANY), AND WHETHER CERTAIN REGULATIONS HAVE TO BE PRESCRIBED AGAINST STEM CELL BANK AND PROCEDURES AND/OR CLINICAL APPLICATIONS”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 588, entitled:

“URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE SUICIDE OF ATTY. FRANCISCO VILLA, JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE BIDDINGS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE OF THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION, ON 09 NOVEMBER 2016, IN PARAÑAQUE, METRO MANILA”

By Representative Belmonte (J.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 589, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UNDER THE SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs), THROUGH AN APPROPRIATE AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES”

By Representative Zamora (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 590, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO GIVE HONOR AND RECOGNITION TO THE PHILIPPINE TAEKWONDO TEAM FOR WINNING A BRONZE MEDAL IN THE 2016 WORLD JUNIOR TAEKWONDO CHAMPIONSHIP”

By Representative Del Rosario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 591, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CALLING AN INVESTIGATION FOLLOWING THE ALLEGED SUICIDE OF ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (ERC) DIRECTOR FRANCISCO “JUN” VILLA JR”

By Representative Gatchalian
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 592, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CIVIL REGISTRY SYSTEM-INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT PHASE 2 DEAL BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY AND U.S. BASED UNISYS CORPORATION, IN CONNECTION WITH THE GROSS VIOLATIONS AND FAILURES OF UNISYS AS THE SAME PROPONENT OF THE PROJECT’S FIRST PHASE, PARTICULARLY ITS UNBRIDLED CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY’S CIVIL REGISTRY SYSTEM, AND TO ULTIMATELY NEVER ALLOW FOREIGN CONTROL OF THE SAME”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 593, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHIES AND SUPPORT TO THE INJURED VICTIMS OF THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE IN TOKYO, JAPAN”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 594, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES ON THE DEMISE OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER HONORABLE FIDEL ALEJANDRO CASTRO RUZ, PRESIDENT OF CUBA”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 595, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO TASK THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO REGULATE USE OF SKY LANTERN TO STAVE OFF THEIR POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Resolution No. 596, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DELAY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10173, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “DATA PRIVACY ACT OF 2012”, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF SECURING ITS PROPER IMPLEMENTATION IN PROTECTING THE PERSONAL DATA OF FILIPINOS”

By Representatives Suansing (H.) and Suansing (E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 597, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED ESCAPE OF SOME CHINESE NATIONALS WHO WERE ARRESTED BY THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION (BI) FUGITIVE SEARCH UNIT IN COORDINATION WITH THE SPECIAL ACTION FORCE (SAF) OF THE PNP WHO WERE ILLEGALLY

WORKING AT AN UNLICENSED ONLINE GAMING BUSINESS IN A HOTEL AND LEISURE PARK LOCATED AT CLARK FREEPORT IN THE PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA AND THE ALLEGATION OF BRIBERY ATTEMPT OF THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION (BI) AGENTS BY SOME OF THESE ARRESTED CHINESE NATIONALS FOR THEIR RELEASE AS WELL AS THE REPORTED BRIBERY ATTEMPT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) SECRETARY AND PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR) CHAIR BY MACAU-BASED GAMBLING MAGNATE, JACK LAM”

By Representatives Bondoc, Gonzales (A.D.) and Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message dated November 29, 2016, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on November 28, 2016 passed with amendments House Bill No. 3408, entitled:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, it is an honor to acknowledge the presence of guests from my home province, Pampanga. They are the guests of the Gentleman from the Third District of Pampanga, the Hon. Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr., and this Representation, led by Dr. Ronnie Mallari, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent, City of San Fernando, Pampanga; Lawrence Agapito, the OIC School Head of ICT High School; Erlinda Cortez, Principal III of Sindalan High School; Shirley Zipagan, Principal IV of San Fernando Elementary School; Daisy Arciga, Principal I of Pampanga High School and Liza Jabor, the OIC, Science Department Head of Pampanga High School. They are guests of the Hon. Dong Gonzales and this Representation, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Rodolfo C. Fariñas, our Majority Leader and... Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. of the Third District of Camarines Sur, namely, the barangay officials of Barangay Pagatpat, Calabanga, Camarines Sur: Punong Barangay Leodegrio Sayat, Mrs. Rosario Sayat, Kagawad Elma Vergara, Kagawad Salvador Abesero, Kagawad Elsa Buenafe, Kagawad Romelito Romero, Kagawad Lilibeth Villarin, Kagawad Leopoldo Salcedo and Barangay Treasurer Ester Malanyaon, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao of the ANAKPAWIS Party-List and they are the leaders from People Surge, Sagupa-Sinirangan Bisayas, namely: Nestor Lebico, Aldren Lacandazo, Manny Navales, Any Jagonoy and Pablito Cuizon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Rogelio Neil P. Roque of the Fourth District of Bukidnon, namely: Mayor Omarji Castro Pizzaro of the municipality of Kalilangan, Fourth District of Bukidnon; Vice-Mayor Raymund Gamboa and councilors of the municipality of Kalilangan, Bukidnon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

PRIVILEGE HOUR

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

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

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that the Privilege Hour be extended for another hour to allow the continuing interpellation.

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

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Third District of Camarines Sur, the Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Honorable Bordado is hereby recognized.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congressman Tom Villarin of the Party-List AKBAYAN for standing behind the Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines—his words. I would like to thank also my kahimanwa, Congressman Edcel Lagman, for the kind words. The Vice President, Mr. Speaker, was my predecessor as Representative of the Third District of Camarines Sur.

Now, Mr. Speaker, may I know from the Gentleman from the AKBAYAN Party-List whether he is willing to answer a question?

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

REP. BORDADO. I understand, Mr. Speaker, that Congressman Villarin is fully aware of the accomplishments of the Vice President in her brief stint as the HUDCC Secretary?

REP. VILLARIN. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. I was fortunate enough to sit down with the Vice President in several instances to discuss what is to be done with regard to the housing and settlement issues of our informal settler families.

REP. BORDADO. Mr. Speaker, may I request the honorable Gentleman from the AKBAYAN to enumerate the accomplishments of the Vice President as Secretary of the HUDCC, given the very brief time and the obstacles she had to face.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, thank you for that query, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. In the brief time that the Vice President sat as a Cabinet member, as the Chairperson of our Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council—this is, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the lead agency in terms of coordinating the various agencies such as the Pag-IBIG, the HLURB, the Social Housing Finance Corporation, the NHA and other agencies involved in shelter, the first of her policy thrusts was, again, this is a reiteration of her commitment—that our informal settler families—the correct term for the word “squatters”—should be treated humanely. In so doing, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, she lobbied, she proposed that from now on, the Duterte government will adopt an on-site, in-city resettlement program; meaning, the

5.2 million informal settler families in many urbanized and highly urbanizing cities, should not be kicked out or moved out from within the HUCs but rather, for the government to institutionalize a measure that could provide in-city housing for our informal settler families.

Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, VP Leni adopted what has been discussed as a comprehensive shelter plan arrived at in a summit in 2014 by the DILG, the HUDCC, the Land Registration Authority and the Office of the President in terms of institutionalizing different modes of settlements within cities and for the micro-medium-rise buildings to be constructed within the city and not for our ISFs to be resettled outside the city, far from their livelihood and employment authorities.

The other measures, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, that VP Leni proposed or pushed forward was the reduction from 39 steps in terms of processing applications for socialized housing to 19 steps and in so doing, it provided great relief to our ISFs in terms of them having decent housing for their families. Another innovation that Vice President Leni Robredo did was to coordinate the various private sector stakeholders in housing because, as you know, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the government alone cannot solve the housing backlog of our country, especially in Metro Manila. So, in tapping the corporate social responsibility function of our big housing developers, of our top 500 corporations, she mobilized the private sector to support the government's housing programs. Lastly, before she was unceremoniously booted out from the Cabinet, she was already working on the Yolanda housing program wherein of the 242,000 dwelling units supposedly needed by the Yolanda victims, only 34,000 had been installed and it was in the template, in the plan of the Vice President to resolve this backlog, together with the National Housing Authority which retains the funds for housing. It is with the NHA that the mandate for the production of these dwelling units are being put, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BORDADO. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much, Congressman Villarín of AKBAYAN.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, having no more interpellators, I move to refer the speech of the Honorable Villarín to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The privilege speech of Hon. Tom Villarín, with all the interpellations, is hereby referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Representative from the Second District of Parañaque City, the Hon. Gus S. Tambunting, to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Gentleman from the Second District of Parañaque City is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. TAMBUNTING

REP. TAMBUNTING. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, fellow Members of the House:

Last Sunday, December 4, 2016, the President was reported to have ordered the arrest of a certain Mr. Jack Lam, a Macau-based gaming tycoon, for the crimes of bribery and economic sabotage. The order was issued, according to reports, days after Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II was allegedly subjected to an attempted bribery in connection with the arrest on November 24, 2016 of some 1,318 Chinese nationals illegally working for Lam's unlicensed online gaming operations at Fontana Leisure Parks and Casino in Clark, Pampanga.

The alleged bribery attempt was reportedly committed on November 26 in a hotel at Bonifacio Global City through Ret. PNP Chief Supt. Wenceslao "Wally" Sombero. In behalf of Jack Lam, Sombero allegedly told Sec. Vitaliano Aguirre II that Lam has been looking for a godfather to protect his gambling business.

The President acted as he must by ordering the police to arrest those who violated the law. The perpetrators of crimes allegedly to have been committed are within the purview of the powers of the police and other relevant law enforcement agencies—to investigate, arrest and prosecute. We look forward to the full investigation, prosecution and punishment of those who, as the evidence warrants, committed the crimes as alleged.

The Jack Lam case cannot, however, be left solely to the police and other law enforcement agencies. Mr. Speaker, the Jack Lam case raises important questions that require urgent legislative action. How can 1,318 foreign nationals come into the country without work permits and then be employed to work in an allegedly illegal enterprise, an unlicensed online gaming operation at a hotel casino complex located in one of our premier economic zones, in Clark, Pampanga? How can it happen that an unlicensed online gaming operation can be conducted with such impunity? What

has emboldened foreigners to undertake illegal gaming activities in the country? Is the Bureau of Immigration doing its job in screening and monitoring the entry and movement of foreign nationals in the country? Is the Labor Department doing its job to ensure that only aliens with work permits can pursue gainful employment in Philippine-based enterprises? Are the concerned gaming regulatory agencies doing their jobs to ensure that gaming operations in the country are conducted only in accordance with the law and only licensed gaming operators or entities can operate?

Mr. Speaker, this puts to doubt the effectiveness of key agencies and departments of government to implement existing laws on immigration, labor, gaming, and others. The law, Mr. Speaker, is our people's sole protection against criminality. It is also the only bulwark of defense of our country against economic depredation and sabotage. If the law is not implemented as it should, then, its norms of conduct are violated at will, not only through sheer incompetence, but also through shameless acts of corruption, which government cannot govern, Mr. Speaker. The people's welfare is subverted and laid to waste by a government that fails to protect their interests.

In this spirit, in the exercise of the oversight powers of Congress, at the appropriate time and venue, an inquiry should be made in aid of legislation, on the alleged conduct by Mr. Jack Lam of an unlicensed online gaming operation and the entry of 1,318 foreign nationals who illegally work in the said unlicensed gaming operation. More importantly, we should also study how the government can properly monitor, assess and tax the online gaming industry. Germane to the said investigation is the inquiry on the alleged bribery attempt and the arrest of foreign nationals working without necessary permits.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is time to put more teeth into our regulatory laws on gaming. It is also time to make sure that our regulatory agencies do their jobs better in implementing the laws intended to safeguard the public interest and the welfare of our people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, having no interpellators, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Gus S. Tambunting to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The privilege speech of the Gentleman from the Second District of Parañaque, the distinguished Gus Tambunting, is hereby referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Second District of Pangasinan, the Hon. Leopoldo N. Bataoil, to avail of the remaining time of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Leopoldo Bataoil of the Second District of Pangasinan is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BATAOIL

REP. BATAOIL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Honorable Members of this Chamber:

I rise today to manifest the gratitude of the Filipino war veterans to the United States Congress in its passage of the Bill conferring the US Congressional Gold Medal Award to Filipino Veterans of World War II and to honor the courage and sacrifice of Filipino World War II veterans.

Mr. Speaker, on November 30, 2016, the United States House of Representatives approved "The Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015." The Bill was unanimously passed by the US Senate on July 13, 2016. The Senate version, S-1555, was sponsored by Senators Mazie Hirono, Dean Arthur Heller, Harry Mason Reid, Timothy Michael Kaine, and Brian Emanuel Schatz. The House version, H.R. 2737, was sponsored by Representatives Tulsi Gabbard, Joseph John Heck, Juan C. Vargas, Charles Michael "Mike" Thompson, Kyle Mark Takai, and Karen Lorraine Jacqueline "Jackie" Speier. Both Bills were introduced on June 11, 2015. The approved measure, Mr. Speaker, will now be sent to the Office of the US President for his signature. In behalf of the war veterans, Mr. Speaker. I sponsored a resolution expressing the profound appreciation of the Philippine House of Representatives and the Filipino World War II Veterans for the passage of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very significant day for our World War II veterans who had fought for over six decades for the recognition of their wartime services. Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to backtrack into history.

