



# Congressional Record

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

## House of Representatives

Vol. 1

Monday, July 31, 2017

No. 4

### CALL TO ORDER

*At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn F. Garcia called the session to order.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is now called to order.

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Everyone is requested to rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

### INVOCATION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Please remain standing for the Invocation to be led by the Representative from the Fifth District of Manila, the Hon. Cristal L. Bagatsing.

*Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.*

REP. BAGATSING. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Heavenly Father, as we gather here today, fill us with Your divine intercession.

May the Holy Spirit guide us, as we seek Your blessing of wisdom that we may be enlightened and inspired as we undertake our duties today.

We thank You for the gift of life as You continue to bless this great nation of peace-loving people with strength that we may surpass all challenges that confront us every day.

Keep us healthy in mind, body and spirit.

May we always remember that in all things, God may be glorified. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

### ROLL CALL

REP. DEFENSOR. Good afternoon, Mme. Speaker.

I move that we call the roll of Members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). 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. 4, dated July 31, 2017:*

### PRESENT

Abaya	Aumentado
Abayon	Bagatsing
Abellanos	Banal
Abu	Barbers
Abueg	Barzaga
Acharon	Bataoil
Acop	Bautista-Bandigan
Acosta	Belmonte (F.)
Acosta-Alba	Belmonte (J.C.)
Adiong	Benitez
Advincula	Bernos
Agarao	Bertiz
Aggabao	Biazon
Alejano	Billones
Almario	Biron
Almonte	Bolilia
Alonte	Bondoc
Alvarez (F.)	Bordado
Alvarez (P.)	Bravo (A.)
Amante	Bravo (M.V.)
Amatong	Brosas
Andaya	Bulut-Begtang
Antonio	Cagas
Aquino-Magsaysay	Calderon
Aragones	Calixto-Rubiano
Arenas	Caminero
Atienza	Campos

Canama	Geron	Paduano	Silverio
Casilao	Go (A.C.)	Palma	Singson
Castelo	Go (M.)	Pancho	Suansing (E.)
Castro (F.L.)	Gomez	Panganiban	Suansing (H.)
Castro (F.H.)	Gonzaga	Panotes	Suarez
Catamco	Gonzales (A.D.)	Papandayan	Sy-Alvarado
Cayetano	Gonzalez	Pichay	Tambunting
Celeste	Gullas	Pimentel	Tan (A.)
Cerafica	Hernandez	Pineda	Tan (M.)
Cerilles	Herrera-Dy	Plaza	Tan (S.)
Chavez	Hofer	Primicias-Agabas	Tejada
Chipeco	Javier	Quimbo	Teves
Co	Kho	Radaza	Tiangco
Cojuangco	Khonghun	Ramos	Ting
Collantes	Labadlabad	Relampagos	Tinio
Cortes	Lacson	Revilla	Tugna
Cosalan	Lagman	Roa-Puno	Ty
Crisologo	Lanete	Robes	Umali
Cua	Laogan	Rocamora	Ungab
Cuaresma	Lazatin	Rodriguez (I.)	Unico
Dalipe	Lee	Rodriguez (M.)	Uy (J.)
Datol	Limkaichong	Roman	Uy (R.)
Daza	Lobregat	Romualdez	Uybarreta
De Jesus	Lopez (B.)	Romualdo	Vargas
De Venecia	Lopez (C.)	Roque (H.)	Vargas-Alfonso
De Vera	Lopez (M.L.)	Roque (R.)	Velarde
Defensor	Macapagal-Arroyo	Sacdalan	Velasco-Catera
Del Mar	Maceda	Sagarbarria	Veloso
Del Rosario	Madrona	Salceda	Villanueva
Deloso-Montalla	Malapitan	Salo	Villaraza-Suarez
Dimaporo (A.)	Manalo	Salon	Villarica
Dimaporo (M.K.)	Mangaoang	Sambar	Villarin
Durano	Mangudadatu (S.)	Sandoval	Violago
Elago	Marcos	Santos-Recto	Yap (A.)
Enverga	Mariño	Sarmiento (C.)	Yap (M.)
Erice	Marquez	Sarmiento (E.M.)	Yap (V.)
Eriguel	Martinez	Savellano	Yu
Ermita-Buhain	Matugas	Sema	Zarate
Escudero	Mendoza	Siao	Zubiri
Espino	Mercado		
Estrella	Mirasol		
Evardone	Montoro		
Fariñas	Nava		
Fernando	Nieto		
Ferrer (L.)	Noel		
Ferriol-Pascual	Nogralas (J.J.)		
Flores	Nogralas (K.A.)		
Fortun	Nolasco		
Fortuno	Nuñez-Malanyaon		
Fuentebella	Oaminal		
Garbin	Olivarez		
Garcia (G.)	Ong (E.)		
Garcia (J.E.)	Ong (H.)		
Garin (R.)	Ortega (P.)		
Garin (S.)	Ortega (V.N.)		
Gasataya	Pacquiao		

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Speaker is present.

Mme. Speaker, the roll call shows that 244 Members responded to the call. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). With 244 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, may we know the pleasure of the Gentleman from Albay.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker, I would like to

know how my vote was recorded during the Nominal Voting on Third Reading last Wednesday on House Bill No. 5707, entitled: “An Act Rightsizing the National Government to Improve Public Service Delivery.”

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Distinguished Gentleman from Albay, Cong. Edcel Lagman, for your information, your vote was recorded in the affirmative.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker, I neither raised nor showed the thumbs-up or thumbs-down sign. I abstained, Mme. Speaker. So, for the record, may my vote be amended to reflect my abstention.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The manifestation of the Gentleman from Albay is noted, and we shall act on your request when we approve the Journal.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 2, for the session on July 25, 2017.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

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

#### REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

House Bill No. 6017, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE SANDIGANBAYAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1606, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING

FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Umali  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6018, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT BY PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR THE MANUFACTURE, ASSEMBLY, CONVERSION AND IMPORTATION OF ELECTRIC AND HYBRID VEHICLES INCLUDING CHARGING STATIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Revilla  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 6019, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE VALEDICTORIANS, SALUTATORIANS AND FIRST HONOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AN AUTOMATIC ADMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Belaro  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6020, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE CONSULATE IN THE CITY OF NAGOYA, JAPAN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Belaro  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 6021, entitled:

“AN ACT INTEGRATING ‘CULTURE AND TRADITION’ IN THE COURSE OF STUDY AMIDST EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AS WELL AS, IN ALL PHASES OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SPEAR-HEADED BY PHILIPPINE CULTURAL EDUCATION COMMISSION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR ITS CREATION, AND FOR OTHER RELEVANT PURPOSES NECESSARY FOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES STATED HEREIN”

By Representative Savellano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6022, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE CREATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF FALSE NEWS”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 6023, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE OF THE PANAY ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC. GRANTED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5360 AND EXTENDED BY THE NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN A DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF ELECTRIC POWER TO END USERS IN THE CITY OF ILOILO”

By Representative Romualdo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 6025, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED CHILD LEARNERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Mending  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6026, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING A THREE-YEAR DEBT MORATORIUM TO AFFECTED RESIDENTS OF MARAWI CITY”

By Representative Mending  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 6027, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR GROUNDS FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF A MARRIAGE”

By Representatives Baguilat, Batocabe, Brosas, Casilao, Castro (F.L.), Catamco, Cayetano, De Jesus, Elago, Garcia (G.), Go (A.C.), Lagman, Alvarez (P.), Tinio and Zarate

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 6028, entitled:

“AN ACT ALLOWING WOMEN TO REVERT TO THEIR MAIDEN SURNAME, ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR REVERSION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 6029, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE TAXES ON FINITE MINERALS AND MINERAL PRODUCTS AND QUARRY RESOURCES”

By Representative Rocamora

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 6032, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE BRITISH SCHOOL MANILA AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, GRANTING CERTAIN PREROGATIVES CONDUCIVE TO ITS GROWTH AS SUCH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Salo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6033, entitled:

“AN ACT ENTITLING BARANGAY OFFICIALS TO FIXED SALARIES AND OTHER BENEFITS BEING ENJOYED BY REGULAR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Salo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6034, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING A LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF HOURS AN EMPLOYEE CAN WORK AND BE MADE TO WORK OVERTIME, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 87 AND 89 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Laogan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6035, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING COMBAT DUTY ALLOWANCE AND COMBAT INCENTIVE ALLOWANCE TO CITIZEN ARMED FORCES GEOGRAPHICAL UNIT (CAFGU) ACTIVE AUXILIARIES (CAAs) OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Biazon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 6036, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE RISE NATURAL PARK IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE NIPAS ACT (R.A. 7586)

PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Biazon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6037, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FISCAL  
INCENTIVES FOR CORPORATIONS  
WITH BUSINESS ENTERPRISES DULY  
ESTABLISHED AND LOCATED IN THE  
ISLAND OF MINDANAO”

By Representative Benitez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND  
MEANS

House Bill No. 6038, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MAY 3 OF EVERY  
YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING  
HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STA.  
CRUZ, PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE, IN  
COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING  
ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS ‘STA.  
CRUZ DAY’ ”

By Representative Velasco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF  
LAWS

House Bill No. 6039, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ‘ABOT-  
ALAM’ PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6040, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL  
COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK ON  
RESILIENT HOUSING AND HUMAN  
SETTLEMENTS, APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 6041, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING BENEFITS AND  
PRIVILEGES TO JUNIOR CITIZENS”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND  
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 6042, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE

AGRICULTURE AND ENHANCING  
SUPPORT FOR SMALL ORGANIC  
FARMERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 10068 OR THE ORGANIC  
AGRICULTURE ACT OF 2010”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6043, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING BEREAVEMENT LEAVE  
OF TEN (10) DAYS WITH FULL PAY TO  
ALL EMPLOYEES IN THE PRIVATE AND  
PUBLIC SECTORS AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 6044, entitled:

“AN ACT PENALIZING THE DISSEMINATION  
OF FALSE INFORMATION AS TO THE  
PRESENCE OF BOMBS, EXPLOSIVES  
AND OTHER INCENDIARY DEVICES  
IN HIGH DENSITY OR SENSITIVE  
PLACES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES  
THEREFOR”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER  
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 6045, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING TESDA PROVINCIAL  
TRAINING CENTER IN CALAPAN  
CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Leachon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6046, entitled:

“AN ACT RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN PARCELS  
OF LAND OF PUBLIC DOMAIN LOCATED  
IN SITIOS FROM THE DIFFERENT  
BARANGAYS OF ANUPUL, SAN NICOLAS,  
SAN ROQUE AND LOURDES, ALL IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF BAMBAN, PROVINCE  
OF TARLAC FROM UNCLASSIFIED  
FOREST LANDS INTO ALIENABLE AND  
DISPOSABLE LANDS”

By Representative Villanueva  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6047, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING PUBLIC RECREATIONAL SPACES IN ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES IN THE COUNTRY AND ITS INTEGRATION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLANS”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

House Bill No. 6048, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NETWORK OF SUSTAINABLE ELEVATED PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS ALONG EPIFANIO DE LOS SANTOS AVENUE AND PERTINENT MAJOR PUBLIC THOROUGHFARES IN HIGH DENSITY URBAN AREAS, ESTABLISHING APPROPRIATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6049, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD NETWORK CONNECTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF MINALABAC, MILAOR, AND PILI (CAMARINES SUR WATERSPORTS COMPLEX) INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6050, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 14-A, OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘SOCIAL SECURITY LAW’ AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7322”

By Representative Erice  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 6051, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE HOSTED ON-THE-JOB TRAINEES (OJTs) TO ABSORB OJTs AS REGULAR EMPLOYEES UPON GRADUATION”

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

House Bill No. 6052, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF UBAY IN THE PROVINCE OF BOHOL AS THE FARM TOURISM DESTINATION CAPITAL OF BOHOL”

