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No. 51

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

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

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

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

ROLL CALL

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members.

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll of Members.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 51, dated January 17, 2018.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mme. Speaker, the roll call shows that 229 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). With 229 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we defer the approval of yesterday's Journal.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the Reference of Business, and may we request that the Secretary General be directed to read the same.

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

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

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6925, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE DRIVING AND ESTABLISH FAIR ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ROAD SAFETY INCIDENTS AND VIOLATIONS OF

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

TRAFFIC LAWS AND REGULATIONS,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Abayon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6926, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ALBAY
DIVERSION ROAD, MINALABAC-BULA-
NABUA SECTION INTO A NATIONAL
ROAD”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6931, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BRANCH OF
THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
OF THE PHILIPPINES IN CALOOCAN
CITY-NORTH, TO BE KNOWN AS THE
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE
PHILIPPINES (PUP)-CALOOCAN CITY-
NORTH BRANCH, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Malapitan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6933, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LOCAL ROAD
STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY
CAMINGAWAN AND BARANGAY
CAROLAN IN THE CITY OF
KABANKALAN IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
AND CONNECTING IT WITH THE
MUNICIPALITY OF TAYASAN, NEGROS
ORIENTAL INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representatives Alvarez (M.) and
Limkaichong
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6934, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A PHILIPPINE
NATIONAL AUTISM CARE PLAN FOR THE
SUPPORT OF PERSONS WITH AUTISM
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villarín
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6935, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE MONTHLY RICE
SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR THE TWELVE
(12) MILLION EXTREME POVERTY
STRICKEN FILIPINOS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY
ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 6936, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A MANDATORY CASH
TRANSFER PROGRAM FOR THE TWELVE
(12) MILLION EXTREME POVERTY
STRICKEN FILIPINOS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY
ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 6937, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE
SENIOR CITIZENS PENSION PROGRAM
AND INCREASING ITS AMOUNT,
FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE
CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO
NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS
AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND
FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 6939, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 42 OF
BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION
ACT OF 1981, EXEMPTING AFFECTED
MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY
AS MAY HEREIN BE QUALIFIED
FROM THE CONTINUOUS SERVICE
REQUIREMENT”

By Representative Rodríguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6940, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE
PROCEEDINGS IN AND RESOLUTION
OF ELECTORAL PROTESTS AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodríguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND
ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 6941, entitled:

“AN ACT TO INSTITUTE A NATIONAL BAKERY
INDUSTRY POLICY AND TO CREATE
THE NATIONAL BAKERY REGULATORY
AGENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 6942, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE
ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUMMARY
TITLING OF REAL PROPERTIES USED AS
SITES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6943, entitled:

“AN ACT PENALIZING DISOBEDIENCE
TO THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS
AND OTHER ACTS AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6944, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE
INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE
AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 6945, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE NATIONAL
EDUCATION TESTING AND RESEARCH
CENTER (NETRC) INTO A NATIONAL
EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND
EVALUATION AUTHORITY (NEAEA),
DEFINING ITS STRUCTURE, POWERS
AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6946, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROMOTE RURAL HEALTH
BY PROVIDING FOR AN ACCELERATED
PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF
A POTABLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IN
EVERY BARANGAY IN THE COUNTRY
WITHIN THREE YEARS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6947, entitled:

“AN ACT QUALIFYING THE KILLING OF
MEMBERS OF BROADCAST AND PRINT
MEDIA IN THE LAWFUL EXERCISE OF

THEIR FUNCTIONS AS SUCH, AS A CRIME
OF MURDER PUNISHABLE UNDER
ARTICLE 248 OF THE REVISED PENAL
CODE, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6948, entitled:

“AN ACT REORGANIZING AND
MODERNIZING THE NATIONAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6949, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SYSTEMS ACCESSIBILITY TO THE
HEARING-IMPAIRED AND SPEECH-
IMPAIRED”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 6950, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND
OTHER VULNERABLE SUBPOPULATIONS
FROM EXPOSURE TO CERTAIN
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTANTS, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6951, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
TO EARMARK A PORTION OF THEIR
INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENTS
FOR FREE MEDICINES TO INDIGENT
PATIENTS IN THEIR LOCALITIES, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6952, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AVIATION NOISE
MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION IN
RESIDENTIAL AREAS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6953, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE
GRANTED TO RAJAH BROADCASTING