On July 26, 1941, then President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued an executive order mobilizing the Philippine Commonwealth Army into the service of the US Armed Forces in the Second World War. Throughout those dark years, Filipino soldiers fought courageously side by side with the American servicemen. They were part of the guerilla resistance movement and they endured unspeakable horrors and brutal conditions in prison camps and on the war front. Our brave soldiers fought and were promised just compensation. However, with the passage of the Rescission Act on February 18, 1946 by the United States Congress, Filipino soldiers

were excluded from the benefits granted under the Bill of Rights. This was in stark contrast to the veterans of other nations who served under the United States Army command. Take note, the Filipino soldiers were excluded as compared to veterans of other nations, of other countries. For more than 60 years, Filipino veterans and their families have been seeking justice and recognition. They have been relentlessly pursuing what was justly theirs to begin with, but were stripped away. In 2009, after 60 years, the World War II veterans were recognized for their services when President Barack H. Obama II signed a legislation that included the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation (FVEC). Under the equity compensation, all Filipino World War II veterans will receive a one-time lump-sum payment of US\$15,000 if they were US citizens, and \$9,000 for Filipino World War II veterans.

Last week, Mr. Speaker and dear colleagues, another milestone was achieved with the passage by the US Congress of the measure that seeks to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Filipino World War II Veterans. The Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act seeks to collectively award a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions in the United States to 260,000 Filipino veterans in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but recall the days of service of my late uncle, the late 3rd Lt. Leopoldo G. Bataoil. I was in fact named after him. He graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1943 to be thrown into the battlefield of Bataan. He rendered service to our beloved country. He died in the battlefield of Bataan. His body was never recovered even up to this date, but I am glad to know that 10 years later, since 1943, he was commissioned as a 3rd lieutenant. I was named after him in 1953. Mr. Speaker, some of them had already passed on without even receiving the honor or the compensation.

It is disheartening to know, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining valiant heroes who risked their lives for liberty and freedom during World War II, with only less than 8,000 which are still strong as we speak today, have been living their twilight years despondent and in need in this country which they fought to protect. These senior veterans, Mr. Speaker, manage to get through their day-to-day needs with a meager monthly pension of P5,000 per month and a total administrative disability pension of P1,700 only. The total amount of P6,700 per month is not sufficient, Mr. Speaker, considering the continuing increase in the prices of food, electricity, gas and other basic commodities, not to mention their medicines and health care needs.

Since 1994, Mr. Speaker, when Republic Act No. 7696 mandated the increase in the monthly pension

of senior veterans from P1,000 to P5,000, funding constraints have hindered the passage of proposed measures that will further increase the old age pension of veterans. Many attempts have been made, but none of the bills got through the halls of Congress. It was sad to note that these bills were put at the back seat.

In the 17th Congress, Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare, where I am the Chairperson, will continue to push for the approval of the bills improving the pension and other benefits being received by our veterans and their dependents. The Committee will vigorously defend the increase of the old age pension from the current P5,000 per month to at least P20,000 per month. The increase will enable them to enjoy, at the very least, day-to-day living. That is why, Mr. Speaker and dear colleagues, I seek your support to urgently pass the measure proposing the increase in the pension of veterans while they can still enjoy these benefits. Most, if not all, of our World War II veterans, Mr. Speaker, are nonagenarians, 90 years old and above. Some have even surpassed their 100th birthday and are often in need of medical care more than anybody else.

Mr. Speaker, we only have one Veterans Memorial Medical Center in operation and this is located in Quezon City. This is too far from those veterans living in the provinces, in the Visayas and Mindanao and because of their advanced age, they have mobility difficulties. Even though there are accredited hospitals in the provinces that cater to the medical needs of our senior veterans, many of these hospitals in the provinces do not have facilities for geriatric care. Mr. Speaker and dear colleagues, the need to pass measures seeking to establish veterans hospitals in Visayas and Mindanao are likewise urgent.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that true to the pronouncements of President Rodrigo R. Duterte and his love for this country, the measures proposing to improve the remaining days of the lives of our senior veterans be finally put first in the agenda, just as these veterans had put this country first before themselves. Recalling to mind the radio broadcast message aired from the Malinta Tunnel after the Fall of Bataan, and I quote, "The flesh must yield at last, endurance melts away, and the end of the battle must come." Indeed, the end of the lives of our war heroes is near, and the best way to recognize their sacrifice, Mr. Speaker, is to at least provide them a life free from poverty, debts and worry.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, having no interpellators, I move that we refer the speech of the

Honorable Bataoil to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The privilege speech of the distinguished Gentleman from the Second District of Pangasinan is hereby referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the distinguished Gentleman from Party-List ANAKPAWIS, the Hon. Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao, to avail of the remaining time of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Gentleman from the Party-List ANAKPAWIS, Cong. Ariel Casilao, is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CASILAO

REP. CASILAO. Salamat, G. Ispiker.

Magandang hapon, mga kapwa Mambabatas. Ang topic ko po ngayong hapon ay hinggil sa International Human Rights Week, ang patuloy na pakikibaka ng mga magsasaka at mga manggagawa para sa tunay na pag-respeto sa karapatan.

Honorable Speaker, mga kapwa Mambabatas at sa mga staff at mga manggagawa ng House of Representatives, mapagpalayang hapon ang ipinapaabot ng ANAKPAWIS Party-List.

December 10 will be the 68th International Human Rights Day, and it is now being commemorated by human rights groups and peoples’ organizations, with week-long activities, also involving the political prisoners across the country and the victims of typhoon “Yolanda.”

Earlier today, this Representation, together with the peasant leaders who in solidarity are fasting for freedom at the Mendiola Bridge, calling for the immediate release of more than 400 political prisoners, especially the elderly, sickly and the women. This Human Rights Week, I would like to bring to attention the socioeconomic, cultural and democratic rights of the peasant sector.

Honorable colleagues, human rights is a universal concept and for farmers, it is concretized by their rights to land, livelihood and social services and right to fight against state fascism. This generally falls under the International Covenant on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which our country is a signatory since 1966. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was also signed by the country in 1966. Also, as a protection, the Comprehensive Agreement

on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law or the CARHRIHL between the government of the Republic of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines was also signed in 1998.

Bago po naupo si Pangulong Duterte, ipinangako na po niya ang resumption ng peace talks sa NDFP at ang release ng lahat ng mga bilanggong pulitikal. We laud this move from the President and that is why, right now, we are joining the national clamor for the freedom of political prisoners and the continuation of the peace talks to the next substantive agenda, the socio-economic reforms. Nitong nakaraang araw lang po, G. Ispiker, mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, last December 2, this Representation, together with the Vice Chairperson of the Special Committee on Peace and Reconciliation, my colleague in the Makabayan bloc, Cong. Carlos Isagani Zarate, helped in facilitating another round of meeting by the President and representatives of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines in Davao City. Sa loob po ng tatlong oras mahigit na pag-uusap ng Chairperson ng NDF peace panel na si G. Fidel Agcaoili at dalawang miyembro nito na si Gng. Wilma Tiamzon at G. Benito Tiamzon, nagkausap at nagkalinawan po sa iba’t ibang mga isyu at malinaw—isa ito sa mahalagang napag-usapan na nais ko pong ibalita at ipaalam sa aking mga kapwa Mambabatas—the commitment of the President to release before Christmas 165 political prisoners, 25 names of which list ay nasa mesa na po ni Pangulong Duterte para pirmahan. He also considered and agreed, as a result of a peaceful and welcoming conversation between the representatives of the National Democratic Front, to the release of the elderly, sickly political prisoners.

Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, I am certain na you would agree that the ongoing armed conflict between the government forces and the New People’s Army, the principal victims are the peasant sector. Worse, there is growing documentation of rights abuses by state forces against helpless farmers. Last September 1, I delivered a speech marking the anniversary of Martial Law and I cited the military abuses committed in July, August and early September. We demanded a stop to the military human rights abuses, but apparently, they simply continued.

Mula sa datos ng Karapatan, a human rights group, umaabot na po sa 94 ang biktima ng pampulitikang pamamaslang at ang suspetsa nito, allegedly committed by the different government security forces, including the CAFGU, the SCAA, the Investment Defense Force at mga para-militar na grupo tulad ng Magahat-Bagani at Allah Mara. Tuloy-tuloy din ang militarisasyon sa iba’t ibang regions sa Mindanao, Abra, Masbate, Camarines Sur, Northern Samar, Quezon, Tarlac at iba pang mga probinsiya. Ang deployment ng militar ay karaniwang umuukopa sa mga komunidad ng mga magsasaka

at katutubo kung kaya't sila ang pangunahing mga nabibiktima ng mga pang-aabusong ito. Ultimo ang 18 Lumad na paaralan sa Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat ay hindi pinalampas ng militar kung kaya pati ang schooling ng mga kabataang Lumad ay apektado.

Mr. Speaker, honorable colleagues, it is simply one plus one, that the continued occupation by the military is causing continuing rights abuses against farmers and rural-based sectors; hence, we are reiterating our call for the immediate pullout of military forces from their communities.

Aside from outright violations to life, persecuted farmers who are asserting their rights to land remain incarcerated in jails as political prisoners. Again, according to Karapatan, about 80 percent of the 434 political prisoners in the country are farmers that include the late Bernabe Ocasla, a 66-year old farmer who was detained at the Manila City Jail and died of cardiac arrest last week. We from ANAKPAWIS Party-List are actively campaigning for peasant political prisoners such as Dario Tomada, KMP leader for Eastern Visayas; Oscar Belleza and Norberto Murillo, all farmers from Leyte and accused of the mass grave case similar to the charges against NDFP consultants. We are also urging the immediate release of Alex Arias detained at Camp Bagong Diwa, Billy Morado at Caloocan City Jail, and Felicidad Caparal, Maritess Cosenas and Moreta Alegre, all languishing in Correctional Institute for Women.

In relation to this, I urge my fellow colleagues in the House to pay a visit to these peasant political prisoners and personally hear their quandary. I would be delighted to accompany my colleagues. Aside from violations of the rights to life and liberty, the rights to land and livelihood ng mga magsasaka ay patuloy na nilalabag. Mula pa noong makalawa hanggang sa kasalukuyan, Mr. Speaker, the farms of Hacienda Luisita are being destroyed by more than 100 goons of the Cojuangco-Aquino family led by a certain Buena Timbol from their firm, the Luisita Estate Management. Armado ng armalite ang mga goons at kaninang umaga ay nagpapatok ang mga ito. Moreover, this noon, farmers from Capas, Tarlac are asking for help against the demolition of their crops carried out by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority or the BCDA, paving the way for the Clark Green City project. Also, last October, farmers from San Jose Del Monte City were arrested under the guise of Oplan Tokhang style when they were clearly opposing the displacement and land-grabbing by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

There are overwhelming manifestations that the peace we are hoping for the Filipino farmers are still distant. In addition, Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa Mambabatas, today, my office was visited by the leaders of People Surge or the victims of typhoon Yolanda

who are still seeking support from the government. Honorable colleagues, they are still seeking support as the Aquino administration obviously neglected their needs for an authentic rehabilitation of their communities and livelihood. Particularly for Eastern Visayas, after being damaged by typhoon Yolanda in November 2013, they were ravaged by typhoon Glenda on July 2014, Ruby and Seniang on December 2014. The farmers of Eastern Visayas are appealing for urgent support as their main source of livelihood, as coconut production, was totally destroyed by the consecutive natural calamities. We all know that the coconut tree needs to grow for three to seven years before it could be cultivated.

The right to an adequate standard of living of Yolanda victims, particularly their rights to food, water and adequate housing, is continuously being violated. With no sources of livelihood from their agricultural production, they have no sources of food. By being barred from returning to their communities labeled as "no build-no dwell zone," they are forcedly relocated to areas with no sources of livelihood. At present, about 120 typhoon victims from Eastern Visayas are here in Manila, to be joined by 180 victims from Panay and 145 from Central Visayas. Thus, hundreds of victims are holding the Lakbayan ng Visayas until December 10 to oppose the flawed rehabilitation program and call attention to the national center the worsening hunger situation they are presently facing. Hence, again, I appeal to the House of Representatives to urge appropriate executive offices to urgently address the hounding issues of victims of Yolanda and other typhoons.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, ang urban-based poor ay maglulunsad ng kanilang Lakbayan ng Maralita starting today from Bulacan hanggang bukas sa Mendiola. Ang main demands nila ay ang pagtigil sa mga violent demolitions sa kanilang communities, ang improvement sa relocation sites na walang utilities at sira-sira, rights abuses sa urban poor activists. Pundamental din na panawagan ng mga urban poor, sa ilalim ng Kadamay, na gawing service-oriented ang relocation from its profit-oriented framework na naka-under sa iba't ibang PPP schemes. Sa kabila ng idineklara ni Pangulong Duterte na "no relocation, no demolition," nagpapatuloy po ang mga bayolenteng demolisyon sa urban poor communities.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of the House to always keep in mind, the socioeconomic, cultural and democratic rights of the farming sector in carrying out our legislative work. Majority or 75 percent of our population come from the peasant sector, hence, the issues of agrarian reform, human rights, ending militarization, the freedom or the release of all political prisoners and disaster response are clearly fundamental democratic issues that need to be addressed in fulfilling

the aspirations of tens of millions of Filipinos. In doing so, the so-called real change could be attained in our country.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Maayong hapon kan atong tanan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, having no interpellators, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Casilao to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The privilege speech of the distinguished Gentleman from the Party-List ANAKPAWIS, Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao, is referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the distinguished Gentleman from Party-List 1-PACMAN, the Hon. Enrico A. Pineda, to avail of the remaining time of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Enrico Pineda from the Party-List 1-PACMAN is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. PINEDA

REP. PINEDA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, honorable Members of the House of Representatives, I rise today to express extreme disappointment over how the two telecommunications giants, Smart and Globe, are treating us Members of Congress, and the Filipino nation as a whole. Last August 16, 2016, I delivered my first privilege speech decrying what has been the dismal state of the country’s Internet service, during which I cited facts and other relevant figures showing how the Internet in Japan is 22 times faster than the Philippines, yet which Internet connectivity is 96 times more expensive than Japan. It was made very clear in my speech that we are lagging behind in terms of Internet speed, so much so that even Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and war-torn Afghanistan may have comparatively better Internet services than ours.

