



# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 3

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

No. 35

## CALL TO ORDER

*At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu called the session to order.*

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

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

## PRAYER

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

*Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Thank you. The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

## ROLL CALL

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). 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 reflected in Journal No. 35, dated October 10, 2017.\**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The roll call shows that 223 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). With 223 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

## REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

## BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6526, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIALYSIS CLINICS IN ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS AND PROVIDING FOR FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS PATIENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Aquino-Magsaysay  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

House Bill No. 6527, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN EXTENDED MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION PERIOD, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, AS AMENDED BY BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 398 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1011, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE”

By Representative Pimentel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6536, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps) TO REDUCE POVERTY AND PROMOTE HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Villarín  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 6537, entitled:

“AN ACT PENALIZING THE FAILURE TO PAY EMPLOYEES IN GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OR OFFICES THEIR SALARIES, WAGES, REMUNERATIONS OR FEES ON THE AGREED DATE/TIME WITHOUT JUSTIFIABLE REASONS/GROUNDS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lopez (M.L.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6538, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING HAZING AND REGULATING OTHER FORMS OF INITIATION RITES OF FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8049”

By Representative Gasataya  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message dated October 4, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on October 3,

2017, designated Senators Cynthia A. Villar, Joseph Victor G. Ejercito, Win Gatchalian, Juan Miguel F. Zubiri and Francis N. Pangilinan as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of 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”

and House Bill No. 5670, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING ASSISTANCE TO ALL FARMERS BY PROVIDING FREE IRRIGATION SERVICE FEE AND ALL OTHER SIMILAR OR RELATED FEES OR CHARGES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3601, AS AMENDED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 552 AND PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1702, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION ACT, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8435, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1997, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Justice (Committee Report No. 431), re H.B. No. 6573, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING HAZING AND REGULATING OTHER FORMS OF INITIATION RITES OF FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8049 ENTITLED ‘AN ACT REGULATING HAZING AND OTHER FORMS OF INITIATION RITES IN FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR’”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 3467 and 6395

Sponsors: Representatives Umali, Herrera-Dy, Garbin, Batocabe, Co, Olivarez, Roque (H.), Leachon, Oaminal, Revilla, Alvarez (P.), Fariñas, Suarez, Arenas, Hofer, Acop, Del Mar, Noel and Escudero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Justice (Committee Report No. 432), re H.B. No. 6574, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SYSTEM, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5180, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT PRESCRIBING A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION BY PROVINCIAL AND CITY FISCALS AND THEIR ASSISTANTS, AND BY STATE ATTORNEYS OR THEIR ASSISTANTS’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 8, 775 and 3296

Sponsors: Representatives Umali, Fariñas, Alvarez (P.), Andaya, Duavit, Cojuangco, Kho, Abu, Salimbangon, Nograles (K.A.), Suarez, Batocabe, Aglipay-Villar, Escudero, Oaminal, Revilla, Leachon, Castelo, Hofer and Noel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Agrarian Reform and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 433), re H.B. No. 6575, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE TRANSFER OF THE PROVINCIAL AGRARIAN REFORM OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOGOD TO THE CITY OF MAASIN, SOUTHERN LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5652

Sponsors: Representatives Relampagos, Nograles (K.A.) and Mercado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples (Committee Report No. 434), re H.B. No. 6577, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE KALANGUYA CENTER FOR THE 6TH DISTRICT OF PANGASINAN, 1ST DISTRICT OF NUEVA ECIJA, AND THE PROVINCES OF IFUGAO, BENGUET, AND NUEVA VIZCAYA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1420

Sponsors: Representatives Catamco, Nograles (K.A.) and Cosalan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 435), re H.B. No. 6578, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RETIREMENT BENEFIT SYSTEM IN THE OFFICE OF

THE OMBUDSMAN, AUGMENTING ITS EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 5134 and 6383

Sponsors: Representatives Umali, Nograles (K.A.), Tugna, Hofer, Del Mar, Leachon, Oaminal and Veloso

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Trade and Industry and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 436), re H.B. No. 6579, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL POLICY ON EASE OF DOING BUSINESS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 2171, 5031, 5093, 5383, 5634, 5809 and 6401

Sponsors: Representatives Biron, Romualdo, Santos-Recto, Yap, Castelo, Tambunting, Zubiri and Villafuerte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 437), re H.B. No. 1616, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING THE SYSTEM LOSS CHARGE COMPONENT IN THE SALE OF ELECTRICITY BY DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES AND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES FROM THE COVERAGE OF THE VALUE ADDED TAX, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 109 (1) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9337 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10378, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Cua and Zarate

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 438), re H.B. No. 6580, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN ZAMBOANGA CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (J) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 3749 and 3566  
Sponsors: Representatives Umali, Nograles (K.A.), Veloso, Lobregat and Dalipe  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 439), re H.B. No. 286, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF MOUNTAIN PROVINCE TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PARACELIS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 PARAGRAPH (A) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval without amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Umali, Nograles (K.A.), Veloso and Dalog  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 440), re H.B. No. 2830, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING SIXTEEN (16) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS IN THE WHOLE PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Umali, Nograles (K.A.), Veloso and Abu  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6452

##### *Continuation*

#### PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up Bills under the Unfinished Business. I move that we consider House Bill No. 6452, contained in Committee Report No. 393, consider it for approval on Second Reading and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the Bill. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the title of the Bill mentioned by the Dep. Majority Leader.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6452, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH POLICY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENHANCING THE DELIVERY OF INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS UTILIZING PSYCHIATRIC, NEUROLOGIC AND PSYCHOSOCIAL HEALTH SERVICES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that it is in the period of amendments. I move that we recognize the Chairman, the Hon. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, MD, from the Fourth District of Quezon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Chairperson of the Committee on Health, the Hon. Angelina Tan, is recognized to sponsor House Bill No. 6452 in the period of amendments.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman of the First District of Albay for his individual amendments. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Representative from the First District of Albay, the Hon. Edcel Lagman, is recognized for his amendments.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I now proceed with my proposed individual amendments, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman may proceed.

#### INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mme. Chairman, on page 1, line 1, after “Comprehensive Mental Health Act,” to remove the period (.) and provide the following phrase: OF 2017. Accordingly, Section 1 on the title shall read: “This Act shall be known as the Comprehensive Mental Health Act OF 2017.”

REP. TAN (A.). The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What is the pleasure of the Dep. Majority Leader?

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we accept the amendment of the Honorable Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The amendment has been accepted.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Honorable Lagman is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. In order to cluster the provisions on the rights-based approach to mental health, Section 2 on the Declaration of Policy is proposed to be amended as follows: letter (h) reading “ Uphold, protect, and promote the basic right to health of all Filipinos with due attention to mental health and psychosocial well-being” found on page 2, lines 31 to 32, should be placed between lines 7 and 8 as letter B to read, and I quote: “B. Uphold, protect, and promote the basic right to health of all Filipinos with due attention to mental health and psychosocial well-being.”

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. TAN (A.). The Committee accepts the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the House say, Dep. Majority Leader?

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we accept the amendments of the Honorable Lagman.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

*VIVA VOCE VOTING*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor of the amendments, please say *aye*. I repeat— As many as are in favor of the amendment, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are against, please say *nay*. (*Silence*) The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved. The amendments are accepted. Please proceed.

REP. LAGMAN. Likewise, letter (l), also on page 2, lines 48 to 50, which reads, and I quote: “Ensure and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedom for all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind on the basis of mental disability,” it should be transposed as letter C between lines 9 and 11 to read as follows: “C. Ensure and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedom for all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind on the basis of mental disability.”

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. TAN (A.). The Committee accepts the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the House say?

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we accept the amendment of the Honorable Lagman.

*VIVA VOCE VOTING*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are against, please say *nay*. (*Silence*) The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved. The amendment is accepted.

Please proceed, Honorable Lagman.

REP. LAGMAN. Still on the Declaration of Policy, the original letter (c)), Mr. Speaker, should be letter D.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. TAN (A.). The Committee accepts the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the House say?

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we accept the amendment of the Honorable Lagman.

*VIVA VOCE VOTING*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are against, please say *nay*. (*Silence*) The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved. The amendment is accepted.

Please proceed.

REP. LAGMAN. Still on the Declaration of Policy, after the new letter D, to insert a new letter E which shall read as follows: E. ESTABLISH AND OPERATIONALIZE RIGHTS- BASED/ COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES NATIONWIDE.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. TAN (A.). The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the House say?

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we accept the amendment of the Honorable Lagman.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor of the amendment, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are against, please say *nay*. (*Silence*) The *ayes* have it; the motion to amend is approved. The amendment is accepted.

Please proceed.

REP. LAGMAN. The original letter (d) should now be letter F and the rest of the letters should be changed accordingly, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. TAN (A.). The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the House say?

REP. GULLAS. I move that we accept the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are against, please say *nay*. (*Silence*) The *ayes* have it; the motion to amend is approved. The amendment is accepted. Please proceed.

REP. LAGMAN. After letter (m), as rearranged, to provide for a letter N which shall read as follows: N. ENSURE THE FREE DISPENSATION OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND MEDICATIONS TO INDIGENT PATIENTS AND SERVICE USERS CONSISTING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MARGINALIZED AND DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES, AS IDENTIFIED THROUGH A NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD TARGETING SYSTEM FOR POVERTY REDUCTION (NHTS-PR) AND OTHER GOVERNMENT MEASURES OF IDENTIFYING MARGINALIZATION.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. TAN (A.). The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the House say, Dep. Majority Leader?

REP. GULLAS. I move that we accept the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are against, please say *nay*. (*Silence*) The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved. The amendment is accepted. Please proceed.

REP. LAGMAN. After letter N, to provide for letter O which shall read as follows: O. DRUGS AND MEDICINES FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND TREATMENT SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DRUG FORMULARY SYSTEM (PNDFS) AND IN THE ESSENTIAL DRUG LIST (EDL).