By Representative Aumentado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 6053, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CLINICS FROM WITHHOLDING THE DEATH CERTIFICATES OF DECEASED PATIENTS DUE TO NON-PAYMENT OF HOSPITAL BILLS, PROFESSIONAL FEES AND OTHER MEDICAL EXPENSES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

By Representative Aumentado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6054, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE RATES OF COMBAT DUTY PAY AND COMBAT INCENTIVE PAY OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) AND THE UNIFORMED PERSONNEL OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (S.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY AND THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 6055, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING HAZARD PAY TO TEACHERS AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSIGNED IN CONFLICT AREAS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (S.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6056, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR AIR PASSENGERS AND CARRIER OBLIGATIONS”

By Representative Herrera-Dy  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6057, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BALIK SCIENTIST PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 6058, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL  
BENEFITS TO THE SURVIVING CHILDREN  
OF MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE  
NATIONAL POLICE WHO WERE SLAIN  
IN THE LINE OF DUTY, CREATING THE  
PNP EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FUND,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER  
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 6059, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 37  
AND 38 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS GOVERNMENT  
PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT AND  
PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL  
PROVISIONS NOT PRESENTLY INCLUDED  
IN THE LAW”

By Representative Gonzales (A.D.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6060, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FOREST  
BOUNDARY OF THE PROVINCE OF  
TARLAC”

By Representatives Yap (V.), Cojuangco and  
Villanueva  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6061, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SATELLITE  
OFFICE OF THE MARITIME INDUSTRY  
AUTHORITY LOCATED IN MAASIN  
CITY, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE  
INTO AN EXTENSION OFFICE AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Mercado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

#### RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1126, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE  
ON GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC  
ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT AN  
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON  
THE UTILIZATION OF THE TOBACCO  
EXCISE TAX AND DETERMINATION OF  
THE TANGIBLE BENEFITS ACQUIRED

BY TOBACCO FARMERS OF ILOCOS  
NORTE”

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

House Resolution No. 1127, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN  
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON  
THE IMPACT OF AERIAL BOMBINGS,  
EXECUTED BY THE ARMED FORCES OF  
THE PHILIPPINES, AS PART OF THEIR  
COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS,  
ON THE FARMER COMMUNITIES, PRIOR  
AND UNDER THE DECLARATION OF  
MARTIAL LAW IN MINDANAO”

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

House Resolution No. 1128, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE  
ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN  
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
ON THE ARBITRARY ARREST AND  
DETENTION OF ANAKPAWIS PARTY-  
LIST REGIONAL COORDINATOR PEDRO  
ARNADO AND HIS THREE ACTIVIST  
COMPANIONS BY ELEMENTS OF THE  
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES  
UNDER TASK FORCE DAVAO AT A  
CHECKPOINT IN BRGY. LASANG,  
BUNAWAN DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY, AS  
PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
MARTIAL LAW IN MINDANAO”

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

House Resolution No. 1129, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE  
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ILLEGAL  
ARREST AND FILING OF TRUMPED UP  
CHARGES AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE  
COMPOSTELA FARMERS ASSOCIATION  
(CFA) IN BRGY. MANGAYON,  
COMPOSTELA TOWN, COMPOSTELA  
VALLEY BY ELEMENTS OF THE 66<sup>TH</sup>  
INFANTRY BATTALION PHILIPPINE  
ARMY (IBPA)”

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

House Resolution No. 1130, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF LANDLESSNESS AMONG FILIPINO FARMERS, PERPETUATION OF FORMER AND PRESENT HACIENDAS AND THE URGENT NECESSITY FOR LAND DISTRIBUTION, AS STEP TOWARDS THE ATTAINMENT OF GENUINE AGRARIAN REFORM IN THE COUNTRY”

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

House Resolution No. 1131, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PLIGHT OF HACIENDA ROXAS FARMERS STRUGGLING FOR THEIR RIGHTS TO LAND BEING OPPOSED BY ROXAS AND CO., INC. IN NASUGBU, BATANGAS”

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

House Resolution No. 1132, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DISPLACEMENT OF SIXTY-TWO (62) AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES (ARBs) BELONGING TO THE SAMAHANG MAGBUBUKID NG KAPDULA (SAMAKA) FROM THEIR FARMS ON A 155.7-HECTARE LAND IN BRGY. BUCAL, DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE THROUGH UNSCRUPULOUS MEANS LEADING TO THE JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT (JVA) AND TAKING OVER OF THE LANDS BY JAKA INVESTMENT CORPORATION, SOUTH CAVITE LAND COMPANY INC. AND STA. LUCIA REALTY DEVELOPMENT INC.”

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

House Resolution No. 1133, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY CONDEMNING AND CALLING FOR AN URGENT INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE THREATS,

HARASSMENT, AND VILIFICATION AGAINST STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE SALUGPONGAN TA’ TANU IGKANOGON COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER IN SITIO NASILABAN, BRGY. PALMA GIL, TALAINGOD, DAVAO DEL NORTE, BY THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE PARAMILITARY GROUP ALAMARA”

By Representatives Tinio, Castro (F.L.), Brosas and Casilao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1134, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY CONDEMNING AND CALLING FOR AN URGENT INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE INDISCRIMINATE FIRING AGAINST CHILDREN AND A LUMAD SCHOOL SUPPORTER AND THE EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING OF ANTIMINING ACTIVISTS IN COMPOSTELA VALLEY BY THE PHILIPPINE ARMY”

By Representatives Tinio, Castro (F.L.), Brosas and Casilao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1135, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION TO INVESTIGATE CASES OF ABUSE AND MALTREATMENT OF OFWs/DOMESTIC WORKERS, AND ESTABLISH ACCOUNTABILITY AMONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS REVIEW OUR PRESENT SYSTEM, LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO DETERMINE THE WEAKNESSES OF OUR SYSTEMS IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF THESE VULNERABLE WORKERS, CONSIDERING NEW APPROACHES SUCH AS BAN ON THEIR DEPLOYMENT, AMONG OTHERS, IN THE INTEREST OF PROTECTING THEIR WELFARE, AND IN AID OF LEGISLATION, AMONG OTHERS”

By Representative Bertiz  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1136, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON THE COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM PROGRAM TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE UTILIZATION BY THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION OF FUNDS ALLOCATED



FROM TAX REVENUES COLLECTED  
UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10351”  
By Representative Quimbo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND  
MEANS

House Resolution No. 1137, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCLUSION OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR AND 13 MAYORS OF SULU IN THE LIST OF LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVES WHOSE DEPUTATION AS NAPOLCOM REPRESENTATIVES WERE REVOKED ON HIGHLY SERIOUS GROUNDS OF INVOLVEMENT IN ILLEGAL DRUGS TRADE, CONNIVANCE WITH LOCAL TERRORISTS PARTICULARLY THE ABU SAYYAF GROUP ON KIDNAP FOR RANSOM ACTIVITIES AND PROVISION IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER OF MATERIAL SUPPORT TO TERRORISTS”

By Representative Arbison  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1138, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION AS TO THE PROCESS AND GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTED BY LTFRB REGARDING PUBLIC RIDE SHARING AND RECOMMEND REMEDIAL MEASURES FOR THE SAFETY OF RIDING PUBLIC”

By Representative Bagatsing  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1139, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD (LTFRB) TO FINALIZE THE NEW GUIDELINES FOR THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE TO TRANSPORTATION NETWORK VEHICLE SERVICES (TNVS)”

By Representative Uybarreta  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Resolution No. 1140, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROCESS BEING FOLLOWED BY THE

LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD (LTFRB) IN GRANTING FRANCHISES TO TRANSPORT NETWORK VEHICLE SERVICES (TNVS) PROVIDERS”

By Representative Antonio  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Reps. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Johnny Ty Pimentel, Deogracias B. Ramos Jr., Francis Gerald A. Abaya, Maria Carmen S. Zamora, Eric L. Olivarez, Ruby M. Sahali, Eric D. Singson, Arnulfo P. Fuentebella, Lucy T. Gomez, Peter “Sr. Pedro” M. Unabia, and Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D. for House Bill No. 177;

Rep. Isidro S. Rodriguez Jr. for House Bills No. 2622 and 2624;

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing for House Bills No. 1697 and 3410;

Rep. Victoria Isabel G. Noel for House Bill No. 3409;

Rep. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D. for House Bills No. 3335, 5158, and 5808;

Reps. Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta, Marlyn B. Alonte, Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III, Eugene Michael B. De Vera, Lianda B. Bolilia, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Rodrigo A. Abellanos, Isagani S. Amatong, Peter John D. Calderon, and Carlos O. Cojuangco for House Bill No. 5549;

Rep. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano for House Bills No. 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 822, 823, 2444, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2709, 2710, 2711, 2712, 2713, 2714, 2897, 3394, 3560, 3682, 3769, 4067, 4348, 4366, 4367, 4452, 4453, 4454, and 4581;

Rep. Strike B. Revilla for House Bills No. 4973 and 5675;

Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto for House Bill No. 4954;

Rep. Manuel Luis T. Lopez for House Bills No. 3641 and 4722;

Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda for House Bills No. 5560, 5631, and 5655;

Rep. Carlo V. Lopez for House Bill No. 5382;

Rep. Manuel F. Zubiri for House Bill No. 2881;

Rep. Lorna C. Silverio for House Bills No. 5021, 5228, and 5532;

Rep. Micaela S. Violago for House Bills No. 5326, 5570, and 5659, and House Resolution No. 787;

Rep. Alfredo “Albee” B. Benitez for House Bill No. 4973;

Rep. Salvador B. Belaro Jr. for House Bill No. 5672;

Rep. Christopher V.P. De Venecia for House Bill No. 5023;

Rep. Nancy A. Catamco for House Bills No. 5549 and 5751;

Rep. Emmanuel A. Billones for House Bills No. 2622, 2624, and 5524;

Rep. Rodante D. Marcoleta for House Bill No. 5828;

Rep. Ricardo “RJ” T. Belmonte Jr. for House Bills No. 269 and 5524;

Rep. Sherwin N. Tugna for House Bill No. 487;

Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr. for House Bill No. 5675;

Reps. Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Conrado M. Estrella III, Mark Aeron H. Sambar, Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez, and Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang for House Bill No. 5811; and

Rep. Franz E. Alvarez for House Bill No. 6.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated July 25, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1465, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FREE IRRIGATION SERVICE TO SMALL FARMERS, REVOKING FOR THE PURPOSE THE CORPORATE STATUS OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated July 25, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1397, entitled:

“AN ACT PREVENTING AND PENALIZING THE USE OF MOTORCYCLES IN THE COMMISSION OF CRIMES THROUGH READABLE PLATE NUMBERS AND IDENTIFICATION MARKS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education (Committee Report No. 329), re H.B. No. 6065, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE NAVAL STATE UNIVERSITY (NSU) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAVAL, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN, AS THE BILIRAN PROVINCE STATE

UNIVERSITY (BILSU) AND REMOVING THE PROHIBITION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9718, ENTITLED: ‘AN ACT CONVERTING THE NAVAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAVAL, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE NAVAL STATE UNIVERSITY, INTEGRATING THEREWITH THE BILIRAN NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BILIRAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 873 and 3066

Sponsors: Representatives Hofer and Espina  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Natural Resources (Committee Report No. 330), re H.B. No. 6073, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FINAL FORESTLAND BOUNDARY OF THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3516

Sponsors: Representatives Ty, Nograles (K.A.), Mellana, Plaza, Bag-ao and Villarín  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 331), re H.B. No. 6081, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF MANLABANG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MANLABANG, MUNICIPALITY OF CAIBIRAN, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN, TO CAIBIRAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4160

Sponsors: Representatives Durano and Espina  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

#### RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1141, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE BASIS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION

(NAPOLCOM) TO WITHDRAW THE DEPUTATION OF SEVEN (7) GOVERNORS AND ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO (132) MAYORS IN MINDANAO”

By Representative Dimaporo (M.K.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1142, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS AND PERSEVERE IN ITS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO RECOVER THE THREE (3) BELLS OF BALANGIGA FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA”

By Representative Evardone  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Resolution No. 1143, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PHP 900-MILLION INTERNAL FRAUD CASE OF ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED BY A BANK EXECUTIVE OF METROPOLITAN BANK AND TRUST CO. (METROBANK)”

By Representative Suarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1144, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO LOOK INTO THE POSITIVE EFFECTS OF AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY ON THE LIVES OF THE RURAL FOLKS AND ITS POTENTIAL AS AN ALTERNATIVE TOOL FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS”

By Representatives Kho and Acosta-Alba  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1145, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN RESPECT OF TAXES ASSESSED ON AND COLLECTED FROM DEL MONTE PHILIPPINES, INC. RESULTING TO REVENUE LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT”

By Representative Villanueva  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. Michelle M. Antonio. They are, first, the members of the Soroptimist International of the Philippines Region, headed by Governor Cherry Tumaneng and Metro Manila South East District Director Cyd Marquez. Second are the members of Zonta Club de Valle Verde, headed by President Sandra Cox; the Taguete Waterworks, Inc.; President Doren Tayag and company; Sibul Ning Aeta Foundation; Director Renato Tayag and company; the internationally acclaimed sculptor Impy Pilapil and company from UP Fine Arts; the members of the UP College of Fine Arts Alumni Foundation, headed by Mrs. Menchu Pascual; Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology President Filemon T. Berba Jr. and family; and the students of BA Sociology from UP Diliman, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). May we request all the guests of Rep. Michelle Antonio to please rise to be properly acknowledged by the Members of the House of Representatives. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Floor Leader is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, today being a Monday, and pursuant to our rules, I move that we proceed to the Privilege Hour.