NETWORK, INC. TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED EIGHTY-ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE DATE OF EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT”

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 6954, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A PROGRESSIVE, VIBRANT AND VIABLE MORINGA OLEIFERA (MALUNGGAY-BASED) INDUSTRIES THROUGH AN INCLUSIVE, VERTICALLY AND HORIZONTALLY INTEGRATED VALUE CHAIN IN THE DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL MARKETS”

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6955, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING POSITIVE AND NON-VIOLENT DISCIPLINE OF CHILDREN WHILE PROHIBITING ALL FORMS OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Silverio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 6956, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING BARANGAY TAGUKON IN THE CITY OF KABANKALAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL”

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

House Bill No. 6957, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OR MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRAR, OR THE CONSUL GENERAL, TO UPDATE IN THE CIVIL REGISTER THE CIVIL STATUS OF A FILIPINO SPOUSE WHO WAS VALIDLY DIVORCED BY A FOREIGN SPOUSE, WITHOUT THE NEED OF A JUDICIAL ORDER”

By Representative Acosta-Alba
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6958, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE UTILIZATION

OF IDLE LANDS TO ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND LIVELIHOOD GENERATION, INSTITUTING FOR THE PURPOSE THE ‘LUPANG LINGKOD SA MAMAMAYAN’ PROGRAM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6959, entitled:

“AN ACT RESTRUCTURING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAY SYSTEM, CREATING THE PHILIPPINE RAILWAY AUTHORITY, THE PHILIPPINE RAILWAY CORPORATIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6960, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN HOMES BY PROVIDING INCENTIVES AND CREDIT FACILITIES FOR CONSUMERS UTILIZING SMALL SOLAR POWER SYSTEMS”

By Representative Garcia (J.E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 6961, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ENHANCED PROTECTION FOR CONSUMERS AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 6962, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING BARANGAY OFFICIALS AS CIVIL SERVANTS, THEREBY ENJOYING ALL BENEFITS OF REGULAR EMPLOYEES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6963, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING HATE SPEECH AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representatives Mending and Sangcopan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

House Bill No. 6964, entitled:

“AN ACT REDEFINING THE ROLE OF LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, PROVIDING FOR THEIR INDEPENDENT GOVERNANCE AND FOR THEIR REGULAR FUNDING”

By Representative Belaro
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6965, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE COURSE OFFERINGS OF HIGHER EDUCATIONS IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Belaro
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6966, entitled:

“AN ACT SUPPORTING THE PRODUCTION OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENT FILMS BY PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO FILMMAKERS WHO ARE GIVEN HONORS IN NOTABLE INTERNATIONAL FILM COMPETITIONS”

By Representative Bravo (A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 6967, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL CENTER IN EVERY ADMINISTRATIVE REGION IN THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6968, entitled:

“AN ACT RELOCATING THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT FROM METRO MANILA TO DAVAO CITY”

By Representatives Salo and Calalang
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 6969, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION TO INCREASE THE HEMODIALYSIS TREATMENT COVERAGE OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM TO ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SIX (156) SESSIONS PER YEAR”

By Representative Hofer
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6970, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR NEW GRADUATES OF COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS OFFERING TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL COURSES, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘BILL OF RIGHTS FOR NEW GRADUATES’ ”

By Representatives Hofer and Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6972, entitled:

“AN ACT SETTING A FIXED, SINGLE TERM LIMIT TO THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1579, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IRREGULARITIES OF PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE (PCSO) REGARDING THE OPERATION OF SMALL TOWN LOTTERY (STL), AWARDING OF AUTHORIZED AGENCY CORPORATION (AAC), AND SHORTFALL IN THE COLLECTION OF STL REVENUES ACCRUING TO THE GOVERNMENT”

By Representative Panganiban
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1580, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE PROPER COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (DBP) AND THE LANDBANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (LBP) TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY ARE FAITHFULLY PURSUING THEIR ORIGINAL MANDATE OF PROMOTING COUNTRYSIDE DEVELOPMENT”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1581, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF FORMER SUPREME COURT JUSTICE JUSTO TORRES, JR.”