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. ORTEGA (V.). The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Floor Leader, what does the House say?

REP. ORTEGA (V.). I move that we accept the amendment.

*VIVA VOCE VOTING*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved. The amendment is accepted. Please proceed.

REP. LAGMAN. Upon the suggestion of the Majority Leader, I will make an omnibus motion for my amendments.

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

REP. LAGMAN. On Objectives, under Section 3 (d), on page 3, line 14, to remove the conjunction “and” and in lieu thereof, place a COMMA (,) between the words “the Department of Health” and “the Department of Interior and Local Government.” Still on page 3, line 15, after the word “Local Government,” to place a COMMA (,) and provide the following phrase: THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT. Accordingly, letter (d) on page 3, lines 13 to 15, shall read: “d. Integrate mental health care in the general health delivery system, especially in the programs of the Department of Health, the Department of Interior and Local Government and THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT for the mentally displaced persons; and.”

On page 9, after line 18, to provide for a letter F which shall read as follows: DETER PEOPLES’ PREDISPOSITION TO DISCRIMINATE AND STIGMATIZE THOSE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS BY INCORPORATING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

AND ADVOCACY IN SCHOOL CURRICULUM OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY LEVEL.

On Section 4, letter (o), Definition of Terms, page 5, after the phrase “social dysfunction” on line 12, to remove the period (.) and provide the following phrase: SUCH AS ANXIETY DISORDERS, MOOD DISORDERS, DEPRESSION AND BIPOLAR DISORDERS, PSYCHOTIC DISORDERS LIKE SCHIZOPHRENIA, DEMENTIA, EATING DISORDERS, POST-PARTUM DEPRESSION, AND POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER OR PTSD, AMONG OTHERS.

Accordingly, the four sentences in letter (o) shall read as follows: “Mental illness refers to the neurologic or psychiatric disorder characterized by the existence of recognizable, clinically significant disturbances in the individual’s cognition, thoughts, emotion and general behavior that reflects a dysfunction in the neurobiological, psychosocial, or development processes underlying psychological, intellectual or social dysfunction such as ANXIETY DISORDERS, MOOD DISORDERS, DEPRESSION AND BIPOLAR DISORDER, PSYCHOTIC DISORDERS LIKE SCHIZOPHRENIA, DEMENTIA, EATING DISORDERS, POST-PARTUM DEPRESSION, AND POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER OR PTSD, AMONG OTHERS.

Still on Section 4, on page 5, line 41, after the word “clinic,” to remove the semicolon (;) and in lieu thereof, place a PERIOD (.) and add the following phrase: AS USED IN THIS ACT A PATIENT MAY ALSO REFER TO A SERVICE USER WHO MAY NOT BE AT ALL TIMES BE CONSIDERED A PATIENT. Accordingly, letter (r) shall read: “Patient refers to a person receiving or utilizing mental health care and treatment from a mental health care facility or clinic. AS USED IN THIS ACT A PATIENT MAY ALSO REFER TO A SERVICE USER WHO MAY NOT BE AT ALL TIMES BE CONSIDERED A PATIENT.” Let me correct that—WHO MAY NOT AT ALL TIMES BE CONSIDERED A PATIENT.

On Basic Mental Health Rights under Chapter II, page 7, line 20, after the word “social,” to insert the words INTEGRATION AND. Accordingly, letter (i) on lines 19 to 20 on page 7 shall now read: “access to aftercare and rehabilitation when possible in the community so as to facilitate their social REINTEGRATION AND inclusion.”

On page 7, line 32, after the letter (m), to delete the phrase “at a” before the word “confidentiality.”

Still on Chapter 2, letter (m) on page 7, line 37, after the word “express,” to delete the phrase “or implied.” Accordingly, no. 2 on line 37 shall now read: “2. it can be argued that the person has provided express consent to the disclosure.”

Still on page 7, line 39, to put the letter D after the word “place,” thus, reading: PLACED.

On page 8, line 12, under letter (s), to remove the preposition “to” after the word “enable”, place Y after the word “recover” and place the phrase MENT OF after the word “achieve” to correct typographical errors. Accordingly, letter (s) shall read: “access essential health and social services that enable RECOVERY and ACHIEVEMENT OF the highest attainable standard of mental health without risk of impoverishing the patient or the family.”

Still on page 8, line 16, to remove the article “a” between the words “to” and “mental.”

On page 9, line 23, to delete the words “when feasible” and in lieu thereof, provide the following phrase MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC. Accordingly, letter (a) on line 23 shall now read: “a. based on MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC research findings.”

Still on page 9, line 31, to place the letter S after the word “group,” thus, reading GROUPS.

On page 10, line 31, between the words “and” and “private,” to insert the word THE and delete the letter “s” after the word “sectors” to correct typographical errors.

On page 11, after line 23, to provide for a new SECTION 12 which reads as follows: SECTION 12. INVESTIGATIVE ROLE OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. - THE INVESTIGATIVE ROLE OF THE CHR, AS PROVIDED IN THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, SHALL BE LIMITED TO ALL VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS INVOLVING CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, CONSISTENT WITH THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CHR UNDER SECTION 18 OF ARTICLE 13 OF THE CONSTITUTION, WHICH READS, “INVESTIGATE, ON ITS OWN OR ON COMPLAINT OF ANY PARTY, ALL FORMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS INVOLVING CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. SUCH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL ILLNESS SHALL BE THOSE COMMITTED BY THE STATE AND AGENTS, OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTIONS AND FACILITIES, AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS ORGANIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND TOLERATED OR ACTING WITH THE ACQUIESCENCE OF THE STATE.

Article “13” on this amendment should be in roman numeral—ARTICLE XIII.

On page 11, line 32, after the word “implemented,” to remove the conjunction “and.”

On page 12, lines 2 and 3, after the phrase “board-certified psychiatrist,” to delete the phrase “within one (1) month from date of issuance, or as soon as possible” and in lieu thereof, place the word IMMEDIATELY.

After the original and renumbered Section 16 on page 13, to provide for a new Section which shall read: NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL

HEALTH. – THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH, FORMERLY THE NATIONAL MENTAL HOSPITAL, BEING THE PREMIERE TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTER UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHALL EXPAND ITS CAPACITY FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERVENTIONS ON MENTAL AND NEUROLOGICAL SERVICES IN THE COUNTRY. IT SHALL ALSO PLAY A KEY ROLE AS A TRAINING BASE TO ALL ALLIED FIELDS IN BOTH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE INVOLVED IN THE NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CARE DELIVERY.

On Chapter V, page 14, line 3, to provide for a new SECTION 17 which shall read as follows: SEC. 17. COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES. – THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR MENTAL HEALTH, SHALL FUND THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES OF AT LEAST, INITIALLY, ONE PER PROVINCE, CITY AND CLUSTER OF MUNICIPALITIES IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO THE INSTITUTIONALIZED MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND SERVICES, AND ENHANCE THE RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE.

To provide for a new SECTION 18 which shall read as follows: SEC. 18. EACH COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY SHALL, IN ADDITION TO AN ADEQUATE ROOM, OFFICE OR CLINIC, HAVE A COMPLEMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, ALLIED PROFESSIONALS, SUPPORT STAFF, TRAINED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, VOLUNTEER FAMILY MEMBERS OF PATIENTS OR SERVICE USERS, BASIC EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, AND ADEQUATE STOCK OF MEDICINES.

To provide for a new SECTION 19 which shall read as follows: SEC. 19. – EVERY PROVINCE, CITY AND CLUSTER OF MUNICIPALITIES HOSTING COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES SHALL ASSIST THE PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR MENTAL HEALTH IN THE EFFICIENT AND CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

To provide a new SECTION 20 which shall read as follows: SEC. 20. REPORTORIAL REQUIREMENTS. – THE COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY SHALL MAKE A QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR MENTAL HEALTH WHICH SHALL INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, THE FOLLOWING DATA:



NUMBER OF PATIENTS/SERVICE USERS ATTENDED TO AND/OR SERVED, THE RESPECTIVE KINDS OF MENTAL ILLNESS OR DISABILITY, DURATION AND RESULT OF THE TREATMENT, AND PATIENTS/SERVICE USERS' AGE, GENDER, EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT DISCLOSING THE IDENTITIES OF SUCH PATIENTS/SERVICE USERS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY.

The original Section 17 and the subsequent provisions should be re-numbered accordingly.

On the renumbered section on Psychiatric, Psychosocial, and Neurologic Services in Regional, Provincial, and Tertiary Hospitals, page 14, line 23, after the words "tertiary hospitals," to provide for the following phrase INCLUDING PRIVATE HOSPITALS RENDERING SERVICE TO PAYING PATIENTS. Accordingly, the provision as amended shall read: "All regional, provincial, and tertiary hospitals, INCLUDING PRIVATE HOSPITALS RENDERING SERVICE TO PAYING PATIENTS shall provide the following psychiatric, psychosocial, and neurologic services:"

The word "small" found on page 14, line 25 should be changed to ADEQUATE.

The word "families" on page 14, line 35, after the word "unavailable," should be deleted and in lieu thereof, to provide the words FAMILY MEMBERS.

The original Section 28 on Appropriations on page 16, from lines 46 to 47 on page 16, up to lines 1 to 2 on page 17, should be deleted and in lieu thereof, to provide for the following appropriation language: SEC. 28. APPROPRIATIONS. – THE AMOUNT NEEDED FOR THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT SHALL BE CHARGED AGAINST THE 2017 AND 2018 APPROPRIATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE FOLLOWING:

A. MAINTENANCE AND OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM AND CAPITAL OUTLAYS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PSYCHIATRIC FACILITIES AMONG SELECTED DOH HOSPITALS WHICH SHALL BOTH BE SUB-ALLOTTED WITH THE PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR MENTAL HEALTH FOR ITS ADMINISTRATION AND DISBURSEMENT; AND

B. TWO (2) PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NEW REVENUES COLLECTED UNDER THE TAX REFORM FOR ACCELERATION AND INCLUSION. THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH SHALL REMAIN WITH THIS PIONEERED GOVERNMENT MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTION.