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, I now move that the Representative from Party-List AGBIAG, Rep. Michelle M. Antonio, be recognized for her privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Rep. Michelle Antonio from Party-List AGBIAG is now recognized. *(Applause)*

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ANTONIO

REP. ANTONIO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

Before I proceed further with the rest of my privilege speech, may I humbly request your kind and

undivided attention to watch an informational video that is about to be shown on the screen. This is about an impending crisis that is going to gravely affect our lives drastically—a water crisis.

*(Video presentation)*

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues of this august Body, ladies and gentlemen. I rise to draw special attention to one of the most basic needs of humanity yet a resource that we have taken for granted—water. Water is a basic human need and access to it is regarded as a fundamental human right. Despite numerous advances in technology and growth of the global economy, sufficient access to basic water services remains as one of the most crucial issues for peoples and communities particularly in developing countries in the world today.

Here in the Philippines, the 2015 data from the UNICEF and World Health Organization Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation showed that eight million people—nearly a tenth of our population—lack access to clean drinking water. What is more alarming is that there is only one major water source that supplies Metro Manila, the Angat Dam. Currently, 97 percent of Metro Manila's water supply comes from Angat Dam. There is no other alternative water source. Angat Dam is governed by an allocation protocol to manage dam water supply sharing among domestic and industrial water needs, irrigation of about 31,000 hectares of agricultural lands, and power supply generation to feed the Luzon grid which powers more than 20 transmission lines all throughout Luzon, from Orion and Olongapo, to Calauan and Dasmariñas, to name a few. More so, a portion of the water supply from Angat has been already earmarked early last year for the Bulacan Bulk Water Supply Project. This is a public-private partnership that aims to provide treated bulk water to the various water districts of Bulacan to help meet the increasing water demand of its consumers, expand its current service area coverage and increase the number of households served.

With this level of dependency on the Angat Dam, we are facing a looming crisis. The term “water crisis” labels a situation where there is a lack of sufficient available potable water to meet the demands of water usage in any region. The Angat Dam will not be able to meet the needs of its more than 15 million inhabitants by year 2020, three years from now, unless an alternative water source to Angat Dam is developed by the government. This does not even factor in climate change which is already happening, the alarmingly low water levels in the Angat Dam despite the rainy season, and the disaster risks which make Metro Manila doubly vulnerable to water crisis. The 50-year old Angat Dam has also been described as a ticking time bomb as it sits along the West Valley Fault which, experts say, might move anytime and trigger a powerful magnitude 7.2

earthquake which they call the “Big One.” God forbid, this may occur anytime soon and when it hits Angat Dam, water crisis will follow immediately.

A commissioned study has disclosed that should the Angat Dam collapse, it will immediately claim 30,000 lives and result in P201-billion damage. Ten to 30-meter high floodwaters will ravage 20 towns in Bulacan, three towns in Pampanga and three cities in Metro Manila; and, of course, a water crisis will directly impact on the health of the affected families. This would have very serious and irreversible effects of epidemic proportions on millions of Metro Manila residents. These alarming facts are unknown to many of us or have gone largely unnoticed, but even those who are already aware of the situation continue to take water for granted. In fact, despite news on the crack on Angat Dam which is being strengthened now under the supervision of the MWSS, they still see no reason to feel alarmed for as long as water unceasingly flows from their faucets. They do not feel any impending water crisis. They ignore the facts and delay taking action towards water security and, at times, it seems no one could care less. This is now where we come in as leaders and public servants. We in government must ensure that we have a concrete backup plan for our current single supply source, the Angat Dam.

The 1987 Constitution has provisions that contain an implicit recognition of a right to access basic resources such as water, but there remains a disturbing gap between policy and practice. While there have been efforts on the part of government to respond to this issue, much still remains to be done. Likewise, there is a need to invest in physical infrastructure as well, especially in putting up necessary dams as alternatives to the Angat Dam. The Kaliwa Dam in Quezon and the Laiban Dam in Rizal, in fact, can be alternatives to the Angat Dam. However, with the delayed preparations of the Kaliwa Dam Project, it will be operational in 2023, three years too late with the impending water crisis. The construction of the Laiban Dam, on the other hand, has been opposed by indigenous communities because of its impact on the Sierra Madre forest ecosystems. Its construction is now delayed because of the constant approval issues that it faces. Thus, while the Kaliwa Dam and the Laiban Dam can produce more than the two-million liters a day which is currently produced by Angat Dam, both are mired in legal, resettlement and environmental issues, and their construction has been delayed.

All of these taken together, it is clear that we need to start discussing a new and stronger water supply masterplan. We must form a group of government leaders and other key stakeholders who can identify primary and alternative water sources for Metro Manila. In addition to the masterplan, it is also worthwhile to look at reform measures to improve the country's

regulatory and institutional frameworks for sustainable water resource management. As legislators, we must look into the multiplicity of institutions involved, all with different hierarchical coverage, varied mandates and representing the interests of diverse constituencies. It is high time that we check through legislative oversight whether the government agencies involved in water are still efficient and well-oiled to perform their mandates. Take, for example, the National Water Resources Board or the NWRB. It is the government agency responsible for all the water resources in the Philippines. It coordinates and regulates all water-related activities in the country that have impact on the physical environment and the economy, but the NWRB is understaffed and lacks the necessary budget to perform its mandate. We must therefore examine whether legislation is necessary to strengthen and define the NWRB as the central government agency for water resource management. Otherwise, it could be time to create a department of water and make it the central agency for water management.

With that, I urge you, my fellow legislators, to look at whether these agencies involved are only making water governance unnecessarily complex. We must make attempts at unifying the fragmented water sector.

My colleagues in the House of Representatives, we have a lot of work to do. I call on all of you to give your inputs with regard to this pressing matter. We can do consultations in our communities and with various sectors of society, so we will know their concerns. We can also educate our citizens by sponsoring seminars on sustainable water resource management or enjoin different big corporations to sponsor ads on cable television on the vital issue of water conservation. We can also ask the LGUs or several NGOs like the Soroptimist International or the Zonta Club to plant trees or engage in reforestation projects. This concern is, after all, not the undertaking of just one government agency; rather, it is our responsibility for survival is everybody's birthright.

Let us not wait for the day when the taps run dry and we find ourselves parched and thirsty in the concrete and steel deserts that our cities may become. Let us not wait for the day when floodwaters have destroyed everything we called home and have taken away all that we love. We must act now. We must act decisively. Our future is in our hands.

On a parting note, let me quote W.H. Auden: "Thousands have lived without love, not one without water."

Thank you, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, and good afternoon. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, may we inquire from the Representative of the AGBIAG Party-List, the Hon. Michelle Antonio, if she is willing to yield to some interpellations.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Representative Antonio?

REP. ANTONIO. Mme. Speaker, because I believe there is the matter of time, I can answer one or two questions. After this, I believe that everything has already been explained in my speech, and my colleagues who are also going to have their privilege speeches later, after me, have requested time allocation from me. So, I am willing to answer one or two questions.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, may we recognize Rep. Pia S. Cayetano of the Second District of Taguig City for her to manifest her support.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Rep. Pia Cayetano is recognized.

REP. CAYETANO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

With the permission of my colleagues, Representatives Atienza and Acop, I hope this is not counted as a question because I have no question. This is just a manifestation of my full support for the position taken by our dear colleague. I was Chairman of the Committee on Environment in the Senate and I can attest that we have done very little to protect our source of water and the quality of water. So, I do hope that in the coming budget session, we would see an increase in the budget for water quality and the availability of our water supply, as many of the countries all over the world have been doing. I have more to say but in the interest of time management, I will end by saying I have no choice really but to support this cause because International Water Day falls on my birthday, March 22. Thank you.

REP. ANTONIO. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The manifestation of the honorable Deputy Speaker Pia Cayetano is noted and advance happy birthday. *(Applause)*

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker.

REP. ACOP. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. May we now recognize Rep. Romeo M. Acop of the Second District of Antipolo City for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Rep. Romeo Acop is recognized.

REP. ACOP. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

Would the honorable Representative of the AGBIAG Party-List be amenable to be asked certain or a few clarificatory questions?

REP. ANTONIO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, it is a privilege.

REP. ACOP. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

First, the Representative spoke of a water crisis. May I know when, in her projection, this will come insofar as our country is concerned.

REP. ANTONIO. Excuse me for the distraction, Mme. Speaker. Can the Gentleman repeat the question?

REP. ACOP. May I know, if ever she has information, when this impending water crisis will come insofar as this country is concerned. Does she have a projection on what year it will come?

REP. ANTONIO. Mme. Speaker, may I share with the Gentleman these following information:

In 1999, the National Water Resources Board attempted to formulate a national water plan. Not much happened because of inadequate government support. While there were studies conducted by the National Economic and Development Authority on Philippine Water Supply Sector Roadmap in 2010 and a water security legacy roadmap was developed by the Metro Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System in 2011, there has been no update and no collective water supply master plan yet that encompasses all of the Philippine areas.

It may also be worth mentioning that in October 2016, Manila Water wrote the Department of Public Works and Highways to flag a looming water shortage and the urgent need to update the Metro Manila water supply master plan. Manila Water reiterated that, as early as 2010, it has strongly advocated for alternative water supply sources to reduce its dependency on Angat Dam which falls, may I reiterate, along the West Valley Fault. Therefore, as legislators, we must convene a technical working group, along with relevant water resource management agencies, to provide the overall strategic policy direction to develop an encompassing and updated Philippine water supply master plan that will

expedite the necessary interventions to mitigate short- and long-term risks in water supply management.

Per reports, there is a low level of financial and human resources support to the NWRB, supposedly the country's premiere water resource manager, and this has incapacitated the agency from fulfilling its envisioned mandate under the Water Code. With the consultation with the NWRB and all the water resource management agencies, we may find out further what they need to sufficiently fund all their programs and projects. Therefore, it is one of my recommendations that we establish a strong lead agency to provide a much-needed policy guidance. Further, may I suggest that we update the 40-year-old Water Code. There has been a lot of changes in the status of the country's water resources since the passage of the Water Code in 1976. Therefore, we must look into modernizing the Water Code using a clear and integrated policy on water resource management. Proposed amendments to the Water Code can also be implemented without congressional approval via an executive action by the President. Second, I would like to recommend that we establish a strong lead agency to provide much-needed policy guidance and govern our water resources, or we strengthen the National Water Resources Board which is mandated to supervise all water resources in the country. But, as I have mentioned a while ago, it is understaffed and underfunded. We should address the problem of having a highly fragmented institutional framework, as we have over 30 agencies and over 6,000 water service providers scattered throughout the country, doing their own thing. It is time we build a coherent national water strategy to achieve an integrated approach to water management and supply. Third, we must create a proper regulatory framework to govern all water service providers throughout the country in order to bring about the results desired from the operation of the said providers. Lastly, we must develop a funding and financing strategy aimed at better leveraging public funds, targeted output-driven subsidies and specific support mechanisms to help mobilize private resources into the sector.