Congress immediately acted on this matter and the Committee on Information and Communications Technology held two hearings, one during its organizational meeting where the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) were made to account for specific governmental actions to address the problems of the

telecommunications industry; and another when Globe and Smart were given the opportunity to explain their side of this dilemma. It is unfortunate that instead of the owners themselves or those who are familiar with the technical aspects of the issue on Internet connectivity and telecommunications attending, we made do with the lawyer representatives who did nothing but cite excuses to exculpate the telcos from liability. In short, the telcos were anything but helpful in our quest to remedy our Internet woes. Worse, Globe released this infomercial on Facebook to further boost its resolve that the problem lies anywhere but within them.

If I may ask you to look at the video so you can see the infomercial that is being played by Globe.

(Audiovisual presentation)

My dear colleagues, as you can see from that infomercial, it appeared that for Globe, the snail-paced Internet in the country is the government’s doing. Yes, my dear colleagues, according to Globe, government regulations is the reason it cannot cope with the rising need for more cell sites. Lest we fail to notice, they are required to overcome 25 permits which would take at least eight months of processing before they may be allowed to put up a single cell site. I should be ashamed of myself for having to put the telcos in the spotlight when, in fact, it is the government that should have been blamed for the Internet woes of the country.

But no, I refuse to be fooled by these claims of Globe. The issues about regulations and the required 25 permits are but lame excuses because as billion-dollar companies with a bureaucracy of tens of thousands of employees, they could have efficiently attended to these requirements, and systematically and successfully overcome them, no matter how numerous they may be. They have been in this business for the last 25 years and it is not as if they have not been able to put up a single cell site. They were able to construct 22,000 cell sites, but it seems as though there was an inordinate refusal by Smart and Globe to put up the needed 26,000 more to reach the low target of 1,000 subscribers per cell site ratio. Mind you, my dear colleagues, this is still low compared to Japan’s 522 subscribers per cell site and Vietnam’s 860 subscribers in each cell site. Instead of building more cell sites, what they do is accept more subscribers which necessarily worsens the problem. They want additional revenues from additional subscribers but they do not want to spend for additional infrastructures to accommodate them.

One need not be a Harvard or Wharton graduate to realize what these telcos are after—they want more income for little or no input at all. A truly remarkable business model that will surely make them the best-ran and most profitable business in the country to the detriment of the public and the subscribers. It is a scheme that lands its owners among the *Forbes* list of wealthiest people in Asia, but unfortunately for us,

lands the Philippines in the list of among the countries with the worst Internet service. Day in and day out, they collect fees for services which they actually do not deliver, raking millions upon millions of our constituent's money for unlimited calls that are more like an unlimited wait for your calls to connect, prepaid loads that are lost in the airwaves, and unlimited Internet where the only thing unlimited is the time for you to be able to upload a single Facebook picture.

This, to me, is actual robbery or worse, an act of plundering the public which should be dealt with appropriately.

Mr. Speaker, Globe and Smart seem to be proudly doing this scheme with impunity and I wonder why. Instead of acknowledging the problems and exerting efforts in constructing the needed infrastructure, they embarked on a costly media frenzy to try to twist the facts and put the blame on somebody else but them. Their concerted efforts of training the sights of the blame game to the local government and the government structure as a whole only go to show that they operate as a duopoly. If Globe and Smart seem to have forgotten that they are public service entities, it is well within the plenary powers of Congress to make them realize that they are supposed to prioritize good service and to put motives for profit at the backburner.

We have, looming before us, this once-in-a-lifetime chance of correcting this impropriety. We should act to make our own meaningful contribution to improve the Internet and telecommunications service in the country. We should not give due course to the application of Smart and Globe for the renewal of their franchises unless and until they have instituted measures that would raise the standards of Internet and telecommunications services in the country where no calls are dropped anymore, the Internet is as fast or even faster than our ASEAN neighbors, and prepaid loads are not robbed in the airwaves. We should not allow them to negotiate their way around for their legislative franchises if they will not make good and improve on their services. Let us be careful in our dealings with them so that we may not fall prey or be as sick as they are with their propensity for greed and money.

Let us help the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) perform well on its mandate as guardian against monopolistic business machinations. Let us hear and hear well why it is detrimental to the consuming public that all available frequencies for public telephony are effectively controlled by a duopoly. We should be watchful of the developments in the telecommunications industry and not let it be controlled by a few whose seeming desire is to milk profits from this critical industry, in perpetuity. Let us open the doors for new players in the telecommunications industry, one which will foster real and healthy competition that will translate to better service.

I call on vigilance amongst us Representatives of our people that we not let Globe and Smart go about their business without our careful and diligent scrutiny. I know all of us will heed this call. I believe in the Congress, and I believe that this is a Congress for the people, a Congress that puts forth the welfare of its people above all.

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the distinguished Gentleman from the Lone District of Navotas, the Hon. Tobias "Toby" M. Tiangco, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Gentleman from the Lone District of Navotas, Cong. Tobias "Toby" M. Tiangco, is hereby recognized.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, may I know if the Gentleman from 1-PACMAN is willing to yield to very few questions.

REP. PINEDA. It will be an honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TIANGCO. Yes. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I laud the Gentleman from 1-PACMAN for his second privilege speech, if I am correct, regarding the situation of the telecoms industry here in our country. Alam ninyo, talagang nakakadismaya kaya ako ay natutuwa at ang ating Kongresista na si Cong. Eric Pineda ay talagang ginawa niyang advocacy itong tungkol sa telecom companies. So, congratulations, Congressman Pineda.

First of all, I would just like to ask a clarification. Ang alam ko po ay iyong Smart franchise is up for renewal at nasa Committee on Franchises. Tama po ba iyon?

REP. PINEDA. I believe so.

REP. TIANGCO. Ano ho ang sitwasyon ng Globe? Sila rin ba ho ay up for renewal, or may application ba for renewal ang Globe?

REP. PINEDA. I believe both of their renewals are—I mean, their licenses are about to expire by early next year, both Smart and Globe.