THEREAFTER, SUCH SUMS AS MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT SHALL

BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT UNDER THE BUDGET OF THE PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR MENTAL HEALTH WHICH ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS SHALL BE NO LESS THAN THE INITIAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR THE FIRST YEAR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT AS WELL AS OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS.

Those are all my proposed individual amendments, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the Sponsor say to the omnibus amendments proposed by the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman?

REP. TAN (A.). The amendments are accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the House say?

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we accept all proposed amendments of the Hon. Edcel Lagman. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor of the omnibus amendments proposed by Hon. Edcel C. Lagman, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are against, please say *no*.

FEW MEMBERS. *No*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved. The omnibus amendments proposed by Hon. Edcel Lagman are accepted.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mme. Chairman.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Estrellita B. Suansing of the First District of Nueva Ecija for her individual amendments. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The

Representative from Nueva Ecija, the Hon. Estrellita B. Suansing, is recognized.

REP. SUANSING. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This Representation would like to propose an amendment to House Bill No. 6452. On page 17, Section 30, line 13, to delete the entire second sentence and in lieu thereof, insert the following: IF THE VIOLATION IS COMMITTED BY A JURIDICAL PERSON, THE PENALTY PROVIDED FOR IN THIS ACT SHALL BE IMPOSED UPON THE DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES OR OTHER OFFICIALS, OR PERSONS THEREIN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OFFENSE.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. TAN (A.). The amendment is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the House say?

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we accept the proposed amendment of the Hon. Estrellita B. Suansing.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara to introduce her individual amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Lady from Nueva Ecija, the Hon. Rosanna Vergara, is recognized.

REP. VERGARA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This Representation would like to introduce the following amendments to House Bill No. 6452, the Comprehensive Mental Health Act of 2017:

On page 3, line 21, Section 4, under Definition of Terms, I would like to add a new letter A, before the original letter (a), to read as follows: ADDICTION REFERS TO A PRIMARY CHRONIC DISEASE OF BRAIN REWARD, MOTIVATION, MEMORY, AND RELATED CIRCUITRY. DYSFUNCTIONS IN THIS CIRCUITRY LEAD TO CHARACTERISTIC BIOLOGICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, AND SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATIONS. IT IS CHARACTERIZED BY THE INABILITY TO CONSISTENTLY ABSTAIN IMPAIRMENT AND BEHAVIORAL CONTROL, CRAVING, DIMINISHED RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS

WITH ONE'S BEHAVIOR AND INTER-PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS, AND A DYSFUNCTIONAL EMOTIONAL RESPONSE.

May I proceed with the second amendment, Mr. Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Please proceed.

REP. VERGARA. On page 15, line 37, second paragraph under Section 23, to delete the phrase "Persons covered by Section 62" and in lieu thereof, please put the phrase PERSONS CHARGED UNDER R.A. 9165.

That is all, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. TAN (A.). The amendments are accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the House say to the omnibus amendments made by the Honorable Vergara?

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we accept the proposed amendments of the Honorable Vergara.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 6452, as amended, on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 6452, as amended, on Second Reading, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6452, AS AMENDED,  
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 6452, as amended, is approved on Second Reading. (*Applause*)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery. In the gallery are the guests of the Hon. Ruby M. Sahali from the Lone District of Tawi-Tawi and they are the delegates of Mindanao Peace Mission, “Bakwit sa Siyudad”: Mindanao Peaceweavers, All Out Peace, Mindanao Solidarity Network, Initiative for International Dialogue, Balay Rehabilitation Network and all allied civil society peace networks in Lanao, Maguindanao and Manila.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The guests of Rep. Ruby Sahali will please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, in the gallery are the guests of the Hon. Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta from the Third District of Palawan and they are the members of the 15th Sangguniang Panlungsod of Puerto Princesa City, namely: Maria Nancy M. Socrates, Jimmy L. Carbonel, Matthew K. Mendoza, Modesto V. Rodriguez II, Peter Q. Maristela, Roy Gregorio G. Ventura, Victor S. Oliveros, Henry A. Gadiano, Rolando T. Amurao, Nesario G. Awat and Nestor A. Saavedra.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The guests of Rep. Gil Acosta of Palawan will please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, in the gallery are the guests of the Hon. Victor A. Yap from the Second District of Tarlac and they are Dep. Commr. Edgardo V. Cabarios, NTC, Dir. Imelda R. Walcien, Engr. Alejandro Orola Jr., Mary Grace Mirandilla-Santos, Maria Cecille Soria, Angelo Nino B. Gutierrez, Carlo Agdamag, Philip Libre and Edgardo Jopson.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The guests of Rep. Victor Yap will please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 159  
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 159, contained in Committee Report No. 166, as reported out by the Committee on Housing and Urban Development.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 159, entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE RIGHT OF GOVERNMENT TO EXPROPRIATE LANDS FOR SOCIALIZED HOUSING, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 9, 10, AND 11 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992.”

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

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, the Hon. Alfredo “Albee” B. Benitez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Chairman of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, the future Senator of the Republic of the Philippines from Negros, Rep. Albee Benitez is recognized to sponsor House Bill No. 159.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

REP. BENITEZ. Mr. Speaker, I think I am lost, but may the Explanatory Notes please serve as our sponsorship remarks. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the measure be considered as the sponsorship speech of the Honorable Benitez.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, since no Member has registered to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to close the period of sponsorship and debate is approved.

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

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

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 159, as contained in Committee Report No. 166, on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor for approval of House Bill No. 159 on Second Reading, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are against, please say *no*. (*Silence*)

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 159 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 159 is approved on Second Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some more guests in the gallery. In the gallery are the guests of the Hon. Sabiniano S. Canama and the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD and they are from the AGDAO Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Davao City, namely: Dir. Antonieto Remolar, Dir. Albin Repuesto, Dir. Marvin Pulido and Marcosa Dela Cruz.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The guests of Reps. Anthony Bravo and Sabiniano Canama will please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Dep. Minority Leader, the Hon. H. Harry L. Roque Jr. and they are from the local government unit of Puerto Princesa, Palawan, as well.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The guests of Dep. Minority Leader H. Harry Roque will please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

*It was 4:47 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:50 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6571 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider

House Bill No. 6571, contained in Committee Report No. 427, as reported out by the Committees on Higher and Technical Education, and on Appropriations.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6571, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE PROGRAM FOR DESERVING STUDENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

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

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, the Hon. Ann K. Hofer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, Rep. Ann Hofer, is recognized to sponsor House Bill No. 6571.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, since no Member wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

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

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

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

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 6571 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor to approve House Bill No. 6571 on Second Reading, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

#### APPROVAL OF H. B. NO. 6571 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 6571 is approved on Second Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H. B. NO. 6572 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6572, contained in Committee Report No. 428, as reported out by the Committees on Higher and Technical Education on Basic Education and Culture and on Appropriations.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6572, entitled: ANACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (PQF), ESTABLISHING THE PQF-NATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL (NCC) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

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

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, the Hon. Ann Hofer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Likewise, we are recognizing the honorable Sponsor, the Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, Representative Hofer to sponsor the Bill.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, since no Member wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any

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

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

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

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Honorable Hofer for the committee amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Representative Hofer is recognized for the committee amendments.

REP. HOFER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on page 3, Section 5 of House Bill No. 6572, lines 68 to 77, the Committee wishes to add another subsection to read as follows:

(g) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INDUSTRY SECTOR AS MEMBER;

On the same Section, line 76, subsection (e), delete the conjunction “and” after the semicolon (;); and

On the same Section, line 77, subsection (f), delete the period (.) after the word “member” and in lieu thereof, insert a semicolon (;) and the conjunction AND.

REP. HOFER. That is all, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GULLAS. I move that we accept the Committee amendments of the honorable Chairperson, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Committee amendments proposed by the distinguished Sponsor are approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HOFER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 6572 on Second Reading, as amended.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor of the approval of House Bill No. 6572, as amended, on Second Reading, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6572, AS AMENDED,  
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 6572 under Committee Report No. 428, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6550  
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6550, contained in Committee Report No. 420, as reported out by the Committees on Welfare of Children, and on Appropriations.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6550, entitled: AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA OF DAY CARE WORKERS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Divina Grace C. Yu from the First District of Zamboanga del Sur.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Chairperson of the Committee on Welfare of Children, Representative Yu, is recognized to sponsor House Bill No. 6550.

REP. YU. Mr. Speaker, may I request that the sponsorship remark be inserted in the records of these proceedings.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the sponsorship remarks be inserted on the records of these proceedings as her sponsorship speech.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, since no Member wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

\*\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 6550 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 6550, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6550 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 6550 is approved on Second Reading. (*Applause*)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6570 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6570, contained in Committee Report No. 426, as reported out by the Committee on Welfare of Children.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6570, entitled: AN ACT PROHIBITING LEAVING

CHILDREN BELOW EIGHT YEARS OLD UNATTENDED IN MOTOR VEHICLES.

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

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

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Sponsor, the Chairperson of the Committee on Welfare of Children, the Hon. Divine Grace Yu.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Sponsor, Rep. Divine Grace Yu, the Chairperson of the Committee on Welfare of Children, is recognized to sponsor House Bill No. 6570.

REP. YU. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the sponsorship remarks be inserted in the records of these proceedings as her sponsorship speech.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, since no Member wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)



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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 6570 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor of the approval of House Bill No. 6570 on Second Reading, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6570 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 6570 is approved on Second Reading. The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GULLAS. I move for a suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

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

*It was 4:59 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:01 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6557 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we

consider House Bill No. 6557, contained in Committee Report No. 423, as reported out by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6557, entitled: AN ACT PROMOTING OPEN ACCESS IN DATA TRANSMISSION, PROVIDING ADDITIONAL POWERS TO THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION.