We must look into opportunities for the government to partner with business by facilitating, licensing and permitting, and resolving right-of-way issues which become a constraint towards attracting private funding.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Representative Acop is recognized.

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

May nabasa po akong isang article. The problem of water crisis will come in the middle of 2025, I

think, according to that article. Now, Mme. Speaker, our colleague has come up with a future problem, but nowhere in the pronouncement of the President did we hear of an impending water crisis. So, may I know if the Honorable Antonio would, shall I say, agree with me, that since the Executive has not recognized this as an impending crisis, there is much work to be done. Would the esteemed Representative of AGBIAG agree with this Representation, Mme. Speaker?

REP. ANTONIO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

It is true that the President has not made any announcements regarding this impending water crisis, making it or considering it as one of his priorities, but I can say that this government is silently working in the background to address the issue. In fact, I spoke with the MWSS Chair, Administrator Rey Velasco, during my visit to Angat Dam and he discussed his plans with regard to the construction of the Laiban Dam and Kaliwa Dam as our alternative water sources. He is also pushing for the Sumag River Diversion Project to supplement water coming from the Umiray River going to Angat Dam. Putting up an intermediary dam between the Ipo and Angat Dams is also needed. I can see that he was very determined and I think he will see to it that this plan will push through.

This water issue is not a novel one, Mme. Speaker. We have heard about this time and time again, but the reason I am advocating this right now is I want all of us to see the urgency of the situation. We are running out of time. It is time we all work together to solve the problem and find alternative water sources.

An opportunity can be seen under the Duterte administration's golden age of infrastructure. The President said at the beginning of his term that the government will accelerate spending on infrastructure by addressing major bottlenecks and maintaining the target of setting aside five percent of the county's Gross Domestic Product to infrastructure spending. We can see that this statement has been operationalized through the Build, Build, Build Program. The ongoing pursuit of these ambitious infrastructure projects may also be utilized to address one of the pressing concerns of the country which is water security.

President Duterte's legacy must not only be about fighting drugs, but he should also be remembered for successfully addressing the water crisis as well. If President Duterte can effectively manage our water situation by mobilizing the approximately 30 water-related government agencies, his legacy will also be for the world as well, as water is part of the biggest global challenge today.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Representative Acop is recognized.

REP. ACOP. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

As for my last issue insofar as this privilege speech is concerned, Mme. Speaker, much has been said and written about the water scarcity in this country, but nowhere have I read a study on the impact of the collapse of the source of our water in Metropolitan Manila, the Angat Dam. There has been no study about it, supposing Angat Dam would not be able to supply the water needed by Metro Manila and its environs. We should require the agency concerned to come up with this study simply because the alternative sources of water, the Laiban Dam and the Kaliwa Dam, I think, are on hold, if the honorable Representative of the AGBIAG Party-List would agree with me, and I am in agreement insofar as her advocacy is concerned because I have read articles on the impending water crisis that is the subject of her privilege speech.

Therefore, Mme. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the honorable Representative of the AGBIAG Party-List for bringing up this impending future problem to which our government has not given any proper attention.

Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker, for the privilege given to me this afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Chair thanks Representative Acop and Representative Antonio.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, inasmuch as the Representative from the AGBIAG Party-List already expressed her wish to be interpellated by, at most, two, may we inquire on the pleasure of Congressman from the First District of Albay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Representative Lagman is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. I did not rise, Mme. Speaker, ...

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. ... to make an interpellation, ...

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Floor Leader.

REP. LAGMAN. ... but to commend and congratulate the honorable Lady from AGBIAG Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Floor Leader, I believe that we agreed that I will ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. May we also recognize—may we inquire what is the pleasure of the Representative from BUHAY Party-List, Representative Atienza.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Give me two minutes, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Mr. Floor Leader, does Representative Lagman yield?

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, with the indulgence of the Honorable Atienza, but the Honorable Lagman presently has the floor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). So, he has the floor.

REP. DEFENSOR. So, may we recognize the Honorable Lagman for a brief manifestation. As he said, he would like to congratulate the Lady for her privilege speech. After the Honorable Lagman, the Honorable Atienza will have his turn.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Please proceed, Congressman Lagman.

REP. ATIENZA. I will always yield to a Gentleman with principle. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker, I truly congratulate and commend the distinguished Lady from AGBIAG Party-List, the Hon. Michelle M. Antonio, for a very timely speech on the looming water crisis.

Just to underscore the import and relevance of her speech, I would like to read some information on the water crisis not only in the Philippines but worldwide.

In a recent annual report of the United Nations, it said that abuses on water are now so great that with the current trends, the world will pay 40 percent global water deficit by 2030. Water deficit is defined as the gap between demand for water and replenishment of water. These water abuses would include the following: contamination of water by pesticides, industrial pollution and run-off from untreated sewage, and over-exploitation especially for irrigation which, I think, are happening in the country today. The report further said that surging population growth is one of the biggest drivers behind the incoming crisis. It said that to feed these extra mouths, agriculture, which already accounts

for around 70 percent of all water withdrawals, would have to increase output by some 60 percent. There is also the effect of climate change on water resource.

Then, in a report by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, it said that there is need to increase investments in tapping fresh water sources in the Philippines in the use of technology including sewerage treatment and other technologies. Most probably, it would be important to know later if there would be a committee hearing on the report on the total public and private investments in the Philippines with respect to tapping fresh water. The same report from the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines said that there is enough fresh water that can be tapped. It is just a matter of proper management, infrastructure development, coordination between the government and the private sector, and public learning on how to use it properly or in other words, there would be an efficient use of water to conserve our water resource.

Finally, Mme. Speaker, this question need not be answered by the distinguished Lady, but it is important to know how safe or unsafe is the drinking water provided by Maynilad and Manila Water, so much so that countless citizens have to buy bottled, purified, distilled or spring water for drinking. On this note, Mme. Speaker, I again congratulate the distinguished Lady for that very relevant and timely speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The manifestation of Representative Lagman is noted. The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, may we now recognize BUHAY Party-List Rep. Jose “Lito” L. Atienza Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List, Rep. Lito Atienza, is recognized.

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

Ako po ay buong pusong sumusuporta sa panawagan ng ating Kongresista na hindi lamang napapanahon kung hindi tumutugon sa napakalaking problema na ngayon ng ating bansa. My colleague and our colleague, Congressman Lagman, said that we should learn about waste sewerage treatment. Mme. Speaker, this is a must in any civilized nation today and the fact that we have been paying every month—if you check your water bill, as everyone should check his water bill, we are paying 20 percent of our bills to Maynilad and Manila Water for wastewater treatment facilities. Wala pong ganyan, Mme. Speaker, at hanggang ngayon, 20 years na silang nangongolekta sa ating mga consumers pero hindi po ibinibigay iyang wastewater treatment facility.



So, today, ano ang solusyon sa panawagan ni Congresswoman Antonio? We should all bond together. This Congress has a big challenge in our hands— how to respond to the crisis now. We ask: when will the crisis happen? It is already happening when we are being charged for something that the government or the private sector in partnership with the government is not providing to save our water reserve.

We have an abundance of fresh water, Mme. Speaker. We have known that for a fact. We have more than 144 billion cubic meters of water available every year. We are not consuming that but we are wasting it away. Take a look at the Pasig River; take a look at the Laguna de Bay; take a look at any river—Bulacan River, Pampanga River, and all the lakes in the country. Lahat po iyan ay may lason na dahil hindi po natin ginagawa ang dapat. Kaya kung anuman ang iniisip ng ating Kongresistang Antonio, the Lady Congresswoman, we will support her wholeheartedly, as the score should ring in the hearts and minds of every legislator that we cannot continue doing this to ourselves.

Water is now more expensive here in the Philippines than diesel fuel. Saan kayo nakakita niyan, abundant ang fresh water sa atin pero mahal na mahal ang presyo kung tayo ay bibili na lamang ng nasa bote. Well, we should be drinking fresh water—healthier, free and definitely abundant. The same way that the President is saying we should gain from the mineral resources that we have, we would like to remind him that we should also gain from the water resources that we have before somebody else more powerful than us takes advantage of what we have.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Floor Leader.

Again, we will support whatever action the Lady Legislator takes on this matter. Kailangang umaksiyon tayo. Magsama-sama tayo.

Maraming salamat po. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The manifestation and call to arms of the Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List is duly noted.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BATOCABE. Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, may we know the pleasure of the Gentleman inasmuch as the Lady from AGBIAG has graciously declined to entertain further interpellations?

REP. BATOCABE. Mme. Speaker, I just wish to enter also my own manifestation regarding the water problem.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, may we remind our colleagues who would wish to congratulate the Lady for her very successful privilege speech to kindly limit their manifestation. We know that this is a very significant topic that concerns us all, but we have a long list of our colleagues who would want to avail of the Privilege Hour. So, with the indulgence of the Gentleman, we would like to graciously request him to limit the manifestation. With that, I move that we recognize the distinguished Gentleman.

REP. BATOCABE. No problem.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Representative Batocabe is recognized.

REP. BATOCABE. No problem, Mme. Speaker. I will just do it in two minutes. First, Mme. Speaker, I would like to commend the Lady from AGBIAG for bringing out the water problem. During the 2016 election, before the election, we commissioned a survey. Our Party-List, AKO BICOL, commissioned a survey among Bicolano voters and we asked them, what is their number-one problem? It is not about unemployment, it is not even about education, it is not even about poverty; they answered: water. So, this is now really the problem in our country, and it is so unfortunate, Mme. Speaker, that there is no centralized agency that takes care of our water. If in the electrification there is the National Electrification Administration, we do not even have a rural electrification program.

As you see, I am sure most of my colleagues here will say that in their barangays, there is really no running water. So, water really is a big problem and I am so glad that all my colleagues here are interested in this very basic utility. I do hope that this Congress will take a very clear and definite step to address the water problem that affects our country.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The manifestation of our Gentleman from AKO BICOL Party-List, Rep. Rodel Batocabe, is duly noted.

REP. PANCHO. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, may we inquire on the pleasure of the Representative from the Second District of Bulacan?

REP. PANCHO. Mme. Speaker, I would like to make a manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Representative from the Second District of Bulacan is recognized.

REP. PANCHO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, I would like to make a manifestation.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, inasmuch as it has already been mentioned so many times, may we request the honorable Congressman from the Second District of Bulacan to limit his manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Please proceed.

REP. PANCHO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Floor Leader.

Una po ay nagpapasalamat tayo sa Party-list AGBIAG at nagbigay po sila ng pagpapahayag tungkol sa tunay na problema ng tubig dito sa ating bansa. Ito po ay—ang Angat Dam na kung saan—ito po ay nasa lalawigan ng Bulacan at nais lamang po naming ipabatid na tunay po na kinakailangang magkaroon ng karagdagang source of water para dito sa Metro Manila, sapagkat kung hindi po ninyo naitatanong, ang tubig na iniinom at ginagamit sa Metro Manila ay nanggagaling po sa lalawigan ng Bulacan. Ang kalungkutan po nito, kung saka-sakali po na mataas ang demand dito sa Metro Manila, ang pinipigilan po ng supply ay iyong tubig na dapat ay sa NIA o para sa mga magsasaka. Kaya tinatawagan po at nagpapasalamat po tayo at nabigyan po ng pagkakataon upang ito po ay mapag-usapan dito sa Mababang Kapulungan sapagkat napapanahon na po na ang ating pamahalaan ay maglikha po at gumawa ng panibagong pagkukunan ng tubig at hindi lamang po ang Angat Dam.