By Representative Uybarreta

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

TUBA, AND TUBLAY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (BLISTTDA), DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1554

Sponsors: Representatives Sacdalan, Nograles (K.A.) and Go (M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 571), re H.B. No. 6971, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY 184, ZONE 19, MARICABAN, PASAY CITY TO BE KNOWN AS PRESIDENT CORAZON ‘CORY’ C. AQUINO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2099

Sponsors: Representatives Durano, Nograles (K.A.) and Calixto-Rubiano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Metro Manila Development (Committee Report No. 572), re H.B. No. 6973, entitled:

“AN ACT ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE METROPOLITAN MANILA COUNCIL IN FORMULATING POLICIES, RULES, REGULATIONS, AND IN ENACTING ORDINANCES FOR METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7924, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT CREATING THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 4642 and 5057

Sponsors: Representatives Castelo, Fernando and Sandoval

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 573), re H.B. No. 6974, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE BAGUIO CITY, LA TRINIDAD, ITOGON, SABLAN,

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up the Unfinished Business.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6772

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we continue the consideration of House Bill No. 6772, and may we request that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6772, entitled: AN ACT ENSURING THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7586 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM ACT OF 1992.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that we are still in the period of sponsorship and debate. May we recognize the Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, the Hon. Arnel U. Ty from the Party-List LPGMA, to sponsor the Bill.

Mme. Speaker, I also move that we recognize the Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr. of Party-List BUHAY for his interpellation.

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

The Hon. Lito Atienza is recognized.

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). What is the pleasure of the Honorable Ty?

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker, may we also recognize one of the authors of House Bill No. 6772, Representative Ramirez-Sato, to defend the Bill.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, may we recognize the Honorable Ramirez-Sato.

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

The Hon. Josephine Ramirez-Sato is recognized.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). May we hear from the Hon. Lito Atienza.

REP. ATIENZA. Yes, Mme. Speaker, thank you.

Thank you, Majority Leader.

With the kind indulgence of the principal author and all the authors of the measure, this Representation would like to clarify certain issues that may be spelled in the near future, where the success of the good intentions of this measure or failure, just like what Republic Act No. 7586, has suffered. Sa ngayon po, talagang lumalala ang problema ng ating declared areas, landscapes, seascapes and other areas that should be protected, as defined by law. Kaya binabati ko po ang ating Kongresista from Mindoro Occidental for her initiative, and together with all the Members who have co-signed this measure. I see a lot of them, probably more than 60 co-Sponsors of the measure, signifying the very importance of this measure. To paraphrase the Sponsor in her sponsorship yesterday, she said, "If it is something that has long been awaiting action because our natural beauty is being destroyed, we are losing out on the benefits of a beautiful country like the Philippine islands."

Kaya ako po ay magtatanong lang ng mga ilang katanungan in support of her measure. Naniniwala po ako na ito ay kailangan, ito ay makakabuti, subalit kailangan ay matuto tayo sa pinanggalingan. Ang pinanggalingan po nito ay Republic Act No. 7586, the old law governing the management of our protected areas in the country.

Ang unang tanong ko po ay, ito po ba ay sa paniniwala ninyo ay pipigil na sa paninira ng ating mga protected area sa bansa?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Before I answer the question, Mme. Speaker, I would just want to declare here that this Representation believes in the wisdom and experience of the Honorable Atienza when it comes to the environment and environmental protection. So, iyong itinatanong po na sa pamamagitan ng batas na ito kung mapipigilan na o mapapahinto na ang panggagahasa sa ating mga protected areas at saka mga idini-declare na national park, kaya nga po natin inaamyendahan ang batas na nauna, iyong ating National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992, dahil may mga kulang po na ngipin sa batas na iyan.

Kaya, sinasabi po natin na nagdagdag tayo ng napakaraming prohibited acts at iyong mga prohibited acts na iyan ay itinaas po natin ang mga parusa, at hindi lamang po fines, nag-impose din po tayo ng imprisonment ranging from one year to about six years, and for some special prohibited acts, the penalty ranges not only from one year to six months to six years, but we raised it to six years to twelve years. In addition to that, if the culprit, the accused or the violator is a public official or an elected public official or an officer of the law, then there is an accessory penalty of perpetual disqualification from office.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, ako po ay nagpapasalamat sa kanilang pagtanggap sa katotohanan. Ang Representasyong ito ay tumatayo sa haponing ito bilang isang naglingkod sa ating Kagawaran ng ating kapaligiran, and in protection of our natural wealth, we did our best. And one of such admission that we can make, at this point, is that our protected areas had not been protected enough in the past. This is what I saw firsthand, this is what has frustrated one no end, and has also worried me that if something is not done, the beauty and the wealth of the Filipino people which is our environment, iyong ating kapuluan, ay mawawalan po ng saysay.