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

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Sponsor, the Hon. Victor A. Yap.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The distinguished Sponsor, the Chairperson of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Rep. Victor Yap, is recognized.

REP. YAP (V.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Committee Secretary has a copy of the sponsorship speech. I move that it be read into the records, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. I move that the sponsorship speech which the Committee Secretary has be put in the Record, Mr. Speaker.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 6557 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 6557 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6557 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 6557 is approved on Second Reading. (*Applause*)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. YAP (V.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6558 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6558, contained in Committee Report No. 424, as reported out by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6558, entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE POWERS OF THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7925, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES.

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

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

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Sponsor, the Hon. Victor A. Yap from the Second District of Tarlac.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Chairperson of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is recognized.

REP. YAP (V.). Mr. Speaker.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

\*\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Hon. Victor Yap is recognized.

REP. YAP(V.). Mr. Speaker, likewise, the Committee Secretary has a copy of the sponsorship speech that I made and I request that it be read into the records.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the sponsorship speech of the Hon. Victor Yap be inserted in the Record.\*\*

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, with no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 6558.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 6558 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6558 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 6558 is approved on Second Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. YAP (V.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 3492 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 3492, contained in Committee Report No. 430, as reported out by the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 3692, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT MACABEBE, PAMPANGA, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (C) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

\*\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

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

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Sponsor, the honorable Chairman of the Committee on Justice, Rep. Reynaldo V. Umali.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Chairperson of the Committee on Justice, Rep. Rey Umali, is recognized to sponsor House Bill No. 3492.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker.

REP. UMALI. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, Your Honors.

I move that the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 3492 be considered as my sponsorship speech.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the following Committee amendments:

(1) On Section 4, line 8, between the words “the” and “General”, to insert the word ANNUAL; and

(2) On the same section, lines 8 to 10, to delete the sentence “Further, the funds necessary for the operation of the courts herein created shall be appropriated and released only upon the actual organization of the courts and the appointment of personnel.”

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Committee amendments are hereby approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 3492, as amended, on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 3492, as amended, on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 3492, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 3492, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6573 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6573, contained in Committee Report No. 431, as reported out by the Committee on Justice.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6573, entitled: AN ACT PROHIBITING HAZING AND REGULATING OTHER FORMS OF INITIATION RITES OF FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8049 ENTITLED “AN ACT REGULATING HAZING AND OTHER FORMS OF INITIATION RITES IN FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”.

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

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Sponsor, the Chairman of the Committee on Justice, the Hon. Reynaldo V. Umali.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Chairman of the Committee on Justice, Rep. Rey Umali from the Second District of Oriental Mindoro, is recognized to sponsor House Bill No. 6573.

REP. UMALI. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

I move that the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 6573 be adopted as the sponsorship remarks of this Representation on the measure.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection?

What is the pleasure of Representative Lagman?

REP. LAGMAN. I have just received this afternoon a copy of House Bill No. 6573. Although initially I do not have any strong opposition to this measure, I think we should be given more time to go over the proposed measure and so, I would strongly suggest that we defer the consideration of this Bill on Second Reading with respect to the debates on this measure.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

*It was 5:10 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:16 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6573

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, before we suspend the session, our parliamentary status is that we were considering House Bill No. 6573, and that we were in the period of sponsorship and debate.

For the meantime, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 6573.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

*It was 5:16 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:18 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6579  
ON SECOND READING

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6579, contained in Committee Report No. 436, as reported out by the Committee on Trade and Industry and the Committee on Appropriations.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6579, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL POLICY ON EASE OF DOING BUSINESS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

*It was 5:19 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:26 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6579  
*Continuation*

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, before we suspended, our parliamentary status was that we were in the period of sponsorship and debate on House Bill No. 6579. Therefore, I move that we recognize the honorable Sponsor, the Hon. Ferjenel G. Biron, MD of the Fourth District of Iloilo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The distinguished Sponsor, the Chairperson of the Committee on Trade and Industry, Rep. Ferjenel Biron, is recognized to sponsor House Bill No. 6579.

REP. BIRON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. I move that the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 5031 be considered as the sponsorship speech on House Bill No. 6579. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 6579 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6579 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 6579 is approved on Second Reading.

The only dissenting vote comes from Cong. Rodolfo T. Albano III. (*Laughter*)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ALBANO. May I know, Mr. Speaker, how my vote was recorded?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). *Viva voce*.

REP. ALBANO. I voted yes, Mr. Speaker, for the record.

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

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 1616 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 1616, contained in Committee Report No. 437, as reported out by the Committee on Ways and Means.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 1616, entitled: AN ACT EXEMPTING THE SYSTEM LOSS CHARGE COMPONENT IN THE SALE OF ELECTRICITY BY DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES AND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES FROM THE COVERAGE OF THE VALUE ADDED TAX, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 109 (1) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9337 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10378, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Sponsor, the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, the Hon. Dakila Carlo E. Cua.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The honorable Chairperson of the Committee on Ways and Means, Representative Cua, is recognized to sponsor House Bill No. 1616.

REP. CUA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to submit that the Explanatory Note be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, there being no

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 1616 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 1616 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 1616 is approved on Second Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

*It was 5:30 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:49 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 134

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 134, contained in Committee Report No. 418, as reported out by the Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Appropriations.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 134, entitled: RESOLUTION TO REVIVE THE PAMPANGA RIVER CONTROL SYSTEM AND TO INCLUDE IT IN THE YEARLY BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we amend House Resolution No. 134, under Committee Report No. 418, to wit:

1. At the end of the Resolution, it should include the following phrase: THAT COPIES OF THE RESOLUTION BE SENT TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, TO THE NEDA, TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, AND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)



2. On the first clause, the phrase URGE DPWH is inserted between the word “to” and “revive.”

3. The title is hereby amended to read as follows: RESOLUTION URGING DPWH TO REVIVE THE PAMPANGA RIVER CONTROL SYSTEM AND TO INCLUDE IT IN THE YEARLY BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 134,  
AS AMENDED

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 134, as amended. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

House Resolution No. 134, as amended, is adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 10

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 10, contained in Committee Report No. 419, as reported out by the Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Appropriations.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 10, entitled: RESOLUTION URGING THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED ZAMBOANGA CITY IMPOUNDING DAM PROJECT AND TO INCLUDE IT IN THE PRIORITY PROJECT LISTING OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move to amend House Resolution No.10 so that at the end of the Resolution, we include the paragraph: COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION SHALL IMMEDIATELY BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, NEDA, AND THE ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 10, as amended. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 10,  
AS AMENDED

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

House Resolution No. 10, as amended, is adopted. The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF CTTEE. RPT. NO. 422  
ON H. RES. NO. 53

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 422 on House Resolution No. 53.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the resolution.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the Committee Report have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title of the measure without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 53, entitled: RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND WELFARE TO CONDUCT A REVIEW OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8220 IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE ALLEGED DISCREPANCIES IN THE INTERPRETATION OF

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE COMPUTATION OF THE PENSION OF OUR RETIRED CHIEF MASTER SERGEANTS (CMS) AND SENIOR MASTER SERGEANTS.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move to amend House Resolution No. 53 by adding the phrase at the end of the Resolution: COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION SHALL IMMEDIATELY BE SENT TO THE CONCERNED AGENCIES. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

ADOPTION OF FINDINGS AND RECOM. IN  
CTTEE. RPT. NO. 422  
ON H. RES. NO. 53, AS AMENDED

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 422 on House Resolution No. 53, as amended, in aid of legislation.

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

The findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 422 on House Resolution No. 53, as amended, are adopted.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF CTTEE. RPT. NO. 425  
ON H. RES. NO. 654

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 425 on House Resolution No. 654.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the resolution.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the Committee Report have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title of the measure without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 654, entitled: RESOLUTION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE SALE OF PASKUHAN VILLAGE IN PAMPANGA BY THE TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENTERPRISE ZONE AUTHORITY (TIEZA) TO SM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (SMDC) REPORTEDLY UNDER THE FORMER'S ASSET PRIVATIZATION PROGRAM, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ASCERTAINING THE REAL OWNERSHIP OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY AMIDST CERTAIN ASSERTIONS TO THE CONTRARY, AS WELL AS TO DETERMINE WHETHER CORRECT PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES WERE FOLLOWED AND WHETHER THE CONDITION IMPOSED BY ITS FORMER OWNER JESUS LAZATIN HAS LEGAL EFFECT AND TO DETERMINE IF THE SAME WAS COMPLIED WITH OR NOT.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we amend House Resolution No. 654 by including at the end of the Resolution the paragraph: COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY SENT TO THE AFFECTED AGENCIES. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

ADOPTION OF FINDINGS AND RECOM. IN  
CTTEE. RPT. NO. 425  
ON H. RES. NO. 654, AS AMENDED

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 425 on House Resolution No. 654, as amended, in aid of legislation.

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

The findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 425 on House Resolution No. 654, as amended, are adopted.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL BILLS  
ON SECOND READING

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, with leave of the

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

House, I move that we consider Bills under the Calendar of Business for Thursday and Friday.