REP. TIANGCO. So, kaya napaka o nasa timing ho ang privilege speech ng ating kasamang si Congressman

Pineda dahil sa tingin ko ay dapat tigilan na natin iyong masamang serbisyo na ibinibigay ng Globe at Smart sa atin. Alam ho ninyo, kapag kayo ay tumatahak sa EDSA araw-araw, kung saan kayo na- dead spot o kung saan naputol ang call ninyo, doon ulit kayo mapuputol sa susunod na araw. Nararanasan ba ho ito ng ating kagalang-galang na Cong. Eric Pineda?

REP. PINEDA. Sa aking eksperyensiya, kaya noong bago pa man ako talaga tumakbo bilang isang Kongresista, ang ipinangako ko sa sarili ko na kapag ako po ay papalarin na maging Congressman, ang una ko pong privilege speech ay tungkol dito sa masamang serbisyo po ng ating mga telcos. Ako po, hindi po ako pala-text, mas pala-tawag ako, kaya kapag binabaybay ko iyong buong EDSA, memoryadong-memoryado ko na kung saan mamamatay at saan magkakaroon ulit ng signal. Ang nakakainis po doon ay kapag medyo seryoso po iyong usapan ninyo at alam mong mapuputol ulit, kaya sa akin po, iyong serbisyo na ganoon, hindi ho dapat nangyayari, lalo na dito sa ating bansa.

REP. TIANGCO. Tama rin ho ba ang dinig ko na noong nagkaroon ng committee hearing, ang ipinadala ho ng Globe at Smart ay mga abogado at hindi iyong head ng kanilang technical team or IT team. Tama ho ba iyon?

REP. PINEDA. Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker. Actually, Chairman Victor Yap was also very disappointed kasi lahat ng nag-interpellate po sa Globe at sa Smart, hindi po kayang sagutin noong mga abogado dahil hindi po sila technical people. So, ang lagi po nilang nirarason, “We will get back to you upon securing of all these documents that you require.” So, ang nangyayari po, nag-hearing po tayo pero nasayang lang ang oras natin. Dapat ang papuntahin nila iyong may-ari mismo, si Manny Pangilinan at si Zobel de Ayala.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, sa tingin ko ho, tama ho iyong mungkahi ng ating kasama at ito ay sinusuportahan ko. Dapat ho sa susunod na pagdinig tungkol dito sa dalawang telcos na ito, dapat ang pupunta ho dito ay iyong talagang nakakaalam at makakasagot doon sa mga technical questions—kung bakit may dropped calls, kung bakit napakabagal ng Internet—at siguro, doon sa legal department nila, doon sa infomercial, i-enumerate nila kung ano iyong 25 na sinasabi nilang steps para makakuha ng permit.

Ngayon, nabasa ko ho ang proposed House bill tungkol doon sa renewal and they are asking for a 25-year renewal. Ngunit ang nabasa ko lang ho doon ay iyong sa Smart na ang sinasabi, to upgrade, they will need three years. Tama ho ba iyon, G. Ispiker, Congressman Pineda?

REP. PINEDA. Palagay ko po pero sa dami ng subscribers po natin ngayon, baka kulangin po iyong tatlong taon. Ang sa akin lang po naman ay humihingi ako ng dialogue sa kanila para malaman natin talaga kung saan ba tayo nagkaka-problema. Huwag nating sisihin ang gobyerno dahil for 25 years, they have been putting up cell sites all over the Philippines and for 25 years, they have been dealing with the same LGUs requiring 25 government permits just to get the approval to put upon a single cell site. So, sa akin lang, okay, may problema tayo, it can be addressed, hindi ba? We can fast-track it. Kung talaga bang gusto nilang magserbisyo sa taong-bayan, they can always come to us and say, “Boss, can we fast-track the issuance of permit to put up a cell site kasi masyadong matagal.”

I am sure we will help them kasi talagang ang telecommunications is the third utility already at talagang kailangan po natin na talagang maganda ang serbisyo diyan. Sa nakikita ko, ang intensiyon lang talaga is to make more profit than anything else, dahil kung talagang gusto nilang magserbisyo sa atin, noon pa man, they could have taken this problem to our attention and we could have done something about it immediately. Not during the time that they are renewing their permits at ang sasabihin nila sa atin—ang problema kaya mabagal ang Internet natin dahil ang dami naming nabibinbin na application for installation of new cell sites. Iyon naman ang hinihingi namin sa kanila—kung ilan iyong nabibinbin na request nila na hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa nila sinasagot sa amin. So, marami silang pagkukulang. Marami silang ginagawa diyan na puro pagtatakip, but they never addressed the situation properly, especially our concerns na talagang—show us that you have all these pending applications.

What I can see is that, sa Capex nila, they are spending more for advertising. They are advertising to entice more people to subscribe pero their unli-unli, whatever. Hindi ba? Wala akong nakikita in terms of them coming to us and telling us, “Boss, we have 8,000, 10,000, whatever, permits that are languishing to install new cell sites. Puwede ba ninyong tulungan po kami.” Wala pong ganoon. Ang nakikita lang po lagi natin, lahat ng mga commercial nila sa tv, sa radio, sa print, ay kung paano lang mag-e-entice sa mga subscribers, na alam naman po natin, as we say, they are already oversubscribed, more than 2,000 subscribers per cell site compared to Japan with only 562.

REP. TIANGCO. Huling katanungan ho, Mr. Speaker. Sa tingin ko ho ay iyong mungkahi nilang franchise for 25 years ay napakatagal dahil kung bibigyan ho sila natin ng prangkisa for 25 years at hindi ho sila mag-upgrade ay nakatali na ho tayo. Kung sakali ba ay papayag ba ho ang ating kagalang-galang na Congressman? Is he open to the idea na kung ang pangako ng Smart that in three years, matatapos

nila iyong upgrade, magbibigay tayo ng provisional franchise lang base doon sa kanilang pangako? Payag ba ho dito ang ating kagalang-galang na kasama?

REP. PINEDA. Sa aking pananaw, napakaganda po noon, Mr. Speaker, dahil it will put the pressure on them to really fast-track the upgrading of their facility, kaysa bibigyan na naman natin sila ng prangkisa for 25 years, magkakalimutan na tayo niyan. Hindi na tayo papansinin. Let me remind them that we own the franchise, the government owns the franchise. Hindi ba? We are just giving it to them, you know. So we can always, you know, take it back if they are not performing up to the standards that we require of them and the standards that the consumers are looking for.

So, sa akin lang, Mr. Speaker, if we can do that—come up with a provisional approval of their franchise, so be it, for as long as they can fast-track the improvement of their facilities.

REP. TIANGCO. Iyon lang po, G. Ispiker. Maraming salamat ho at ako ay nagpapasalamat din sa ating kasama sa kanyang napakagandang adbokasiya at ako ho ay buong-pusong susuporta sa kanyang adbokasiya ng mas magandang telecommunications at Internet services sa ating bansa.

Maraming salamat po.

REP. PINEDA. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Nagpapasalamat din po ako sa aking colleague na si Hon. Toby Tiangco sa pagsuporta niya po sa aking adbokasiya at huwag po sana siyang magsawa ng kasusuporta sa akin.

Salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from Party-List AKBAYAN, the Hon. Tomasito “Tom” S. Villarín for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F. H.). The distinguished Gentleman from the Party-List AKBAYAN, the Hon. Tom Villarín is hereby recognized.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Floor Leader.

Would the good Gentleman from 1-PACMAN, my good friend, Cong. Eric Pineda, yield to interpellation?

REP. PINEDA. It will be an honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, is the good Gentleman aware of Section 19, Article XII of our

Constitution in which it states that it is the mandate of the State to regulate or prohibit monopolies especially when public interest so requires? Will this provision apply to Globe and Smart which are now applying for a renewal of their franchise?

REP. PINEDA. I believe so because they are not acting as a monopoly but a duopoly but you know, I am sure that they are both in connivance and they are trying to do so to control the market. Instead of competing with one another, they are actually working hand in hand so that, you know, they can control the rates, they can control the profits and the subscribers. So, sa akin po, dapat talaga dumaaan sila sa masusing pagpuna, and that is why we have the Philippine Competition Commission, which I support, para talagang busisiin itong duopoly po.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, Your Honor, and I do support your advocacy, especially now that we have the Philippine Competition Act that was passed last July of 2015. I think right now, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, what has been challenged by this duopoly, as what you mentioned, Your Honor, is that the power of review by the Philippine Competition Commission is now being subject to a legal question being put forward by Globe and Telecom. Do you think, Your Honor, that indeed the PCC has that mandate to review whatever schemes or whatever industry practices by these companies, and is it also incumbent upon PCC to conduct that review?

REP. PINEDA. Mr. Speaker, I believe so because that is the mandate of the PCC. They are the guardians against monopolistic business machinations. Ang sa akin lang po, if there is a need for us to strengthen them, let us do so so that they can really guard against, you know, enterprises like these that are already monopolizing the business.

REP. VILLARIN. So, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, with just more than a year of its enactment and the PCC is now being questioned or being challenged on its mandate, do you think that it is also incumbent upon Congress to provide oversight and to look into and review whether the actuations of both Globe and Smart would fall under that issue of Congress power of oversight? I am stating, Your Honor, that perhaps Congress can review and look over this power so that it would be very clear that, indeed, when we enacted the PCC in 2015, the powers given to PCC should be broad enough to cover all monopolistic or duopolistic acts. So, do you think that we need to look at and review the PCC Act?

REP. PINEDA. Mr. Speaker, you know, I support the call of the honorable Gentleman from AKBAYAN

that we should look into the mandate of the PCC and if there is a need for Congress to strengthen them, I think that is the best way that we can also help protect the rights of the consumers from these monopolistic businesses.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker. For the information of Congressman Pineda, this Representation has filed House Bill No. 93, directing the Committee on Trade and Industry to look, precisely, to the issue of these duopolistic tendencies and in so doing, perhaps, reiterate that, again, the PCC has enough broad powers to restrain this unfair competition and provide the services needed for Filipinos. So, would the Gentleman support such oversight function for the House Committee on Trade and Industry to look into the specific act between Smart and Globe to merge and control the franchise given previously to Liberty Holdings?

REP. PINEDA. Yes, I do support the Gentleman's call for the Oversight Committee especially, to look into that deal which, for me, is anomalous, you know, the selling of the third telephony to Globe and Smart, so they would still control the whole market, instead of another player who can be considered their competitor. So, I support the bill that the Gentleman filed and I support his call for an oversight so that we can really determine the mandate of the PCC and especially, for us to strengthen the PCC and likewise to look into the recent transaction between Globe and Smart and the Liberty Telcom.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you for the support, Mr. Speaker, and I do believe that Globe and Smart have been hiding behind the legal mantle by invoking its recourse to the courts. So, now, because these issues are being raised, particularly, the powers of PCC, the power of automatic review is being questioned, I think it is also incumbent upon us, both having the plenary powers and power of oversight, to call upon this duopoly, Smart and Globe, and really look at what are their intentions and motivations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, having no more interpellators, I would like to move to refer the speech of the Honorable Pineda to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Secretary General is hereby directed to refer the speech of the distinguished Gentleman from the Party-List 1 Pacman to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

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

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

The Privilege Hour is terminated.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 937 ON THIRD READING

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 937 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on November 29, 2016, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 937, entitled: AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAY NORTH BAY BOULEVARD SOUTH IN THE CITY OF NAVOTAS INTO THREE (3) DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY NBBS PROPER, BARANGAY NBBS KAUNLARAN AND BARANGAY NBBS DAGAT-DAGATAN.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is as follows, per Journal No. 51, dated December 5, 2016:

Affirmative

Abaya	Almonte
Abayon	Alvarez (F.)
Abu	Alvarez (P.)
Acharon	Andaya
Acop	Angara-Castillo
Acosta	Antonino
Acosta-Alba	Aragones
Advincula	Arcillas
Agarao	Arenas
Aggabao	Atienza
Aglipay-Villar	Aumentado
Alejano	Bag-ao
Almario	Bagatsing

Banal	Ermita-Buhain	Martinez	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Barzaga	Escudero	Matugas	Savellano
Bataoil	Espina	Mellana	Siao
Bautista-Bandigan	Espino	Mending	Silverio
Belaro	Estrella	Mercado	Singson
Belmonte (F.)	Eusebio	Mirasol	Suansing (E.)
Belmonte (J.C.)	Evardone	Montoro	Suansing (H.)
Biron	Fariñas	Nava	Suarez
Bolilia	Fernando	Nieto	Sy-Alvarado
Bondoc	Ferrer (J.)	Noel	Tambunting
Bordado	Ferrer (L.)	Nogralas (J.J.)	Tan (A.)
Bravo (A.)	Ferriol-Pascual	Nogralas (K.A.)	Tan (M.)
Bravo (M.V.)	Flores	Nolasco	Tiangco
Brosas	Fortun	Nuñez-Malanyaon	Ting
Bulut-Begtang	Fortuno	Oaminal	Tinio
Calderon	Fuentebella	Olivarez	Turabin-Hataman
Calixto-Rubiano	Garcia (G.)	Ong (E.)	Ty
Caminero	Garcia (J.E.)	Ong (H.)	Umali
Campos	Garin (R.)	Ortega (P.)	Unabia
Canama	Garin (S.)	Ortega (V.N.)	Ungab
Cari	Gasataya	Pacquiao	Unico
Casilao	Go (A.C.)	Palma	Uy (J.)
Castro (F.L.)	Go (M.)	Panganiban	Uy (R.)
Castro (F.H.)	Gomez	Panotes	Uybarreta
Catamco	Gonzaga	Pichay	Vargas
Cayetano	Gonzales (A.P.)	Pimentel	Vargas-Alfonso
Celeste	Gonzales (A.D.)	Pineda	Velasco
Cerafica	Gonzalez	Plaza	Veloso
Cerilles	Gorriceta	Primicias-Agabas	Vergara
Chavez	Herrera-Dy	Quimbo	Villanueva
Chipeco	Hofer	Ramirez-Sato	Villaraza-Suarez
Co	Jalosjos	Ramos	Villarica
Cojuangco	Javier	Roa-Puno	Villarín
Collantes	Kho	Rocamora	Violago
Cortes	Khonghun	Rodriguez (I.)	Yap (A.)
Cortuna	Labadlabad	Rodriguez (M.)	Yap (M.)
Cosalan	Lagman	Roman	Yu
Crisologo	Lanete	Romero	Zarate
Cuaresma	Laogan	Romualdez	
Cueva	Lee	Roque (H.)	<i>Negative</i>
Dalipe	Limkaichong	Roque (R.)	
Daza	Lobregat	Sacdalán	None
De Venecia	Lopez (B.)	Sagarbarria	
De Vera	Lopez (C.)	Salceda	<i>Abstention</i>
Defensor	Lopez (M.L.)	Salon	
Del Mar	Macapagal-Arroyo	Sandoval	None
Deloso-Montalla	Maceda	Sarmiento (C.)	
Dimaporo (A.)	Madrona		
Dimaporo (M.K.)	Malapitan		
Duavit	Manalo		
Durano	Mangaoang		
Dy	Mangudadatu (S.)		
Elago	Marcoleta		
Erice	Marcos		
Eriguel	Marquez		