There is no use for declaring an area a protected area or a protected seascape or protected landscape kung ito po ay hindi mabibigyan ng tunay na proteksyon. Eh binabasa ko po iyong kanilang mga panukalang batas, totoo po iyon, mayroong mga pagbabago sa penalties that will be imposed and that is correct. We should really be punishing more and we should be dishing out heavier penalties to those who will violate.

Ang tanong ko po ay isa lang napakahalagang issue: Sino po ba ang magpapatupad nitong panibagong batas na ito?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. In accordance with Section 7 of the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area

System, the NIPAS is placed under the control and administration of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

REP. ATIENZA. The DENR, therefore, shall again be made responsible, accountable and punishable if they fail to implement the law. Am I correct to assume that?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Yes, the direct control, supervision and administration of the implementation of this law are placed on the shoulders of the DENR; however, Mme. Speaker, and Honorable Atienza, there is a special provision that is Section 26 of the Bill which states that the LGU within the protected area shall participate in its management through representation in the Protected Area Management Board, and with this law, we also expanded the membership of the PAMB, so that the protection efforts shall be participatory and transparent in nature.

REP. ATIENZA. I have, before me, Section 26 as read and explained by the author, and she is correct in saying that the LGUs are mentioned to be part of the management of the area. But wala po akong nakikita ritong accountability ng LGUs where there are protected areas for them to supervise, because responsibility and authority without accountability is nothing but a power to even abuse in the event that violations are committed. Where there are authorities and responsibilities, there should be an equal principle of accountability, so that if and when the area is allowed to be abused and it deteriorates under the management of the PAMB—the PAMB is the Protected Area Management Board where the LGU is properly a member of—kung wala pong accountability, eh wala rin pong mangyayaring bunga dito sa pagsisikap na ito. Because right now, I am sure the author will admit that the protected areas in the country numbering about, you were given data ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. The one that has been legislated covers 13 protected areas plus 94 under this Bill, because even before the passage of the NIPAS, the original NIPAS Law, ...

REP. ATIENZA. The important ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. ... there were 113 protected areas declared and proclaimed by presidential orders and presidential proclamations.

REP. ATIENZA. But there are ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. But the Constitution requires that after the proclamation and delineation of national parks and protected areas, it has to be covered

by a congressional act, so that 13 plus 94, that will be the protected areas as declared and legislated by Congress.

REP. ATIENZA. In your studies—I am sure you studied the whole problem quite broadly, because marami po talagang mga detalye dito na nangyayari na ngayon na gusto ninyong baguhin—in your studies, where there are clear violations of the character of the protected area, and the value of such area is lost from the Filipino people, sino po ba ang primarily, sa tingin ninyo, ang nagkukulang at nagkakasala sapagkat hindi nasusunod ang batas? So, in your own perception, and as a result of your studies, sino po ba ang puwede nating sabihing nagkulang, therefore, dapat managot?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Una po, bago ko po sagutin iyan, mayroon pong naunang tanong ang Kagalang-galang na Atienza na sinasabi na ang responsibilidad at accountability ng local government ay hindi po masyadong klaro o hindi po nagkakaroon ng linaw dito sa batas na ito. So, ang akin pong sasabihin diyan, the local government units will be represented in the PAMB, the governor, the mayor, the barangay captains, even the district Representatives, and even the Senators will be represented in the PAMB. And in the provision of the powers and functions of the PAMB, it is specifically stated that the local government executives or the local government units that represent their local government units in the Protected Area Management Board are obligated and mandated to make sure that all the policies will be transmitted or reported back to their constituencies, and that local government units shall include in their management plan, comprehensive land use plans of the LGU, local development plans, disaster risk reduction management plans, and other required plans according to the objectives specified in the management plan for the protected areas. The failure for these local government executives to perform all the powers and functions enumerated in this law or in this Bill will be subjected to administrative charges, and if they will be proven to have been remiss in their functions, and if they violate the provisions or the prohibited acts provided for in this Bill, in addition to the imprisonment and/or fine, there is an accessory penalty of perpetual disqualification from holding public office.

REP. ATIENZA. Kayo ba ay sasang-ayon na ang yaman ng ating bansa ay nakasalalay dito sa areas na ating pinag-uusapan at bibigyan natin ng proteksyon. Sang-ayon po kayo roon?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Ako po ay sumasang-ayon, and I share your determination and your perseverance so that we will see the day that all our protected areas

will really be conserved and preserved as the patrimony of our nation that will be turned over to the future generation. That is the reason we are pushing hard for the approval of this Bill.