Mr. Speaker, I move for the omnibus consideration of the following measures:

1. House Bill No. 6523, contained in Committee Report No. 405;
2. House Bill No. 5578, contained in Committee Report No. 409;
3. House Bill No. 6528, contained in Committee Report No. 410;
4. House Bill No. 6529, contained in Committee Report No. 411;
5. House Bill No. 6530, contained in Committee Report No. 412;
6. House Bill No. 6531, contained in Committee Report No. 413;
7. House Bill No. 6532, contained in Committee Report No. 414;
8. House Bill No. 6533, contained in Committee Report No. 415;
9. House Bill No. 6534, contained in Committee Report No. 416;
10. House Bill No. 6535, contained in Committee Report No. 417;
11. House Bill No. 6551, contained in Committee Report No. 421;
12. House Bill No. 6524, contained in Committee Report No. 406; and
13. House Bill No. 6525, contained in Committee Report No. 407.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments and approve the Committee amendments, if any, as contained in the respective Committee Reports of the aforementioned Bills.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the aforesaid measures on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor of the approval of the Bills enumerated in the omnibus motion, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

The Bills enumerated in the omnibus motion are hereby approved on Second Reading.\*

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, in view of the approval on Second Reading of House Bills No. 6550, 6551, 6557, 6571, 6572 and 3492, I move that we include in the records the list of coauthors to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, in view of the approval of House Bills No. 6550 and 6570, I move that we include as coauthor the Hon. Edward Vera Perez Maceda for both bills.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 34, dated October 9, 2017.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; Journal No. 34, dated October 9, 2017, is hereby approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 441), re H.B. No. 6584, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARLIG IN MOUNTAIN PROVINCE A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 283

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez, Nograles (K.A.) and Dalog

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 442), re H.B. No. 6585, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING BARANGAY TALA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ORANI, PROVINCE OF BATAANAN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 615

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez, Nograles (K.A.) and Roman

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 443), re H.B. No. 6586, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MANOK MANOK ISLAND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ESPERANZA, PROVINCE OF MASBATE AN ECOTOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1065

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez, Nograles (K.A.) and Lanete

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 444), re H.B. No. 6587, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LINGAYEN GULF MARINE ECOTOURISM PARK IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LINGAYEN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1020

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez, Nograles (K.A.) and Bataoil

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 445), re H.B. No. 6588, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE CITY OF BUTUAN A HERITAGE TOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 981

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez, Nograles (K.A.) and Fortun

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Agrarian Reform (Committee Report No. 446), re H.B. No. 6589, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM REGARDING LAND REGISTRATION TO FACILITATE SPEED AND EFFICIENCY IN LAND REGISTRATION”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5487

Sponsors: Representatives Relampagos and Alvarez (P.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 447), re H.B. No. 6590, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3019, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED THE ‘ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5795, first reported out in substitution of HB No. 3605 under Committee Report No. 280; recommitted by the Committee on Rules on 26 July 2017 to the Committee on Revision of Laws for further deliberation to address certain issues raised over specific provisions of the bill; the Committee on Revision of Laws considered the same and recommends the approval of the hereto attached substitute bill

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Alvarez (P.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 448), re H.B. No. 2483, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JULY 4 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF CADIZ, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS CHARTER DAY ANNIVERSARY”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Cueva

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 449), re H.B. No. 2484, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 11 OR EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING

HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF SAGAY, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION DAY ANNIVERSARY”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Cueva

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 450), re H.B.No. 6591, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE EASTERN VISAYAS REGION TO BE KNOWN AS ‘TYPHOON YOLANDA RESILIENCY DAY’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4383

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Romualdez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 451), re H.B. No. 6592, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 24 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS ‘ARAW NG SIBUGAY’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill Nos. 5207 and 5693

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas, Palma and Hofer

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Florida “Rida” P. Robes of the Lone District of San Jose del Monte City who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Lady from the Lone District of San Jose del Monte City is hereby recognized to avail her privilege, Rep. Florida Robes.

REP. ROBES. Magandang hapon po sa ating lahat. Sa atin pong honorableng mga Mambabatas, honorable Chair, magandang hapon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Magandang gabi po.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ROBES

REP. ROBES. Magandang gabi.

Ang akin pong tatalakayin ngayong oras na ito ay tungkol po sa panlilinlang, pang-aabuso at pagkukunwari nga ba, supilin ang pamumulitika sa aming distrito sa lungsod ng San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my sentiments on a controversial issue which is haunting the entire constituency of the city of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, the issue on water supply. In August 2016, I stood before this august Body to let it be known that my district's present water crisis is a result of the seeming ineptitude of our local water district to provide this basic staple. In addition to poor services and weak management of water resources, the rates of our water supply are relatively high. After my speech, I filed a resolution urging the Local Water Utilities Administration to intervene in the alleged mismanagement of the local water district in the distribution of water supply. My primary objective then was to ensure quality and affordable water supply for all San Joseños. It was not intimated upon a political partnership. It was a call to improve public service in all levels.

Dahil sa ating mga hakbangin, naibaba natin ang presyo ng tubig. Mula P280++, ito ay naging P200 para sa mga kumukunsumo ng 10 kubiko pababa. Para sa ordinaryong mamamayan, malaking tulong ito upang matugunan ang pangangailangan ng ating pamilya. Sa pagnanais nating mas mapaganda ang serbisyo ng patubig sa lungsod, iminungkahi at kinonsidera ng ating mga kaibigan na magkaroon ng Public-Private Partnership through a joint venture agreement na nagbukas sa "water market." Sa pamamagitan nito, ayon sa San Jose Water District, matutugunan ang pagkukulang sa serbisyo ng ito. Dahil may kompetisyon, maaaring bumaba ang water rates at mapabuti ang pag-supply nito sa mga kabahayan sa lungsod. Hindi na rin kailangang mangutang para sa pagpapagawa ng mga imprastruktura ng tubig. Hangarin din nito na maiwasan ang pagbabayad ng mataas na interes o taripa, at maproteksiyunan ang karapatan ng mga empleyado, ayon sa general manager ng San Jose Water District.

Sa mga adhikaing ito, ang kapakanan ng bawat San Joseño ay hindi natin kailanman isasaalang-alang. Subalit ayon sa isang kaibigan at isa sa nagtatrabaho sa San Jose Water District, isang miyembro ng board of directors ang nakaanib sa isang grupo na diumano ng mga consumers, ang Alliance for Consumer Protection ng San Jose del Monte, Bulacan na hindi naman rehistrado sa anumang ahensiya ng ating gobyerno at mariing tumututol sa joint venture agreement na ito. Nakalulungkot ding isipin na isang kasangguni ang siyang naghihikayat sa ganitong pag-aaklas. Nakababahala din na kanilang ipinagsisigawan na dudulog sila sa Kongreso at sabi nila ay lalapit sila sa mga party-list nating mga kaibigan na kasama upang ipaalam na agrabyado ang taong-bayan sa usaping ito.

Ang tanong ko, nararapat ba na makianib sa mga masamang balakin na ito, lalung-lalo na sa usaping panglokal? I am with full trust and confidence na ang ating mga kasamahan sa Kapulungang ito ay hindi papatol sa ganitong issue na walang katotohanan dahil kawawa naman po ang aming pamilyang San Joseño. Sila ay hindi basta-basta mauudyukan para guluhin ang San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

Base sa mga ikinakalat nilang balita, inaakusahan nila ang local government na walang pakialam sa kapakanan ng mga mamamayan, na pansariling interes lamang ang isinusulong ng mga namumuno. Dagdag pa, pang-PR lang ang lahat na ginagawang proyekto at programa. Dahil dito ay hindi ko matanggap ang kanilang mga sinasabi. Ito pong lahat ng ito ay kasinungalingan dahil, sa aking pagkakaalam, ang tanging hangarin ng local government ay mapabuti ang buhay ng bawat San Joseño at maisulong ang inclusive and sustainable development upang sa gayon ay maiangat ang kabuhayan ng mga residente dito sa aming lungsod.

Gusto ko rin pong ipabatid sa lahat na ang San Jose Water District ay hindi po kasama ang lungsod ng San Jose del Monte sa kanilang pagdedesisyon o ating baligtarin na magkaiba po sila ng entity. Ang San Jose Water District ay may kanyang sariling general manager at may sariling board of directors. Gusto ko rin pong ipabatid sa lahat na, ayon sa general manager, ibang board of directors, sa limang board of directors na nakaupo ngayon, dalawa lamang po ang nabigyan ng appointment ng bagong punong lungsod, Mayor Arthur Robes. Sa pag-jo-joint venture po na ito, apat po ang bumoto rito. I assure this august Body that the local government of San Jose del Monte is working very hard to better the lives of its constituency. The general welfare of every San Joseño is our primordial concern. Ngunit sa isang hindi inaasahang pangyayari, isang trahedya ang gumimbal sa ating mamamayan. Noong ika-6 ng Oktubre, sumabog ang isang water tank ng San Jose del Monte Water District na siyang kumitil sa buhay ng apat na katao habang 41 po

naman ang nasugatan. Tinatayang 2,000 cubic meters ang tubig ang sumambulata sa mga residente na nag-iwan din ng makapal na putik. Kabilang sa mga nasawi ay dalawang sanggol na may edad na isang taong gulang.

Bilang Kinatawan ng aking distrito, ako po ay lubhang nasaktan sa nangyari. Nagdadalamhati ang puso't isipan ko dahil sa trahedyang ito. Kasama ko po ang aking mga kababayan na humihingi ng katarungan. Ito ang aking iniiyak. Ito po ang aking ipinaglalaman. Ang masama, kailanman, ay hindi magwawagi. Ang nagkasala ay dapat parusahan. Akin pong hinihiling sa mga kinauukulan, ang LWUA at ang DPWH, na magsagawa ng isang masusing imbestigasyon dahil, ang alam ko, noong panahon po ng ating mahal na Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, tayo po ay may executive order para po hawakan at tingnan ng LWUA at ng DPWH ang lahat ng 700 plus na water districts sa buong Pilipinas. Ako din po, sa personal kong kakayahan at kasama po ang aking asawa, ay nagkomisyon ng isang private company sa pangunguna ni Engr. Francis Anthony Valderrama na isang principal engineer at ang kanyang kasama ay Structures and Foundations Engineering Consultants upang matukoy ang tunay na kadahilanan ng pagsabog. Kung may pagkakamali sa design at structure ng water tank, nararapat na i-upgrade ito sa pamamagitan ng pagsunod sa international standards.