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 937
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.).
With 221 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no
abstention, House Bill No. 937 is approved on Third
Reading.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 4402
ON THIRD READING

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 4402 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on November 29, 2016, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4402, entitled: AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAY TANZA IN THE CITY OF NAVOTAS INTO TWO DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY TANZA 1 AND BARANGAY TANZA 2.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is as follows, per Journal No. 51, dated December 5, 2016:

Affirmative

Abaya

Abayon

Abu

Acharon

Acop

Acosta

Acosta-Alba

Advincula

Agarao

Aggabao

Aglipay-Villar

Alejano

Almario

Almonte

Alvarez (F.)

Alvarez (P.)

Andaya

Angara-Castillo

Antonino

Aragones

Arcillas

Arenas

Atienza

Aumentado

Bag-ao

Bagatsing

Banal

Barzaga

Bataoil

Bautista-Bandigan

Belaro

Belmonte (F.)

Belmonte (J.C.)

Biron

Bolilia

Bondoc

Bordado

Bravo (A.)

Bravo (M.V.)

Brosas

Bulut-Begtang

Calderon

Calixto-Rubiano

Caminero

Campos

Canama

Cari

Casilao

Castro (F.L.)

Castro (F.H.)

Catamco

Cayetano

Celeste

Cerafica

Cerilles

Chavez

Chipeco

Co

Cojuangco

Collantes

Cortes

Cortuna

Cosalan

Crisologo

Cuaresma

Cueva

Dalipe

Daza

De Venecia

De Vera

Defensor

Del Mar

Deloso-Montalla

Dimaporo (A.)

Dimaporo (M.K.)

Duavit

Durano

Dy

Elago

Erice

Eriguel

Ermitta-Buhain

Escudero

Espina

Espino

Estrella

Eusebio

Evardone

Fariñas

Fernando

Ferrer (J.)

Ferrer (L.)

Ferriol-Pascual

Flores

Fortun

Fortuno

Fuentebella

Garcia (G.)

Garcia (J.E.)

Garin (R.)

Garin (S.)

Gasataya

Go (A.C.)

Go (M.)

Gomez

Gonzaga

Gonzales (A.P.)

Gonzales (A.D.)

Gonzalez

Gorriceta

Herrera-Dy

Hofer

Jalosjos

Javier

Kho

Khonghun

Labadlabad

Lagman

Lanete

Laogan

Lee

Limkaichong

Lobregat

Lopez (B.)

Lopez (C.)

Lopez (M.L.)

Macapagal-Arroyo

Maceda

Madrona

Malapitan

Manalo

Mangaoang

Mangudadatu (S.)

Marcoleta

Marcos

Marquez

Martinez

Matugas

Mellana

Mending

Mercado

Mirasol

Montoro

Nava

Nieto

Noel

Nogralas (J.J.)

Nogralas (K.A.)

Nolasco

Nuñez-Malanyaon

Oaminal

Olivarez

Ong (E.)

Ong (H.)

Ortega (P.)

Ortega (V.N.)

Pacquiao	Tan (A.)
Palma	Tan (M.)
Panganiban	Tiangco
Panotes	Ting
Pichay	Tinio
Pimentel	Turabin-Hataman
Pineda	Ty
Plaza	Umali
Primicias-Agabas	Unabia
Quimbo	Ungab
Ramirez-Sato	Unico
Ramos	Uy (J.)
Roa-Puno	Uy (R.)
Rocamora	Uybarreta
Rodriguez (I.)	Vargas
Rodriguez (M.)	Vargas-Alfonso
Roman	Velasco
Romero	Veloso
Romualdez	Vergara
Roque (H.)	Villanueva
Roque (R.)	Villaraza-Suarez
Sacdalan	Villarica
Sagarbarria	Villarin
Salceda	Violago
Salon	Yap (A.)
Sandoval	Yap (M.)
Sarmiento (C.)	Yu
Sarmiento (E.M.)	Zarate
Savellano	
Siao	<i>Negative</i>
Silverio	
Singson	None
Suansing (E.)	
Suansing (H.)	<i>Abstention</i>
Suarez	
Sy-Alvarado	None
Tambunting	

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4402
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 221 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, House Bill No. 4402 is approved on Third Reading.

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business.

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

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following Committee Reports and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 32), re H.B. No. 4597, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CONCEPCION DOS, IN THE SECOND DISTRICT, CITY OF MARIKINA, TO BE KNOWN AS SSS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 425

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 33), re H.B. No. 4598, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY NASISI, CITY OF LIGAO, PROVINCE OF ALBAY, TO BE KNOWN AS LIGAO CITY NATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 624

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 34), re H.B. No. 4599, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF PAGADIAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, TO BE KNOWN AS PAGADIAN CITY SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1211

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 35), re H.B. No. 4144, entitled:

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

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Cua and De Vera

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of House Resolution No. 565, from the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability to the Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability and Energy.

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

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of House Resolution No. 566, from the Committee on Energy to the Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability and Energy.

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

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that copies of the bills approved on Third Reading be

immediately transmitted to the Senate for appropriate action.

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

The Secretary General is hereby directed to refer to the Senate at the soonest possible time the subject bills approved on Third Reading.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. NOGRALES (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, December 6, 2016, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

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

The session is adjourned to resume tomorrow, December 6, 2016, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 6:54 p.m.