REP. ATIENZA. Kayo ay sumasang-ayon din na sa lahat ng ahensya na maaaring makagawa ng malaking hakbang sa pagtatanggol ng ating kalikasan at ng ating yaman sa lupa at karagatan ay ang mga local government unit. Do you agree with that?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Naniniwala po ako dahil ako po ay dating gobernador ng aming lalawigan, at naniniwala din po ako na mga frontliners ang mga local government unit sa pagmamahal at pagtatanggol sa ating kalikasan. Ngunit mayroon pong mga batas na dapat tayong sundin at ang mandate po ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources, at iyan po ay babasahin ko:

That DENR is mandated to be the primary government agency responsible for the conservation, management, development and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources.

Kung ililipat po natin ang primary responsibility sa local government units, we are usurping the mandate of the DENR. Hindi naman po natin ibig sabihin na kung hindi ang local government ang primary responsible agency sa paglaban sa pagsisira ng ating kalikasan, hindi po nangangahulugan na hindi malapit sa puso at hindi ipaglalaman ng local government iyan. Kami po sa local government units ay talagang kami po ang frontliners, kami po ang unang masisisi kung masisira po ang kalikasan sa aming mga sariling probinsya at munisipyo. But we have to respect the law that the primary government agency mandated by law for the conservation, management and development, and proper use of our country's environment and natural resources has been vested upon the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

REP. ATIENZA. The Lady is accurate in her appreciation of the functions of the DENR. On the other hand, she may have to be reminded that the principle of local autonomy enshrined in our Constitution mandates that all LGUs are given all the power, more than the DENR, more than any other department, more than the Public Works, more than any other national office. The local government units are empowered to plan the development, to push for the development, to protect their surroundings and to take care of their territorial limits because they are precisely in the best position to do so.

Iyon po iyong prinsipyo ng local autonomy.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Tama po.

REP. ATIENZA. Kaya kapag sinabi po ng gobernador hindi puwede iyang project na iyan, hindi puwede. Maski na ba sabihin ng DENR na puwede iyan, hindi matutuloy iyan. Pag sinabi ng Department of Public Works na "magtatayo kami rito ng tulay," sinabi ng governor, "hindi puwede po sapagkat protected area iyan," hindi matutuloy iyong proyektong iyon.

So, my question is very simple and clear, would you agree that the pinpointing of responsibility this time is necessary if we are to expect any results from this well-studied piece of legislation? Lagyan natin ng enforcement responsibility. Hindi puwedeng DENR, because the DENR is under the principle of the power of local autonomy with regard to the local government unit. Kayo ba ay papayag kung gagawin nating ang local government units from governor down to the barangay level would be the ones to be made accountable in enforcing the law?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Wala po namang magiging problema kung magko-complement po iyong responsibility ng DENR at ng local government units. My point here only is, iyon pong sinasabi natin na may local autonomy, isa po sa—hindi ang total na pagbababa ng buong karapatan sa proteksyon ng ating natural resources and environment ay iyon nga pong tungkol sa environment. Hindi po full ang pagbibigay ng awtonomiya ng batas sa local government units katulad din po ng mga ibang functions ng national government na hindi po total na ibinigay sa local government units. Pero naniniwala po ako at sumasang-ayon ako sa sinasabi ninyo that there should also be a mandate on the part of the local government to complement the responsibility and powers of the DENR. It should be a strong complementation of duties and functions between the DENR and the local government unit; but as I have said po, we will be usurping the functions of the DENR as mandated by the law if we will transfer the primary responsibility to the local government unit.

Ang amin lang po ay maging complement at maging mas malaki ang bahagi ng local government sa pag-protect at pagde-defend ng integrity ng ating environment and natural resources. Kami po naman ay bukas kung ano po ang isa-suggest na amendment ng atin pong iginagalang na dating Sekretaryo ng Environment and Natural Resources.

As I have said at the outset, I believe in the wisdom and the experience of the honorable Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List.

REP. ATIENZA. Binanggit ng ating kagalang-galang na Congresswoman na tinatanggap niya na ang LGUs ay mayroong mandato—mandate. That is precisely my point, they have the mandate, they should

be given the accountability of protecting the area which we are declaring; otherwise, we are wasting again precious effort and time, and good intentions of those who co-sponsor this measure. Pag wala pong principle of accountability doon sa local, hindi po iyong national office dahil nakita ko po iyan.