Mahigit anim na taon na ang nasabing water tank. Usually po, kapag ito po ang sinasabi ay tumatagal po ito sa kanyang structure ng 50 years. Kung may planong i-expand ang capacity nito, dapat na dumaan sa tamang proseso gaya ng konsultasyon at pakikipag-usap sa lahat ng stakeholders. May mga pamantayan na dapat tayong tumalima. Nasunod nga ba ito, San Jose Water District? Kung hindi man, I am calling the attention of the Philippine National Police na tulungan kami sa imbestigasyong ito. Para maproteksyonan ang lugar ng kanilang kinatatayuan sa anumang sakuna o disgrasya, nararapat din na may nakalatag na insurance dito. Maituturing ba ito na pagsasabotahe? Maraming katanungan at agam-agam na kailangang sagutin at matugunan sa lalong madaling panahon. Ngunit noong kausap ko ang ating structural engineer, it will take around 45 days to three months para malaman ang tunay na pangyayari. Para maiwasan ang ganitong sakuna, at pagkawala ng buhay, hinihiling ko na rin po sa lahat ng concerned agencies ang masusing monitoring at evaluation ng lahat ng pampublikong imprastruktura. Kailangan po ng proper maintenance and care sa mga ito upang maiwasan ang mabilis na "wear and tear," lalo na kung ito ay immediate supply at pangangailangan ng taumbayan.

At this point, the local government is doing everything it can to see to it that this problem will not go down the drain. Ginagalang po natin ang karapatan ng bawat mamamayan na maglabas ng kanilang saloobin

at opinyon ng mga usaping panggobyerno. We adhere to citizen empowerment. We respect all rights, but we should also remember that rights are not absolute. If your right tramples upon the rights of others, then there is the rub. The general intent of any right or freedom is to live one's life in a manner that will not have an adverse impact on others.

Bilang pagwawakas, ako po ay naniniwala na walang problema na hindi masosolusyunan kung tayo po ay magkakaisa at marunong tayong mag-compromise dahil lahat ng ating ginagawa ay para sa bayan.

Maraming salamat po at magandang gabi po sa ating lahat.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of the Hon. Rida Robes be referred to the Committee on Rules. I so move.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, next to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Hon. H. Harry L. Roque Jr. from KABAYAN Party-List. I so move.

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

REP. ROQUE (H.). Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Representative from KABAYAN Party-List, the Hon. H. Harry L. Roque Jr., is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ROQUE (H.)

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

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen of this august Chamber.

I rise to apprise the House of Representatives of a disturbing political development in the city of Puerto Princesa, the capital of the province of Palawan. I wish to bring this matter to the attention of my distinguished colleagues because it is relevant to contemporary discussions about how the Office of the Ombudsman is discharging its constitutional functions.

Let me tell you about Mayor Lucilo R. Bayron, the Mayor of Puerto Princesa, and the unjust and arbitrary actions of the Office of the Ombudsman against him.

Without doubt, Mayor Bayron—elected in the regular elections of May 2013, reelected in the recall elections of May 2015 and again, reelected in the regular election of May 2016—is the principled choice of the people of his city. Since day one, he has been efficiently and effectively administering the affairs of the city government of Puerto Princesa, and delivering basic public services to his constituents with characteristic commitment, but this year has been one of many difficult and unfounded legal challenges for him.

Mayor Bayron was penalized by the Office of the Ombudsman with dismissal from office for something he did not do. Later, faced with its own erroneous judgment, the Office of the Ombudsman reduced Mayor Bayron's penalty to a three-month suspension. Incidentally, the mayor had already served his suspension, so the case had been rendered moot and academic. That would have settled the matter. However, the story does not end, and did not end there. In an inexplicable, capricious and arbitrary reversal, the Office of the Ombudsman tumbled back to its original decision on the dismissal and subsequently, issued orders to the Department of the Interior and Local Government to remove the mayor from office. It is, thus, necessary to give you, my dear colleagues, a brief discussion of the facts of his case.

Among others, a case for serious dishonesty was filed against Mayor Bayron and his son Karl Bayron on the ground that the mayor allegedly concealed his relationship to his son Karl in the latter's contract of service as a project manager of the Bantay Puerto–VIP Security Task Force, a six-month project that ran from 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2013. The complaint was filed on 22 November 2013 by a certain Aldrin Madreo, a non-resident of Puerto Princesa, certainly, upon the behest of the political opponent of Mayor Bayron. Karl Bayron's personal data sheet, which was attached to the same contract of service, clearly stated his relationship to his father, the mayor. Thus, whatever omission was no more than a mere inadvertence. The position, too, was confidential in nature, exempting it from any charge of nepotism.

This was not satisfactory to the Office of the Ombudsman as on November 18, 2016, the Ombudsman issued yet another order finding both father and son guilty of serious dishonesty and imposing the maximum penalty of dismissal from service with perpetual disqualification from holding public office. This was subsequently implemented by the DILG against the mayor who was then forced to leave his office, given that the order of the Office of the Ombudsman, as we all know, painfully in this august Chamber of Congress, is immediately executory by virtue of Administrative Order No. 7. Karl Bayron then filed a motion for reconsideration while Mayor Bayron filed a Petition for Review

with the Court of Appeals, which is the prescribed mode of appeal. The case was overtaken by a recall election against the mayor, which was held on 8 May 2015, when the Aguinaldo Doctrine was still operative. The doctrine holds that the public officer's reelection operates as a condonation for his misconduct committed during a prior term. In the recall election, Mayor Bayron roundly won.

Moreover, while the case remained pending, the Office of the Ombudsman issued a Joint Order on 20 March 2017 downgrading the administrative offense to simple dishonesty, imposing the penalty of three-month suspension, which the mayor had already dutifully served. As a consequence, Mayor Bayron was reinstated to his position as mayor. However, acting again on the motion for reconsideration filed by the complainant, the Office of the Ombudsman, in a Joint Order dated 6 July 2017, reinstated its earlier order dismissing the mayor from government service. Needless to say, the Office of the Ombudsman's flip-flop had caused confusion, chaos and disorder in the city, to the people's great prejudice. The Office of the Ombudsman's grievous error was only confirmed when the Court of Appeals favorably ruled in favor of Mayor Bayron's petition and completely reversed the Ombudsman's order in a decision dated 8 August 2017. That CA decision totally exonerated Mayor Bayron. The 6th Division of the Appellate Court, speaking through Justice Dimaampao, sided with Mayor Bayron in his argument that the omission in the contract of services of his relationship to Karl Bayron was mere inadvertence as, in fact, the latter's personal data sheet attached to the contract clearly stated his relationship to Mayor Bayron. The appellate court likewise noted that the position given to Karl Bayron was confidential, thus, obviating any charge of nepotism. Finally, Justice Dimaampao also stated that the Aguinaldo Doctrine, which was deemed nullified in the decision of the Supreme Court dated 10 November 2016 in the case of *Carpio-Morales vs CA*, still applied to Mayor Bayron's case.

The reason is that the High Court ruled as well that the nullification of the Aguinaldo Doctrine only applies prospectively and not retroactively.

The Resolution of the Court of Appeals in Mayor Bayron's petition is instructive, as shown by its dispositive portion, to wit:

The foregoing disquisitions considered, we hereby grant the Petition for Review. The Decision dated 18 November 2016 of the Office of the Ombudsman is reversed and set aside. Accordingly, the Complaint for Serious Dishonesty and Grave Misconduct against petitioner Lucilo Bayron is dismissed. The Petition for Leave to Intervene filed by Vice-Mayor Luis Marcaida is denied.

So ordered.



Then in a Resolution dated 24 August 2017 and issued in response to a clarificatory motion filed by Mayor Bayron, the Court of Appeals affirmed and fortified more Mayor Bayron's hold and authority to the position of Mayor of the City of Puerto Princesa. The said Resolution reads as follows, and I quote:

Our decision, dated 8 August 2017, stands out like a sore thumb. It reverses the decision dated 18 November 2016 of the Office of the Ombudsman thereby eventuating in the dismissal of the Complaint for Serious Dishonesty and Grave Misconduct against petitioner. Given that he had already been reinstated as Mayor of Puerto Princesa City even before promulgation of our decision, his absolution from administrative liability fortifies his authority to hold such office.

Mayor Lucilo Bayron's case only serves to underscore the fact that the administration in our country can be perverted by unseen political interests. How else do we explain this? In a span of less than a year, the Office of the Ombudsman managed to contradict itself twice with its 180-degree turn in Mayor Lucilo Bayron's case. To make matters worse, it has now chosen to defy the Court of Appeals Resolution overturning its order of dismissal.

Indeed, I now raise an alarm, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of these hallowed halls, because the Office of the Ombudsman has, again, issued a directive to the DILG to implement its arbitrary, capricious and whimsical and, if I may add, illegal order of a reversal against the Mayor. Officials of the DILG are now at the doorsteps of the City Hall of Puerto Princesa to implement the said highly illegal order, but they are ranged against thousands of Mayor Bayron's supporters who rose and raised valid legal questions against the Office of the Ombudsman's oppressive order. Among other things, they asked the following pointed questions: (1) May an already reversed decision still be implemented? (2) Is it not that the writ of implementation does not have a life of its own, but is merely dependent on the life and existence of the decision it seeks to implement? (3) Is it not that the substance prevails over technicality?

The actions of the Office of the Ombudsman in Mayor Lucilo Bayron's case inspire the spirit of lawlessness and disorder. It shows utter disrespect to the valid order of the appellate court. Judicial decisions assume the same authority as a statute itself and, until authoritatively abandoned, necessarily become, to the extent that they are applicable, the criteria that must control the actuations, not only of those called upon to abide by them, but also of those duty-bound to enforce

obedience to them. The appellate court's complete reversal of the Office of the Ombudsman's unlawful order is entitled to the respect expected of other institutions of government in our system of hierarchy of courts.