Nais rin po naming ipaabot na sa tagal nang panahon na ang supply po ng tubig ay nanggagaling sa lalawigan ng Bulacan, hindi po nasusunod ang nakasaad sa batas na kinakailangan, according sa Local Government Code, ay magkaroon ng share ang aming lalawigan sa bawat tubig na nakukuha po sa Bulacan, kaya tinatawagan po namin ng pansin ang kinaukulan. Nag-file na po tayo ng resolusyon, Resolution No. 1106, upang maimbestigahan po kung bakit laging nagsasakripisyo po ang lalawigan ng Bulacan, lalo at higit po ang mga magsasaka, kung sakali pong dumating ang tagtuyot o tag-init. Kung dumarating naman po ang tag-ulan, ang nagsasakripisyo po ay ang lalawigan ng Bulacan sapagkat patuloy po na itinatapon at ipinadadaloy ang tubig papunta po sa dagat. Kaya sana po, humihiling po kami ng tulong at suporta sa ating pamahalaan na maipagpatuloy po ang pagdaragdag ng dam. Nandiyang po ang Kaliwa Dam, Laiban Dam at ang Bayabas Dam

na matagal na pong hinihintay ng lalawigan ng Bulacan para maitayo po ito exclusively para sa paggamit po ng mga magsasaka.

Iyon lang po, Mme. Speaker, and thank you po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The manifestation of the Gentleman from the Second District of Bulacan, Rep. Gavini “Apol” C. Pancho, is duly noted.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, we also join our colleagues in the House of Representatives in congratulating and commending our Representative from AGBIAG for delivering such a very timely and highly significant matter.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Congratulations.

REP. SALO. With that, Mme. Speaker, I respectfully move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Antonio to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, may we respectfully acknowledge the presence of the guests of Asst. Minority Leader Harlin Neil J. Abayon III. We have Vice Mayor Dante Cleto Esteban of Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro; and Pastor Rodolfo Bautista Jr., Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director of the Seventh-Day Adventist Central Luzon Conference.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Will the guests of Rep. Harlin Abayon please rise. (*Applause*) Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the following people who are the guests of the honorable Cong. Strike B. Revilla. First are Barangay Kagawad members: Jovelyn Tagle, Reynaldo Canales, Edward Sabater; and members of Lupon Tagapamayapa: Adelina Soniga, Marilou Viray, Ambrosio Esguerra of Barangay Molino 3, city of Bacoor, Cavite City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The guests of the honorable Cong. Strike Revilla, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, next to avail of the Privilege Hour is Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate. May we recognize him, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Gentleman from Party-List BAYAN MUNA, the Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ZARATE

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, kapwa ko Mambabatas, ngayong hapon, nais kong ilahad, sampu ng mga kasamahan ko sa Makabayan bloc, ang kalagayan ng bayan mula sa pananaw ng mga inaapi at pinagsasamantalang sektor ng ating lipunan.

Mme. Speaker, nitong nakaraang Hulyo 24, sa pangalawang State of the Nation Address ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, ilan pong libong magsasaka, manggagawa, maralitan-lungsod, kababaihan at mga Lumad na naglakbay pa mula sa Mindanao ang nagmartsa sa kahabaan ng Commonwealth Avenue patungong Batasan. Naganap ang malaking martsa noong nakaraang Lunes last week, na tinatayang nasa 30,000 katao, sa gitna ng matinding ligalig. Bitbit ng mga nagmartsa ang lagim ng martial law na ipinataw sa kabuuan ng Mindanao. Bitbit ng mga nagprotesta ang ligalig ng taumbayan sa pagkadurog ng Marawi City dahil sa walang habas na pambobomba. Mabibigat ang lapat ng paa sa semento ng mga nagmamartsa dahil sa bigat ng abang kalagayan ng mahigit kalahating milyong mamamayang Moro, na karamihan ay nagdurusa sa mga evacuation centers habang ang kanilang mga kabahayan at kabuhayan ay pinupulbos ng pambobomba. Pasan din ng mga naglakad sa kahabaan ng Commonwealth Avenue ang pagsuspinde mula sa usapang pangkapayapaan sa pagitan ng gobyerno ng Republika ng Pilipinas at ng National Democratic Front of the Philippines. Dala ng mga nagprotesta ang mabigat na epekto ng umiiral na all-out-war policy ng Armed Forces of the Philippines laban sa New People's Army, na nagdudulot lamang ng pagdanak ng dugo ng mga magsasaka, mga Lumad at mga aktibista; at ang muling pagbabakwit ng buo-buong komunidad ng mga katutubo dahil sa militarisasyon. Kumakaladkad din sa bawat paa ng mga nagmamartsa ang alaala ng libu-libong kataong napaslang dahil sa mabangis na giyera laban sa droga ng administrasyong Duterte.

Ganito kalaki, kabigat at kalawak ang isyung bitbit ng mamamayang nag-abang ng talumpati ng Pangulo noong nakaraang Linggo.

Mme. Speaker, noong nakaraang taon, maaalalang sinalubong ng mga progresibo ang administrasyong Duterte sa paghimok nitong kamtin ang hustisyang panlipunan sa pamamagitan ng repormang makamamamayan. Sinalubong ng mga progresibo ang mga pahayag ng Pangulo na sumusuporta sa tunay na reporma sa lupa, sa pambansang industriyalisasyon, sa pagwawakas sa kontraktwalisasyon, at sa isang independiyenteng patakaran panlabas. Binuksan

niya rin ang hapag upang manumbalik ang usapang pangkapayapaan. Subalit ngayon, isang taon na ang nakalipas, tila malayo ang kinahinatnan ng kasalukuyang administrasyon. Matingkad sa SONA ng Pangulong Duterte ang pagkiling nito sa isang militaristang pamamaraan sa pagresolba ng malalim na nakaugat na problemang sosyo-ekonomiko sa ating bayan. Idiniin niya ang kahalagaan ng pulis at militar, at ng kamay na bakal, at pangakong dagdag-arms at dagdag-pondo para mapanatili umano ang peace and order.

Binatikos at pinulaan naman niya ang mamamayang nakibaka sa lansangan, ang mga Lumad, ang mga rebolusyonaryo, at ang mga maralita; ipinagkibit-balikat ang usapin ng karapatang pantao, ng hustisya, ng due process; at isinasantabi lamang ang mga ito bilang mga balakid sa pagsugpo ng iligal na droga, korupsiyon, terorismo at kriminalidad.

Samantala, binigyang-matuwid niya at pinamamadali ang panukalang Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Act o TRAIN na katulad ng mga patakaran pagbubuwis ng mga nakaraang administrasyon, magdudulot ito ng mabigat na pasanang buwis sa ordinaryong mamamayan. Bahagi ito ng pagpapatuloy ng neoliberal na patakaran pang-ekonomiya ng mga nagdaang administrasyon na matagal nang nagpapahirap sa ating bayan. Nakakalungkot, ngunit walang pahayag si Pangulong Duterte sa tunay na reporma sa lupa, sa dagdag na sahod sa ating manggagawa sa pribado o sa pamahalaan, sapat na trabaho, pabahay sa maralita at pambansang industriyalisasyon. Kaya, ang tanong ng mamamayan, nasaan nga ba ang pangakong pagbabago?

Mme. Speaker, ano na ba ang nangyari sa pangakong wakasan na ang kontraktwalisasyon?

Bago pa man nailuklok si Pangulong Duterte sa Palasyo ng Malacañang, pagwawakas na ng kontraktwalisasyon ang bungad niya sa laksang manggagawang humihiyaw laban sa kawalan ng seguridad sa hanapbuhay. Hinintay ng mga manggagawang sambitin ito ni Pangulong Duterte na tuluyan na ngang ipagbabawal ang mapagsamantala at hindi makatarungang iskemang ito. Hinihintay ng mga manggagawa na sabihin niyang "certified as urgent" ang mga panukalang batas ukol dito. Ngunit, matapos ang kanyang dalawa't kalahating State of the Nation Address, walang sinabi ang Pangulo sa pagpapawi nito. At sa halip, ngayon, may 24.4 milyong manggagawang Pilipino pa rin ang kontraktwal.

Sa kabilang banda, Mme. Speaker, ano naman ang nangyari sa pangakong independent foreign policy? Ang pagtungkab ng kuko ni Uncle Sam sa mga usaping pang-ekonomiko at pulitikal sa ating bansa na lagi nang sinasambit ng Pangulo ay tila nabura nang payagan niya ang pagpapatuloy ng Balikatan at EDCA. At tila nawala ang tindig ni Pangulong Duterte laban sa

panghihimasok ng US nang payagan niyang pasukin ng tropang Amerikano ang sigalot sa Marawi.

Gayundin, ang pakikipagkaibigan ni Pangulong Duterte sa China ay hindi nangangahulugang pagtindig para sa soberanya at teritoryo ng Pilipinas. Nananatili ang mga sasakyang pandigma ng Tsina, at maging ng Russia at ng Japan sa ating mga katubigan. Tuloy-tuloy na nasa impluwensiya at kontrol ng mga dayuhang bansa, partikular ng imperyalismong America at China ang ating mga panloob at panlabas na patakaran.

Panibagong tanong, ano ang nangyayari sa tunay na reporma sa lupa at sa pambansang industriyalisasyon? Ugat ng kahirapan ang kawalan ng lupa ng milyun-milyong magsasaka sa ating kanayunan. Ang usapin ng lupa rin ang malalim nang ugat ng armadong tunggalian sa ating bayan na halos umaabot na ng limang dekada. Ang muling pagtigil ng usapang pangkapayapaan ng gobyerno at ng NDFP ay malaking dagok sa pagkamit ng tunay na reporma sa lupa at ang kaakibat nitong pambansang industriyalisasyon. Ang buod ng usapang pangkapayapaan na ito ay ang usapin sa social and economic reforms na sasagot hindi lamang sa halos kalahating-siglong digmaang sibil kundi sa ugat ng kahirapan at atrasado at bansot nating ekonomiya. Ang pagtutuloy sa naunsiyami na namang usapang pangkapayapaan ay lalong naging mas mahalaga ngayong umiigting ang krisis pang-ekonomiya at pampulitika sa ating bansa.

Tama lamang, Mme. Speaker, ang ngitngit ni Pangulong Duterte sa malakihang pagmimina dahil sa pandarambong ng mga ito sa ating yamang mineral at pagwasak sa kalikasan. Dapat nga talagang managot sila sa kanilang mga ginawa laban sa kalikasan at mamamayan.

Kung tutuparin niya ito, malugod itong sasalubungin ng sambayanang Pilipino na nais ng isang makabayan, makakalikasang industriya ng pagmimina na magbubunsod ng pag-unlad ng agrikultura at ng isang pambansang industriyalisasyon. Ang pahayag na ito ni Pangulong Duterte ay tiyak na malugod na tatanggapin ng mga katutubong Igorot at Lumad na matagal nang nagdurusa sa kabi-kabilang minahan sa kanilang ninunong lupain kaya hinahamon natin siya na itulak at gawing priority legislation ang People's Mining Bill na nakabinbin ngayon sa Kongreso na siyang babaklas sa mapaminsalang The Philippine Mining Act of 1995. Ngunit, Mme. Speaker, dapat ay eksklusibo sa mga mapandambong at mapanira lamang ang ngitngit at talim ng pananalita ni Pangulong Duterte.

Ang kanyang walang kagatol-gatol na pahayag na bobombahin ang mga paaralan ng mga Lumad ay mariin nating kinukondena. Ang pagbabanta na pagpatay sa mga bata ay nakakababang-bigwas sa mamamayan na dapat niya agad na bawiin. Ang sagitsit ng kaniyang mga pananalita ay matinding pang-aalipusta sa mga batang Lumad na naglakbay pa mula sa kanilang mga komunidad para

makinig sa kaniyang mga pahayag sa SONA. Dapat ituon ng Pangulo ang kaniyang poot sa mga mapagsamantala at mapanupil, ituro ang mga baril sa mga dayuhang niyuyurakan ang ating soberanya, at hindi sa mga inosenteng sibilyan, sa mga bata, at sa ating mamamayan.