Justice, when rushed, almost always raises suspicion about its authenticity and the motivations behind it. Moreover, jurisprudence states that the writ of execution is a mere administrative medium of the special order, and that the writ itself cannot and does not assume a life of its own independent of the special order on which it is based. Certainly, the nullification of the special order effectively carries with it the nullification of its implementing writ and removes the basis for the issuance of another implementing writ. Given that the appellate court had reversed or nullified the order of November 18, 2016 which previously dismissed Mayor Bayron from office, any writ or memorandum issued later to implement the already nullified decision becomes an indefensible legal and constitutional monstrosity.

From the halls of Congress, I call on the Office of the Ombudsman to put an end to its clear oppression of a public official, Puerto Princesa Mayor Lucilo Bayron, and respect court processes. The appellate court has already recalled its decision dated 18 November 2016 dismissing Mayor Bayron from the public office. It cannot now implement a decision that has already been nullified by the court. To insist on an already nullified order is to go against the rule of law.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and goodevening to everyone.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the privilege speech of the Hon. H. Harry L. Roque Jr. be referred to the Committee on Rules. I so move.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

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

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

RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. RPT. ON  
H.B. NO. 6016 AND S.B. NO. 1466

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Bicameral Conference Committee Report reconciling the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 6016 and Senate Bill No. 1466.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the titles of the measures.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the titles of the measures.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the Conference Committee Report have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the titles of the measures without prejudice to inserting the text of the report in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6016, entitled: AN ACT REGULATING THE ISSUANCE, USE AND REDEMPTION OF GIFT CHECKS, GIFT CERTIFICATES AND GIFT CARDS; and Senate Bill No. 1466, entitled: AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPOSITION OF EXPIRY DATES ON GIFT CHECKS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our Rules, I move that we ratify the said Conference Committee Report. I so move.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

##### *Continuation*

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

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Next to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Hon. Arlene D. Brosas from the GABRIELA Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Representative from GABRIELA Party-List, the Hon. Arlene D. Brosas, is hereby recognized to avail her privilege.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BROSAS

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa Kinatawan, magandang hapon.

Noong October 9, nagmartsa ang mga kababayan nating mga magsasaka patungo sa Department of Agrarian Reform Region 10 sa Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City upang opisyal na simulan ang Baktas BTL: Fight for Land and Life. Ang pagkilos na ito ay bunga ng pagkamdang ng Central Mindanao University sa 500 ektaryang lupa na ginawang produktibo ng BTL farmers mula pa noong 1975. Ang BTL ay pinagkaisang organisasyon ng mga magsasaka mula sa dating tatlong organisasyon na nag-apply para maging benepisyaryo ng Agrarian Reform Program ng gobyerno: ang Bukidnon Free Farmers and Agricultural Laborers Organization o BUFFALO, Tried Agricultural Movers Association of Rural Active Workers o TAMARAW at Landless Tillers Inhabitants of Musuan o LIMUS. Ayon sa CMU, ang daang ektaryang lupa raw na iyon ay “for educational purposes” upang matugunan ang kawalan nila ng budget ngunit ilang taon na itong ginagamit for commercial purposes at ipinarenta pa ang daan-daang ektarya sa mga malalaking kumpanya.

Noong July 5, 1989, pinigilan ang BTL farmers ng mga guwardiya ng unibersidad na makabalik sa kanilang komunidad matapos kumuha ng pananim. Nauwi ito sa isang madugong komprontasyon matapos magpaulan ng bala ang mga guwardiya na nagresulta sa pagkamatay ng magsasakang si Leonardo Loable. March 11, 2011 nang opisyal na ipinagbawal ng dating CMU President na si Dr. Maria Luisa R. Soliven ang BTL farmers na gamitin ang lupa upang makapagsaka kahit pa nagkaroon na ng mga reporma sa kasunduan na maaari pa rin silang magsaka ng tatlong taon na may isang pisong rent fee kada ektarya. Sanhi ng gutom at kawalan ng trabaho, sinimulan ng mga magsasaka ang Operation Tikad kung saan salitan silang nagsasaka at nagbabantay sa mga guwardiya sa unibersidad. Matapos lamang ang isang buwan, nagkaroon ng isang violent dispersal. Nagpaulan muli ng bala ang mga guwardiya ng CMU kung saan anim ang tinamaan at 40 ang sugatan.

Ayon sa Agricultural Land Reform Code o RA 3844, ang lupang pang-agrikultura ay para sa agrikultura lamang at hindi dapat ginagamit para sa income generation. Ang pasistang atake ng CMU ay pagpapatunay lamang na ang pagpapasok ng sektor ng komersyo sa agrikultura ay hindi sagot sa pagpapaunlad ng sistema ng bansa. Mr. Speaker, ang panawagan ng mga magsasaka ay ipamahagi na ang lupa pero ang sagot sa kanila ay karahasan at pagpaslang. Mas lalo lamang tumindi ang mga atake ng Philippine National Police at paramilitaries sa kanayunan ilang buwan matapos ipatupad ang Oplan Bayanihan at Oplan Kapayapaan sa ilalim ng administrasyong Duterte. Nakapagtataka na iginigiit ng administrasyon na walang kultura ng impunity sa bansa

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

ngunit patuloy ang pagpatay sa mga lider-magsasaka. Nasa 81 magsasaka ang naitalang pinatay ngunit mistulang nagbubulag-bulagan pa rin ang administrasyon sa epekto ng militarista at pasitang polisiya nito.

Matatandaan din na hindi nakamit ng mga magniniyog ang hustisya sa multibillion coco levy fund scam na ginamit lamang ng diktador na si Ferdinand Marcos sa pagbili ng coconut oil mills at shares sa San Miguel Corporation. Imbes na ibigay mismo sa mga magsasaka ang pondo na sa kanila naman talaga galing, tila ninakawan pa sila muli dahil sa pagsulong ng House Bill No. 5745 o ang Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Trust Fund Act na naglalayong tanggalan ng karapatan ang mga magniniyog na makilahok mismo sa proseso ng pagpapalano sa coco levy. Sa kabila ng patuloy na pagsulong ng kontra-mamamayan at pasitang polisiya ng administrasyon, patuloy din ang bungkalan ng ating mga magsasaka sa Lupang Kapdula sa Cavite, Hacienda Roxas at Sitio Balakbakan sa Batangas, Hacienda Gancayco sa Quezon, at Lupang Almeda sa Occidental Mindoro. Pagpapakita ito ng pagtutol sa malawakang land-grabbing ng mga panginoong may lupa at mga malalaking korporasyon.

Esensyal ang land distribution sa usapin ng tunay na reporma sa lupa. Hindi makakamit ang genuine agrarian reform kung hahayaang pumasok ang mga pribadong kompanya at malalaking may-ari ng lupa na walang ginawa kung hindi ikomersyalisa ang mga lupa na nararapat lamang na ibigay sa mga magsasaka. Sa kabi-kabilang pagsulong ng kontra-mamamayan at makadayuhang patakaran ng administrasyong Duterte, malinaw na walang maaasahang tunay na reporma sa lupa ang ating mga magsasaka. Hanggang ngayon, hindi pa rin naipapasa ang isinusulong na Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill o GARB. Tinalikuran din ng gobyerno ang usapang pangkapayapaan na kabilang sa adyenda ay ang repormang agraryo sa ilalim ng Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms o CASER.

Ngayon ay Peasant Month, at sa darating na October 12 ay pupunta dito ang Buffalo-Tamaraw-Limus (BTL) sa National Capital Region mula sa Bukidnon. Sa October 16, marami ang makikilahok sa pagkilos para sa World Hunger Day at fluvial protest action ng Pamalakaya-Pilipinas. Magkakaroon din ng pagkilos para sa International Day of Rural Women at ang itatampok na isyu ay ang bigas at ang libreng irigasyon. Sa October 23, magkakaroon ng Pambansang Lakbayan ng Magsasaka at sama-samang pupunta sa pagkilos sa Philippine Coconut Authority kaugnay naman sa Coco Levy Fund at kilos protesta nito sa Department of National Defense laban sa militarisasyon sa kanayunan at pamamaslang sa mga magsasaka.

Marapat na ipaglaban ang karapatan ng mga magbubukid upang maisulong ang kanilang kampanya

para sa paglaban sa pagmimina at ekspansyon ng agri-business plantations. Pagbabalik ng Coco Levy Fund sa mga magniniyog at libreng pamamahagi ng lupa sa masang magsasaka. Ang panawagan po ng magsasaka natin ay “stop killing farmers, buwagin ang mga asyenda, at baklasin ang mga plantasyon.”

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Hon. Arlene D. Brosas to the Committee on Rules. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H. B. NO. 4863 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 4863, contained in Committee Report No. 72, as reported out by the Committee on Public Order and Safety

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is hereby directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4863, entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE–CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND DETECTION GROUP (PNP-CIDG) BY RESTORING ITS AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SUBPOENA AD TESTIFICANDUM OR SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 35 (B)(4) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990.”

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

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Chairman of the Committee on Public Order and Safety, the Hon. Romeo M. Acop.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Chairperson of the Committee on Public Order and Safety, Rep. Romeo M. Acop of Antipolo City, is hereby recognized to sponsor the said House Bill.

REP. ACOP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my honor and privilege to sponsor Committee Report No. 72 on House Bill No. 4863, entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE-CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND DETECTION GROUP (PNP-CIDG) BY RESTORING ITS AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SUBPOENA AD TESTIFICANDUM OR SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 35 (B)(4) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990.”

I respectfully manifest, Mr. Speaker, that we adopt the Explanatory Note of the Bill as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

Maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman’s manifestation is noted.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr. of the Third District of Pampanga for his individual amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The honorable Representative from the Third District of Pampanga, Hon. Aurelio “Dong” Gonzales Jr., is recognized to make his amendment.

#### INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENT

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, I move for individual amendment on page 2 of the Bill, Section 1: to delete lines 10 to 16 and in lieu thereof, insert the following paragraph: (1) THE PNP CHIEF SHALL HAVE THE SOLE POWER TO ISSUE SUBPOENA AD TESTIFICANDUM OR SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE CIDG IN ANY INVESTIGATION OR INQUIRY OF THE CIDG. THE DIRECTOR AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTORS OF THE CIDG SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO ADMINISTER OATH UPON CASES UNDER INVESTIGATION, PROVIDED, THAT THE ATTENDANCE OR SUBMISSION OF EVIDENCE OF AN ABSENT OR RECALCITRANT WITNESS MAY BE ENFORCED BY APPLICATION TO ANY TRIAL COURT.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is that only your amendment or you have several amendments?

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). That is all, Mr. Speaker. That is my only amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What is the pleasure of the distinguished Sponsor?

REP. ACOP. Mr. Speaker, I have no objection insofar as the amendment proposed by the Hon. Dong Gonzales is concerned.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What does the House say?

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we accept the amendments of the Hon. Aurelio “Dong” Gonzales Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. The amendment proposed by Rep. Dong Gonzales is accepted.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, with no more Committee or individual amendment, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 4863, as amended, on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 4863, as amended, on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4863, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 4863, as amended, is hereby approved on Second Reading.

REP. ACOP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

##### *Continuation*

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago from KABATAAN Party-List who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Representative from KABATAAN Party-List, Hon. Sarah Jane Elago, is recognized for her privilege speech.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ELAGO

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, good evening.

After three decades of an extended agrarian reform, with CARP and CARPER as flagship programs, still, a big chunk of the total agricultural lands have not been distributed to farmers. Land monopoly remains in the hands of landlords and private corporations. With the appointment of Ka Paeng Mariano as Secretary of Agrarian Reform and President Duterte’s promise during his campaign and early on in his term to prioritize genuine agrarian reform, hopes were high. More than a year later, Ka Paeng was rejected by the Commission on Appointments, and large haciendas remain in the hands of wealthy landlords. As a result of counterinsurgency and the war on drugs, almost 90 members of the peasant sector had been killed under the present administration.

Mr. Speaker, fellow colleagues, the significance of agriculture in our country cannot be downplayed. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, more than nine million hectares of land in the Philippines is agricultural. Despite this, the Food and Agriculture Organization reported that the Philippines is the fifth highest in food inadequacy in 2012. Instead of growing crops, agricultural lands are distributed for commercial use.

Farmers and agricultural workers are stuck in an unending cycle of oppression and state neglect. Their battles are two-fold. First, their battle for ownership of the land they till. Any assertion of right is met either with indifference or even worse, violence. When farmers and workers pushed for fairer wages and land reform in Hacienda Luisita in 2004, they were met with tear gas and bullets. Up to this day, farmers in other haciendas suffer the same fate of being harassed and intimidated by private guards of landlords. Second, their battle for basic social services and support for our agricultural economy. When farmers in Kidapawan asked for support during a period of drought, the government’s response was a rain of bullets. Three farmers died, at

least 37 were injured, and more than 70 farmers were arrested due to trumped up charges.

This Peasants' Month, the farmers reiterate their call for genuine agrarian reform. In line with this, a movement called "Bungkalan" has been organized by farmers in different parts of the country. Bungkalan is a collective effort of farmers in haciendas to cultivate the land and to assert their right to the land they till. Mr. Speaker, ang sabi nga ng isang magsasaka sa nalahukan naming mga Bungkalan, nito lang sa Cavite nitong isang linggo, "Ang pangarap ko lang ay matamnan ang sarili kong lupa kahit sa kakaunting panahon lang na mayroon, bago ako mamatay."

Lupang Kapdula is a 155.7-hectare land in Cavite. The DAR has already awarded two Certificates of Land Ownership Award or CLOA to agrarian reform beneficiaries in Lupang Kapdula. The farmers, however, were deceived to allow the cancellation and transfer of their CLOAs to the South Cavite Land Company. An attendance sheet turned special power of attorney served as an authorization for the agent of South Cavite Land to cancel these CLOAs. When the farmers challenged the transfer of their titles to South Cavite Land Company and started cultivating the land, private guards would make rounds in the area, bringing M-16 rifles to intimidate them.

Beside Lupang Kapdula is another hacienda, Lupang Ramos. Reaching up to 373 hectares, a Notice of Coverage under the CARP has already been issued for its distribution. The Ramos family, who were the previous owners of the land, contested its coverage, claiming that a certain municipal ordinance classified it as a subdivision. They successfully acquired an exemption order after a favorable judgment in the Supreme Court. However, Mr. Speaker, there is no record on file of said municipal ordinance in the local government offices. Similar to Lupang Kapdula, the farmers of Lupang Ramos are intimidated by private guards of the Ramos family. Fake news are also spread throughout the community to scare the farmers that a raid by police or private security forces will be conducted.

Mr. Speaker, it is ironic that those who till the land so they can bring food to our tables do not, themselves, have anything to eat. While some farmers may have benefited from land distribution, it ends at that—the distribution itself. Our agricultural economy remains barely supported by the government—no irrigation, no seeds, no farming materials or tractors given. The budget allotted to the Department of Agriculture do not translate to material benefits for the farmers. This is the reason that any program for agrarian reform without a provision for support for the farmers remains a futile effort in converting idle agricultural lands into productive ones.

We in KABATAAN Party-List stand with the farmers in their fight for genuine agrarian reform. We believe in the importance of agriculture to the Filipino

people, especially the youth, in providing food security and in our struggle for national development. This month, let us all stand with the farmers and agricultural workers as they launch the Pambansang Lakbayan para sa mga Pesante.

How else can we help? Organize a discussion or any forum in your schools, offices or communities. Come and support their Kampuhan from October 11 to October 25 in front of the national office of the Department of Agrarian Reform, interact with the farmers, listen to their stories and songs of struggle, visit their photo exhibit, watch their cultural performances. We hope that your offices can speak of their struggle for genuine agrarian reform and against cases of land-grabbing, publish a solidarity message and voice out your support for the farmers' cause for land and life. We urge everyone to join their main mass demonstration on October 25 as they reiterate their resounding call for genuine agrarian reform.

Mr. Speaker, pagpupugay sa lahat ng ating mga magsasaka. Pagpupugay sa mga manggagawa sa agrikultura. Pagpupugay sa lahat ng mga matagal nang lumalaban para sa tunay na reporma sa lupa. Mabuhay ang mga mamamayang lumalaban.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Hon. Sarah Elago to the Committee on Rules.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, with no other Member who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GULLAS. I move that we suspend the session, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The session suspended.

*It was 6:49 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 6:59 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6590  
ON SECOND READING

## PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6590, contained in Committee Report No. 447, as reported out by the Committee on Revision of Laws.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6590, entitled: AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3019, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED THE "ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT."

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

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

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor, the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD manifested that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, since no Member has registered to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, with no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 6590 on Second Reading.

## VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor of the approval of House Bill No. 6590 on Second Reading, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6590  
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 6590 is approved on Second Reading.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BRAVO (A.). Mr. Speaker.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What is the pleasure of the Hon. Anthony “Tony” M. Bravo of Coop-NATCCO Party-List?

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Congressman Lagman would like to request that his name be registered as coauthor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What is the pleasure of the Dep. Majority Leader.?

REP. GULLAS. We accept, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Hon. “Rodolfo “Rodito” T. Albano III be a coauthor as well.

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

REP. GULLAS. The Hon. Raul V. Del Mar as well. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6578 ON SECOND READING

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6578, contained in Committee Report No. 435, as reported out by the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6578, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RETIREMENT BENEFIT SYSTEM IN THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, AUGMENTING ITS EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Chairman of the Committee on Justice, the Hon. Reynaldo V. Umali.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The honorable Chairman of the Committee on Justice, Rep. Reynaldo V. Umali, is recognized.

REP. UMALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be adopted as the sponsorship remarks of this Representation on the measure.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, with no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, with no Committee

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)



or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 6578 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor of the approval of House Bill No. 6578, under Committee Report No. 435, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are against, please say *no*. (*Silence*)

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6578 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 6578 is approved on Second Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Honorable Albano and the Honorable Tony Bravo be included as coauthors of the Bill.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

1. House Resolution No. 1338 - re the management and administration of the country's radio frequency spectrum by the National Telecommunications Commission, to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology;

2. House Resolution No. 1339 - re the billing charge

being promulgated by the various telecommunication entities, to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology;

3. House Resolution No. 1345 - re the alleged attacks on students' democratic rights in the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education; and

4. House Resolution No. 1394 - re the procedure of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) in granting provisional certificates of accreditation to electronic gaming system (EGS) service providers and the manner of selecting and awarding the privilege to operate Internet gaming cafes, to the Committee on Games and Amusement.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The aforementioned House Resolutions No. 1338, 1339, 1345 and 1394 are hereby referred to proper committees as mentioned by the Dep. Majority Leader.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6589 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6589, contained in Committee Report No. 446, as reported out by the Committee on Agrarian Reform.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6589, entitled: AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM REGARDING LAND REGISTRATION TO FACILITATE SPEED AND EFFICIENCY IN LAND REGISTRATION.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate and with that recognize as its Sponsor the Hon. Gerald Anthony “Samsam” V. Gullas Jr. of the First District of Cebu.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate on this measure. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. There being no Committee or individual amendments, Mr. Speaker, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we close the period of amendments. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, before we approve the measure on Second Reading, I move that all those present who signified their intention be considered coauthors of House Bill No. 6589.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Those who want to be coauthors of the said House Bill No. 6589, please raise your hands.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 6589 on Second Reading. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor of the approval of House Bill No. 6589 on Second Reading, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Those who are against, please say *nay*. (*Silence*)

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6589 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 6589 is approved on Second Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn session until October 11, 2017, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The session is adjourned until four o'clock in the afternoon of October 11, 2017.

*It was 7:08 p.m.*