Ang administrasyon ni Pangulong Duterte ay nangako ng pagbabago. Ngunit walang pag-asa ang pagbabago sa lalong pagpapairal ng binulok ng neoliberal na patakarang pang-ekonomiya. Ilang ulit nang binigo ang mamamayan sa pasistang atake sa nagpapalit-palit na mga rehimen. Pinatutunayan ng ating kasaysayan na walang pag-unlad, walang kapayapaan, at walang kaayusan ang maihahatid ng batas militar.

Kaya Mme. Speaker, kung nais ni Pangulong Duterte ng tunay na pagbabago, kung nais niyang mabukod sa mga Presidenteng isinuka ng mamamayan, kailangan niyang makinig, pumanig at sumandig sa lakas ng mamamayang aniya ay kaniyang paglilingkuran. Ang mga mamamayan lamang, Mme. Speaker, hindi armas at pasismo, ang maghahatid ng demokratiko at makabuluhang pagbabago sa ating bayan.

Daghang salamat, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Daghang salamat, Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, I respectfully move that the speech of the Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate be referred to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, may I respectfully move that we recognize Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" A. Teves Jr. from the Third District of Negros Oriental for his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). From the Third District of Negros Oriental, Rep. Arnolfo Teves Jr. is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. TEVES JR.

REP. TEVES. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, good afternoon. Good afternoon everybody.

I rise here again today to share my—how happy I am with the SONA of the President delivered last July 24, 2017.

Our President mentioned about mining, mentioned about the DENR, mentioned about corruption, to name a few. I will only dwell on these few things or items that he mentioned.

First on mining, sa katotohanan lang, mayroon namang responsible na mining pero marami ding pagmimina at pagka-quarry na nakakasira. I do agree with the President to stop destruction of the environment. Ang ganda ng adbokasiya ng ating Presidente pero gusto ko lang sanang ipaabot sa ating Presidente na mayroong mga tao na sa feeling ko ay untouchable. Isang taon nang inirereklamo ko, wala pa ring nangyayari. May I ask the Secretariat to show the video?

*(Video presentation)*

Iyan ang nangyayari sa amin. That is a very recent picture that I personally took. Can you move the slide? Ilan ba mayroon diyan, tatlo? Iyan na. Sa tingin ninyo ba, can you stick to that? Sa tingin ninyo ba, tama iyan? Ang hindi ko maintindihan, inireklamo ko na iyan sa DENR kailan lang—ah dati pa, kay Ma'am Gina ay inireklamo ko iyan. Kailan lang nagkita kami ni Sec. Roy Cimatu, inireklamo ko na hindi ito matigil-tigil.

Just today, I received a letter signed by Regional Director Sophie Manuel and PENRO Negros Oriental Engr. Viernov Grefalde. Some of the points herein mentioned, na ang special permit na ibinigay ng governor namin has led to unabated extraction of sand and gravel. What alarmed me was, sinasabi ng DENR na hindi daw nila matigil dahil wala daw batas na nagsasabi na kaya nilang pigilin. Dapat daw, ang magpatigil ay ang probinsya dahil ang probinsya daw ang nagbigay ng permit. You know, it is very funny, are they saying that when somebody from LTO gives a pilot or somebody a license to drive an airplane, hindi kaya pigilin ng CAAP dahil LTO ang nag-issue ng permit? Parang mali. It is a very flimsy excuse.

I know these people, Engineer Manuel, Engineer Grefalde, they might be new to the job, but I think kailangan nating tingnan kung ano iyong mas malalim na dahilan kung bakit hindi matigil-tigil ang environmental destruction. To me, I strongly believe that there is money and corruption involved. Dahil kung may kumikita, siyempre, may nagpoproteksyon ng negosyo.

Again, I call on Secretary Cimatu, pakiaayos iyong mga tao mo sa Region VII at sa NIR, isang taon ko nang inirereklamo iyan, hanggang ngayon, nagpapatuloy. I was very glad that the President mentioned mining during the SONA but I would like to inform the President that until today, environmental destruction in our province continues. Tingin ko, iyong gobernador namin, untouchable, hindi dahil magkalaban kami sa pulitika pero sa pagnanakaw at sa pagmimina, nagpapatuloy.

I would like to mention about the TRO that the President has also mentioned. Alam ko si Manong Rudy, may—masama rin siyang loob sa nangyari na may nagbigay ng parang TRO din sa mga nakakulong sa Kongreso. At one time, tinawagan ko si Manong Rudy because I was surprised to find out that the same

guys who gave TRO to the ones jailed in Congress were the same guys who gave the TRO to the governor of my province.

Ewan ko kung if you agree with me that a P140-million corruption case ay ginawa ng Court of Appeals na simple misconduct. Puwede ba iyon na P140 million, simple misconduct? Plunder na iyon eh. How can the Court of Appeals reverse something involving P140 million—not only reversed, but changed it to simple misconduct. Hindi kapani-paniwala na puwedeng gawin iyon. Ibig kong sabihin, tingnan natin—dapat itong tingnan ng ating Presidente pati na ng mga tao niya kung bakit in spite of his drive, may nangyayari pa ring ganito, untouchable sa mining, iyong CA natin, nagbibigay ng TRO dito, nagbibigay ng TRO doon. Sometimes, TROs are legal, pero iyong P140 million na nagiging simple misconduct, tingin ko hindi na tama iyon.

Another thing, I would like to drive at, which was not mentioned in the SONA, but illegal gambling continues in so many places in the country. Nakikita ko kasi na maraming nagpoprotekta sa illegal gambling dahil mayroon silang kinikita.

Kanina, may nabasa ako na nagbigay ng order si General Bato na itigil na ang illegal gambling within 15 days. I hope it will really be done. Gusto ko ring ipaabot kay Director General Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa na sa probinsya namin ay malakas pa rin ang illegal gambling. Dapat suportahan natin ang programa ng Pangulo na small-town lottery dahil sa programang ito, maraming mahihirap ang matutulungan dahil mabibilhan sila ng gamot through the PCSO. Because through STL, the PCSO can make money and, in turn, can be used to buy medicines for our poor brothers and sisters. Kung magpapatuloy ang illegal gambling, ang pera na nagiging payola o proteksyon na napupunta lamang sa bulsa ng iilang “corrupt” na mga otoridad at hindi na dumadating sa mahihirap natin na mga kapatid.

Again, I think, kailangan nating ipatawag si Secretary Cimatu at ang mga tao niya sa DENR. I hope after this, kung umabot ho sa ating Secretary ng DENR, sana naman matigil na nila ang environmental destruction sa aming probinsya at sana naman tigilan na ng mga taga-region na maghugas-kamay na hindi nila kayang itigil. Because, I may be wrong—I do not know if I am wrong or right, pero ang probinsya ay deputized lamang ng DENR. So, the water can never rise above the source. So, iyong devolved function na iyong ibinigay ng DENR, sana makabigay ng permit ang mga provincial government, sila pa rin ang dapat—sila pa rin ang dapat na nag-o-oversee ng quarrying and mining operations. And, I do not believe na hindi nila kayang itigil ito kung gugustuhin man nila.

Next week or this week, kapag nakauwi ako, piktyuran ko ulit para makita nating lahat kung natigil ba o hindi. I hope all these corrupt people—sana makulong na itong mga ito at matigil na iyong paninira sa ating

environment, and all these forms of corruption in our government will be stopped as how our President wants our government to be.

Thank you and good afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Teves to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, the Privilege Hour has expired. I move that we extend for 40 minutes.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable, the Gentleman from AKBAYAN, the Hon. Tom S. Villarín, for his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Hon. Tom Villarín from Party-List AKBAYAN is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. VILLARIN

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished Dep. Majority Leader.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, magandang hapon ho sa ating lahat.

After his State of the Nation Address last July 24, 2017, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte criticized the Commission on Human Rights for looking at human rights from just one lens. He said, “Do not make it a one-sided affair. I will not allow it. As President, I will not allow it. Patas tayo. Justice for all. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. If you have not investigated the deaths of my police and military men, do not f\*\*\* with us.”

President Duterte also defended the military on allegations of human rights abuses in areas where martial law is imposed.

He said: “There can never be a violation of martial law because even the killing itself is already a violation of human rights.”

President Duterte also warned that he would bomb Lumad schools in going up against the NPA, as these

schools allegedly teach communism and teach children to rebel against government. He ended up his tirades against the CHR by saying that he will abolish it in a press conference after the SONA. A day after, July 25, no less than the Chief of the Philippine National Police, Dir. Gen. Bato Dela Rosa and the Secretary of National Defense, Delfin Lorenzana, seconded the President’s policy statement of abolishing the CHR.

Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues, ito po ay nakababahala. Nakababahala ang ganitong panukala na buwagin ang CHR sapagkat kaakibat nito ay ang pagkawala din ng ating demokrasya. Ang karapatang pantao ang siyang puso at kaluluwa ng ating Saligang Batas.

Now, on the evolution of human rights. Mme. Speaker, it seems that the President has not appreciated the historical evolution of society from man the beast, to that of the freeman. Human rights, the literal words have to be understood from our appreciation of who we are. Human, a member of the specie, the single race, Homo sapiens. Whatever persons are called, or call themselves, wherever they live, they are human. Therefore, Mme. Speaker, human rights are benefits to which people are entitled simply by virtue of being human. It is not a one-sided affair as the President reckons because it encompasses the totality of our being. It is universal and inalienable interdependent and indivisible, and it applies equally and non-discriminatory. The highest aspiration of the common person is to lead a life where he can enjoy freedom of speech, freedom of belief, and have no fear of suppression. Disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts that have outraged the conscience of humanity.

Mme. Speaker, human rights should be built into the society as a natural rule. As a last resort only, law should be applied as a protection. The State should never invoke its powers against its citizens unless absolutely necessary. Democracy is a universal value although it is always a contested concept. But again, we are here where we are now because of our adherence to such values. The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a testament of humankind’s abhorrence to two world wars and its resolve to free the peoples of the world from colonizers, tyrants and dictators. It is a reminder that never again should we relive the horrors of inhumane conditions of war, oppression, violation of the rights of sovereign peoples, the right to life and human dignity, among others. This concern led to the majority of governments in the world to come to the conclusion that basic human rights must be protected. This is not only for the sake of individuals and countries involved, but essentially to preserve the human race.

On presidential hyperboles on human rights, Mme. Speaker, President Duterte’s SONA speech will again be excused by his lapdogs and sycophants to be presidential hyperboles so as not to alarm our people. This should

not be tolerated even as a figure of speech, especially coming from the highest official of the land.

In 1986, we ousted a dictator and forged a Constitution that said never again should we allow the horrors of martial rule. We established an independent human rights commission under Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution, specifically Section 17 wherein there is hereby created an independent office called the Commission on Human Rights. By its very nature as a constitutional body, it is beyond the powers of the Executive branch to abolish it. The CHR, as a constitutional body, was made operational by virtue of Executive Order No. 163, issued by then President Cory Aquino on May 5, 1987. This EO provided for the qualifications and the terms of office of the Chair and Commissioners, and enumerated as well the powers and functions of the Commission as already enumerated in Section 17 of Article XIII. Let me reiterate, Mme. Speaker, the avowed mission of the CHR is to defend persons against the excesses of the State. It would provide appropriate legal measures for the protection of human rights of all persons within the Philippines, as well as Filipinos residing abroad, and provide for the preventive measures and legal aid services to the underprivileged whose human rights have been violated or need protection. On its own or on the filing of a complaint by any party, the Commission can investigate all forms of human rights violations involving civil and political rights.

The Commission will also monitor the Philippine government's compliance with international treaties and obligations on human rights. It has visitorial powers over jails, prisons or detention facilities. It can recommend to Congress measures to promote human rights and to compensate victims of human rights violations. Mme. Speaker, again, the Commission, on matters of practical concerns, has been instrumental in protecting ordinary citizens from languishing in secret detention cells, investigating involuntary disappearances like that of the Jonas Burgos case, condemning the violation of the rights of Lumads, indigenous peoples, and coming out strongly against extrajudicial killings. Mme. Speaker, it is not the mandate of the CHR to stop criminality or to conduct law enforcement operations to curb lawless violence. Thus, on the issue of the human rights of the police and military, this would not encompass the task of the CHR. But in theaters of war and conflict, we have the International Humanitarian Law. In 2009, Congress enacted Republic Act No. 9851 or the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity. So here, war crimes committed by both State and non-State actors will apply. So when the President talks about human rights of the police and military, he might be dealing with the IHL in a broader perspective of international human rights. Thus, it might be what he

was saying when he said, "The sauce for the gander is also the sauce for the goose."

Let me reiterate, Mme. Speaker, here we are dealing not with civilians but with armed combatants as what is happening now in Marawi. It is to be stressed that combatants from both sides have to be treated humanely and not subjected to torture, cruelty, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. If our police and military personnel in armed conflict die or suffer wounds in battle, our nation honors them with their sacrifice and bravery. We do not honor them by using terror and brutality against our enemies.

When the President said he would bomb Lumad schools, it is totally abhorrent and condemnable, even if the context is that such infrastructure are supposedly used to harbor rebels. In armed conflicts, the term "military necessity" also has to be clarified. A crime occurs if there is an intentional attack directed against civilians. This is the principle of distinction, or an attack is launched on a military objective in the knowledge that the incidental civilian injuries would be clearly excessive in relation to the anticipated military advantage, the principle of proportionality. This jurisdiction was clarified by Luis Moreno Ocampo, then the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in 2006.

Going back to the issue, Mme. Speaker, of what is at hand, the proposal to abolish the Commission on Human Rights, this is a diabolical proposal and conjures a scenario of authoritarian rule. Mme. Speaker, dear colleagues, we should not let this happen. AKBAYAN proposes that this proposal should be rejected based on the following reasons: first, the Commission on Human Rights is a constitutional body. Abolishing it will only happen if we abolish the 1987 Constitution. Second, it will negate the gains of the anti-dictatorship struggle and democratic spaces we have created to foster values of freedom, freedom of speech, of the press, freedom to organize and express grievances, freedom of assembly and all the freedoms under Article II of the 1987 Constitution. Third, it will forsake the sacrifices of over 75,000 human rights victims under the Marcos dictatorship. While we have passed a historic law recognizing the human rights victims under Marcos and holding the State accountable, abolishing the CHR would mean diminishing, if not erasing them from our memories. Fourth, the Philippines will be negatively affected in the international community as this puts into question our commitment to international human rights and international humanitarian law. It will be a reversal of our international standing as a staunch human rights defender. This sends a wrong message and will now equate us with North Korea as a rogue state. Fifth and last, it will only institutionalize the reign of impunity, the culture of fear and silence now happening around us, and will lead to the disempowerment of our people and the desecration of our democratic values.

Mme. Speaker, dear colleagues, this is a proposal that we must resist. We need an independent, credible and effective Human Rights Commission to monitor the abuses of the State simply because we owe it to our people. We cannot give human rights monitoring to the AFP or the PNP simply because they cannot guarantee us protection. The PNP and the AFP hold the monopoly of violence that they can use against us, citizens of the Republic, anytime.

We heard this painful and tragic lesson of a dictatorship not too long ago. I hope it is not happening again.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, dear colleagues.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Chair wishes to thank the Gentleman from Party-List AKBAYAN on his speech on the abolition of the Commission on Human Rights.

The Chair notes, however, that there was a particular phrase that the Gentleman referred to or used to describe those that were in praise of the words of the President in the SONA 2017, and these were “lapdogs and psychopaths.” The Chair wishes to clarify from the Honorable Villarín who is he particularly referring to as “lapdogs and psychopaths,” seeing that there were quite a number of our distinguished colleagues who were in praise of the speech of President Duterte.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you for that question, Mme. Speaker.

What I mentioned in my speech about “lapdogs and psychopaths” would mainly be the communications people under the Duterte administration. I am not referring to the honorable Members of this House nor to our legislators in general. Meaning, this would be more on the communications people under the Duterte administration.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). We thank the Honorable Villarín for this clarification.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, may we know the pleasure of the Representative from the First District of Albay.

REP. LAGMAN. I rise to interpellate the distinguished Representative from Akbayan, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SALO. May we inquire if the Representative from Akbayan is willing to accede to some interpellations.

REP. VILLARIN. I am willing to accede to an interpellation, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The distinguished Gentleman from Albay, Rep. Edcel Lagman, is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

The distinguished Representative of AKBAYAN Party-List is 1,000-percent correct when he said that the President or even Congress cannot abolish the Commission on Human Rights because it is constitutionally mandated and created under the 1987 Constitution.

May we know from the distinguished Gentleman whether that statement of the President is reflective of the President’s disrespect of the Constitution and his aversion to the rule of law.

REP. VILLARIN. As a reply to the question of the distinguished Gentleman, I think that it has been oft repeated by the President that his conception or appreciation of human rights is totally different from what our Constitution amplifies. So, I think, that observation is also my observation, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker, the Presidential Spokesman, Ernesto Abella, tried to minimize the blunder of the President by saying that he just wanted to vent his frustrations over the CHR’s “apparent bias.”

May we know from the distinguished Gentleman, since when has presidential frustration been a valid cause for abolishing an agency, even granting that it is not a constitutional body.

REP. VILLARIN. Mme. Speaker, a President should be a President, and should rise above any of his inclinations or even his emotions to be that speaking on just plain emotions. The President cannot be above our Constitution nor can defy the rule of law.

So, in this regard, such frustration could be stated that it is unwarranted and in a way, it is misplaced because as President, he has all the powers and resources to go after the so-called “enemies of the State.” He has all the powers and resources at his command to ensure that lawless violence will be suppressed, that peace and order will reign without violating the basic human rights of our people.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker.

Well, among the powers of the Commission on Human Rights under Section 18 of Article XIII of the Constitution is to, and I quote: “Investigate, on its own or on complaint by any party, all forms of human rights violations involving civil and political rights.” Consequently, would the distinguished Gentleman



agree that the CHR is only discharging its constitutional mandate to investigate police and military elements who are accused or perceived to have violated human rights?

REP. VILLARIN. That is correct, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, that this constitutional mandate, this specific power of investigating all forms of human rights violations involving civil and political rights would be directed against the State and not to non-State actors.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, Mme. Speaker, may we know from the distinguished Gentleman whether the so-called bias of the CHR being referred to by the President would be with respect to the fact that the CHR has not conducted investigations when so-called rebels or terrorists kill soldiers or policemen, because such acts are reprehensible and should be punished but not as human rights violations but as violations of the Revised Penal Code in special laws because rebels and terrorists are non-State parties.

REP. VILLARIN. That is correct, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, that it is beyond the mandate of the CHR. So, when the President says, “the bias against the police and military,” it is saying or putting the CHR in a situation that it can go to, but it is not within its mandate. Again, as I have to stress, the President has all the powers and resources of government including the prosecutorial arm because, again, the CHR has no prosecutorial power. So, it is now incumbent upon the State, incumbent upon the Justice Department and other agencies to file the appropriate charges against the terrorists, the non-State armed actors for violations committed, for the cruel, inhuman treatment of our soldiers and our policemen. They should be charged according to our penal laws and other special laws for which again, as I had said, the President with all his powers and resources can do even disregarding the CHR.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, in other words, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Gentleman, only the State and State agents are liable for human rights violations and not non-State parties, is that correct?

REP. VILLARIN. That is correct, Mme. Speaker, and, as I had said, it is very specific in the mandate of the Commission on Human Rights to go after the excesses of the State against our security sector. Again, even if that mandate is already with the CHR, the problem or the challenge they are facing is that it is more on the logistics and the capacities of the CHR given its limited budget, given its limited personnel and of course, the atmosphere within which it is now operating, an atmosphere where they are now being suppressed or

where they are being threatened, their very existence is threatened, and those do not help the CHR to fulfill its mandate.

So, again, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, I fully agree that even if its mandate is focused on the State actors, it cannot do so fully and effectively given the limitations I had cited.

REP. LAGMAN. Lastly, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Gentleman, instead of abolishing the Commission on Human Rights, the House leadership must prioritize many pending bills seeking to strengthen the Commission on Human Rights. Would you agree to this proposition, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Gentleman?

REP. VILLARIN. Well, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, I fully agree and subscribe to that. In fact, there is a pending legislation wherein the Charter of the CHR would be enacted so that it would now be clothed with the powers and even given the appropriate resources for it to comply with its constitutional mandate, and for us as a long-standing member of the United Nations and international bodies to become a firm believer and staunch defender of human rights in the international community.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Tomas Villarín for accommodating my interpellation.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you too, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, for that privilege.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). We thank the Hon. Tomas Villarín and the Hon. Edcel Lagman.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, I respectfully move that we recognize Rep. Gary C. Alejano of the MAGDALO Party-List for his brief interpellation.

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Gentleman from MAGDALO Party-List, the Hon. Gary Alejano is recognized.

REP. ALEJANO. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Floor Leader.

I just would like to inquire from the distinguished Gentleman from AKBAYAN Party-List whether he is willing to answer questions from this Representation.

REP. VILLARIN. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ALEJANO. Thank you very much. Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat.

I understand that many questions had been asked already by Congressman Lagman regarding the issue of human rights. I would just like to emphasize one thing. May I just ask the Gentleman from AKBAYAN what is the mandate of the Commission on Human Rights?

REP. VILLARIN. The mandate of the Commission on Human Rights as articulated under Article XIII, its avowed mission, is to defend persons against the excesses of the State. It provides the appropriate legal remedies for the protection of human rights of all persons within the Philippines as well as Filipinos abroad. It provides preventive measures and legal aid services to the underprivileged whose human rights had been violated or who need protection. It can, on its own, initiate the filing of a complaint or by any third party to investigate all forms of human rights violation involving civil and political rights. These are enumerated, Mme. Speaker, in EO 163 as well as in Section 17 of Article XIII.

REP. ALEJANO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Itanong ko lang po, is it possible na iyong isang sibilyan ay puwedeng akusahan ng violation of human rights, kapag siya ay may ginawa, against a government agent or authority?

REP. VILLARIN. Well, again, as I have stated, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, hindi ho siya puwedeng maakusahan dahil, unang-una ho, ang violations ng human rights, ng civil and political rights, ay mainly directed ho doon sa sinasabi nating Estado. So, ang talagang focus ng Commission on Human Rights would be the violations committed by the State actors.

REP. ALEJANO. Maraming salamat po. Naitanong ko po iyan dahil noong ako po ay nasa serbisyo sa Armed Forces of the Philippines ay lagi din po naming sinasabi na, kapag ang sundalo ay pinugutan ng ulo ng Abu Sayyaf or na-ambush ng mga rebelde, bakit hindi iniimbistigahan ng Commission on Human Rights ang mga rebelde na ito at mga lawless element? On the other hand, kapag ang sundalo naman, may kaunting diperensiya, mayroon kaagad reklamo ng human rights. I asked these questions because now that it is clear to me that the mandate of the Commission on Human Rights is to protect the citizens of the country from the excesses of the government.

Kaya nga po mayroong Commission on Human Rights or may opisina ng human rights ang Armed Forces of the Philippines at saka iyong Philippine National Police is to educate members of the AFP and members of the PNP para ho masunod ang mga patakaran na ito when they conduct operations. Kasi nga

ho, without these reminders, I assure you that abuses will happen. As an example po, kapag tayo po ay nagko-conduct ng operations noon, laging nasa isipan po ng mga sundalo na puwedeng magkaroon ng violation ng human rights kaya nga ho ingat na ingat ang isang sundalo o ang isang pulis dahil baka ho makasuhan siya ng pag-violate ng human rights.

Ngayon, kung ito ay tatanggalin, kumbaga, parang bakod po ito na kapag tinanggal ho natin ang bakod na iyan, wala nang tinitingnang sagabal ang isang sundalo o ang isang pulis na puwede siyang mag-violate ng human rights at siya ay makasuhan. Kaya nga dito papasok ang danger, if we demonize the Commission on Human Rights and redefine the definition of human rights, then it will be interpreted by the members of the Armed Forces and the PNP, sasabihin nila, “ito iyong definition, itong iyong salot ng bayan. Sa tingin namin ay salot ka ng bayan, you are the enemy of the State at ang kalayaan o ang karapatan ng nakakaramihan ay sinasagabal mo, then you deserve to die.” Iyon po ang magiging danger dito dahil in the thick of the battle na kung saan may namatay sa kasamang sundalo o nasugatan, I know the feeling kung galit na galit ang sundalo at pulis, at dahil sa ganitong pangyayari, malaki po ang posibilidad na makapag-abuso ang ating sundalo at pulis dahil ako po, personal kong naranasan iyan.

Ngayon po, ang pag-educate natin sa ating kapulisan at sa ating kasundaluhan ay nagiging bahagi na rin ng program of instructions ng different educational systems ng ating AFP at PNP, to remind them that they are serving the people, na binigyan sila ng malaking kapangyarihan ng baril, sinusuwelduhan po sila ng gobyerno, kaya dapat lamang ay maging maingat sila sa paggamit na ito. Agree po ba kayo, distinguished Gentleman from AKBAYAN?

REP. VILLARIN. I fully agree, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. In fact, it is not just within the security sector that human rights have been institutionalized, but even the DepEd is mandated to teach human rights education. Other agencies of government are also being mandated to integrate human rights in the programs and policies of its departments.

So, again, the reiteration that human rights are not a weapon against our military or police personnel, because the thinking or what has been abused is the notion na kapag ang sundalo at military ay pinatay or sabihin natin wounded sa pakikipagdigma, ay paano naman daw iyong kanilang human rights. I think our soldiers, our policemen, even they know that when they do their duty, when they go out to the battlefield, when they confront our enemies, they face many different and even horrific attacks from the enemy. So, in putting their lives on the line, we do not dishonor them by saying that the human rights violations that would be

committed by other members of the armed forces or our police, ano, could, in a way, be justified. Meaning, kung iilan lang ang naka-commit ng human rights violation, sila po ay nakakasira na sa buong institution ng ating military at ng pulis. Kaya nga, ang panawagan dito ay huwag ho nating sabihin, na kung baga, okay lang na ang ating security sector ay ang mag-commit ng violations dahil kung baga, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth iyong ating polisiya—hindi ho tama iyong ganoong pananaw.

REP. ALEJANO. Pero po agree din po kayo na mayroong pagkakataon na iyong ating sundalo at pulis ay hindi mapo-promote dahil lamang sa mga kaso sa pag-violate ng human rights? Naiintindihan po natin na kahit iyong mga ibang sundalong hindi naman talaga involved sa pag-commit ng isang violation against human rights, natetengga ang kanilang promotion because of complaints against that soldier or against that police. Do you also agree that we also need to improve on that in order to make sure that our AFP and our PNP would be protected from any trumped-up charges by those people claiming that the armed forces and the PNP have violated their human rights?

REP. VILLARIN. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, I agree with that observation. In fact, the challenge is really our Human Rights Commission should be an impartial, objective, independent body, and that is why it should not be controlled by vested interest or even by the President himself. So, as an impartial investigative body, it should also be reinforced with resources to conduct the necessary investigation to unearth the truth. Again, as I had said, our security sector, our police and military, are laying down their lives for our country and we owe it to them that the cases filed against them in the Commission of Human Rights should have a speedy and impartial investigation and should be disposed of in an appropriate and timely manner, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ALEJANO. Thank you, for that answer, distinguished Gentleman from AKBAYAN and thank you, Mme. Speaker, for the opportunity.

Good afternoon.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Gentleman, together with the interpellations, to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. The extended Privilege Hour has expired, but before we proceed to the next speaker, the Lady from GABRIELA, the Hon. Emmi A. De Jesus, may we know if the Lady is willing to proceed today because it is late in the day and we have no audience anymore, Mme. Speaker. You know, a speech is very good if we have an audience.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Hon. Emmi De Jesus will please respond.

REP. DE JESUS. I am willing to deliver my privilege speech today, right now, Mme. Speaker. As much as I want to have more audience, but according to one of the members of the Committee on Rules, there would not be any Privilege Hour tomorrow, so I might as well deliver it today.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mme. Speaker, I move that we first extend the extended Privilege Hour for another 10 minutes.

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

The Privilege Hour is extended for another 10 minutes.

REP. DEFENSOR. May we recognize the Lady from GABRIELA, the Hon. Emmi A. De Jesus, for her privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Lady from GABRIELA, the Hon. Emmi A. De Jesus, is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. DE JESUS

REP. DE JESUS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, sana po iyong mga nasa opisina ay nakikinig din ngayon. Hours before the Joint Session for President Duterte's State of the Nation Address, this Representation, together with my colleague from the Gabriela Women's Party, Rep. Arlene Brosas, met with different women's and children's organizations from various factories, communities and schools to receive their letters to the President. They really wished to speak out and let their small voices be heard by this august Chamber, and that their letters be the indelible fingerprints of their predicaments and yearnings.

Binibigyan ko po ng pagpapahalaga ang ginawang mga sulat na nais ipaabot ng iba't ibang organisasyon na ito ng kababaihan. Ganoon din, bunga rin ito ng mga ginawang konsultasyon ng GABRIELA Women's Party sa iba't ibang lugar.

Naghapag ng kahilingan ang mga manggagawa sa ilalim ng Kilusan ng Manggagawang Kababaihan. Mariin nilang kahilingan na mapatigil na ang patakaran sa kontraktwal na paggawa at ito ang nais nilang maipaabot sa Pangulo at sa Kongresong ito. Ang kahilingang ito ay batay sa pangako ng Pangulo sa kanyang unang SONA na wakasan na ang sistemang endo. Isang kongkretong halimbawa ang kalagayan sa SM. Batay sa huling nakalap na datos, halos kalahati ng 220,751 na empleyado rito ay nasa retail affiliates ng SM. Ang ibig sabihin, ang pinakamalaking employer ng kontraktwal na manggagawa ay ang SM. Dahil sa mga bagong regulasyon, lalo pang lumaki ang bilang ng mga manggagawang kontraktwal.

Ipinaabot din ng samahan ng mga manggagawa sa Philippine Foremost Milling Corporation ang kanilang liham. Kalakhan sa kanilang mga manggagawa ay pakyawan, kontraktwal sa mahabang panahon ng pagtatrabaho at palagiang bulnerable sa sakit at aksidente dahil sa kalagayan ng lugar at mga kemikal na ginagamit sa loob ng pagawaan. Mme. Speaker, personal kong nakausap at nakilala ang kalakhan sa mga manggagawang nagtatrabaho sa Philippine Foremost Milling, ganoon din ang kanilang pamilya. Ilan lamang ito sa mahabang listahan ng suliraning kinakaharap ng ating manggagawang Pilipino.

Ang mga manggagawang kababaihan naman mula sa isang garments factory, sa kabila ng higit na isang dekada ng pagtatrabaho, nanatili silang kontraktwal, at dito pa, bilang mga kababaihan, laging pumapasok ang isyu ng edad. Sa kabila ng kanilang matagal na pagiging kontraktwal, dahil sila ay tumatanda na, nagbabago na ang kanilang kapasidad, sila ay nakaambang pagtatanggalin na hindi man lang nakaranas ng benepisyong maging isang regular na manggagawa. Sa hanay naman ng maralita, tinanggap namin ang maraming sulat, napakarami po, at dala ko sa katunayan ngayon. Isang halimbawa rito ang mula sa Second District ng Quezon City. Ilan lamang ito mula sa Brgy. Katuparan sa Tondo, Maynila, at Northville Village mula sa Caloocan City. Pare-pareho ang idinadaing nila, ng mga kababayan natin: ang mga kakulangan sa mga batayang pasilidad sa mga pabahay ng gobyerno katulad ng kawalan ng malinis na tubig at linya ng kuryente. Dagdag nilang pasanin ang buwanang hulog at patong-patong na interes na lalong nagbabaon sa kanila sa utang na nagtutulak sa kanilang isanla o ibenta sa pinakamasahol ang kanilang mga bahay. Kaya magtataka tayo, iyong ibang mga sinabing awardee na ng mga bahay ay wala na sa kanilang mga pangalan ang

mga bahay dahil ang orihinal ay napilitang ibenta dahil hindi na nga makabayad. Kaya ang malakas na tinig po ng mga maralitang pamilyang kababaihan, sana matapos na ang tuloy-tuloy na threat o banta at ang ibigay ang kasiguruhan sa paninirahan at lalong-lalo na gayon din sa kanilang kabuhayan.

Nagbigay din ng sulat ang mga kabataang estudyante, nandito po, mula po sa iba't ibang unibersidad pero marami rin po ang mga kabataan mula sa eskuwelahan ng Lumad. Nais nilang ihayag ang kanilang patuloy na panawagan para sa kalidad at libreng edukasyon, mga paaralang may maayos na pasilidad, sapat na guro at curriculum na naaayon sa pangangailangan at pagpapaunlad ng ating bansa. Ito po ang hiling ng mga kabataang magmamana ng ating kinabukasan—ang mga pag-asa ng ating bayan— at ang mga kabataang ito, ang mga batang Lumad at Moro sa kanayunan na patuloy na nagsisikap na magkaroon ng edukasyon sa kabila ng kawalan ng malapit na paaralan, kapos na kita mula sa kanilang kabuhayan, at kabi-kabilang banta ng karahasan. Isa po sa mga sulat ay sa salitang Bisaya: "*Mahadlok mi nga mawala o mabungkag ang among kaugmaon. Naa mi katungod ang makat-on og malingkawas sa kalisud. Tabangi kami nga malingkawas sa kalisud ang atung nasud. Sa kahintang sa atong nasud gusto namo ang kalinaw.*" Isa lamang po ito sa isinulat ng isa sa mga kabataang Lumad.

Mme. Speaker, ang mga kababaihan ay kabilang sa libu-libong nagmartsa noong Lunes at umaasang ang SONA ay magiging isang pagkakataon upang muling ipaalala sa Pangulo at igiit ang kanilang mga kahilingan. Sa loob ng isang taong panunungkulan ng Pangulong Duterte, napakalawak pa rin ang mga pamilyang nananatiling mahirap ang kalagayan, at malinaw na dito nabibilang ang mas maraming kababaihan. Marami pa rin sa kanila ang umaasa na magkakaroon ng signipikanteng pagbabago o pag-unlad ang kanilang buhay sa mga susunod na araw. Higit na nakakabahala kung ang mga patakarang pang-ekonomiya ay patuloy na maglilingkod sa interes ng mga malalaking negosyante at dayuhan.

Kasabay ng paggigiit at paglaban ng kababaihan sa kanilang mga komunidad, isasatinig at dadalhin din ng mga Kinatawan ng GABRIELA Women's Party ang mga kahingian sa loob ng bulwagang ito, lalo na sa panahon ng pag-uusap sa budget. Hinihimok namin ang bawat isa na tumugon sa kanilang mga panawagan para sa regular na trabaho, kasiguraduhan sa paninirahan, libreng edukasyon at paglaban sa terorismo at militarisasyon. Ito lamang ang magtitiyak ng pagsusulong ng kapayapaang nakabatay sa hustisya.

Mme. Speaker, magandang hapon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable De Jesus to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

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

The Privilege Hour is hereby terminated.

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, before we part ways, I move that we approve Journal No. 3, dated July 26, 2017, subject to the earlier correction of the Hon. Edcel Lagman to reflect

that he abstained from voting on House Bill No. 5707, entitled “Rightsizing the National Government.”

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Journal of July 26, 2017, Journal No. 3, is hereby approved, as amended.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, August 1, 2017, at four o’clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is adjourned until tomorrow, August 1, 2017, at four o’clock in the afternoon.

*It was 6:29 p.m.*