Even if I wanted to correct what I was seeing on the ground, I could not because the mayors and the governor are all part of the problem. Kapagka ganoon po ang nangyari, this piece of paper will come to nothing once again.

Nanghihinayang po ako. Kayo ay well-intentioned, pagtutulungan nating ipasá itong batas na ito, pero tiyakin natin ngayon na hindi na puwedeng magturuan—“Ang may kasalanan dito iyong RED,” o “Hindi ang may kasalanan dito si mayor.”

Ako, nakita ko pointblank, I went to Batangas to protect a protected area, Lake Taal. I went to the Governor, she was well-intentioned. In fact, she is one of us now, you can inquire from her. I presented to her the problem, sabi nga niya, talagang dumadami ang mga baklad dito, so nasisira. Hindi ko po sinabing bakla ho, baklad.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. (*Laughter*)

REP. ATIENZA. Baklad, ito po iyong mga fish pen, dumadami nga po rito, at nasisira na iyong character ng Taal Lake. Nagtatampo na roon iyong mga tawilis. Iyong maliputo ay nawala na po. Polluted na ang Lake Taal.

Noong kami po ay nag-iimbestiga at hiningi ko kay Governor Vilma Santos, tumulong siya, which she readily gave, and she immediately acted. Siya po ay umaksyon at siya ay nangako na lilinis niya ang Taal Lake, ang mga baklad na ito. Eh hindi ko naman po siya masisisi sapagkat binalik-balikan ko iyan, hindi ko na siya inistorbo, eh hindi po talaga na-correct. Dumami pa po ang mga baklad doon. Bakit? Eh mga mayors ang may-ari. Sabi nga sa akin ng mga mayor, “Makisama ka na lang Sec, baka naman kakandidato kang national, kami na ang bahala sa iyo rito.” Sabi ko, huwag na ninyong problemahin iyan dahil hindi ako kakandidato sa national. At kung kumandidato man ako, hindi ko kailangang humingi ng tulong sa mga mayor na nagiging sanhi ng problema ng bansa. And I found out, mayors owned those fish pens, and that is the reason why they were not being removed, to the disappointment of the good Governor and the frustrations of your Representation, because sila ang may-ari. Pag-alis namin doon, o di happy days are here again. Sabi nila, “Wala na si Gov, wala si Secretary, o tuloy ang ligaya.”

So, my point is that, if we are going to make this law a centerpiece of protecting our protected areas, let

us make the accountability properly directed. Hindi po DENR ang talagang mananagot diyan, hindi po superman ang mga nanunungkulan sa department na iyan. Ang mayors, nandoon po sila araw-araw. Ang mayor, nagbibigay ng permit doon sa mga activities na iyan. Ang mayor ang nagbibigay ng proteksyon kaya ilagay na natin dito sa batas. If there are any violations thereafter, huwag na nating gawing retroactive, ayoko namang makulong iyong mga nagkamali na mayor, dahil noong mga panahong iyon ay hindi pa naman talaga istrikto ang batas, pero ngayong ginagawa na nating istrikto ang batas, ilagay na natin sa tunay na titik, layunin ng inyong lingkod para po naman magkaroon ng bunga.

The mayors should be primarily responsible if the protected seascape is being used as a garbage depository. If the waters of the protected area are not being protected, kasalanan po ng gobyerno lokal iyan. Panagutin din natin ang Department of Environment. Hindi ko po sinasabing iabswelto iyong DENR, hindi po. They may be equally accountable, but I would make the LGU primarily accountable because they are the ones who can do something about it.

Si Presidente Duterte, binigyan tayo ng mensahe noong 2016 dito sa ating Kongreso. Iyong kanyang frustration sa Laguna de Bay, binanggit niya, sabi niya, “Ako ay sawang-sawa nang makita iyang mga baklad sa Laguna de Bay na sumisira ng tubig diyan. I am giving them until December of 2016 to be removed.” Nakita ko iyong Secretary ng DENR, aba eh tatangu-tango, at tinawag naman siya sa Malacañang pagkatapos noon, in-order-an siya na alisin lahat iyan. Ang tanong ko po ngayon, naalis po ba? Hindi po, dumami pa nga ang baklad sa Laguna de Bay.

Manila Bay is another example. Manila Bay is a protected area, protected seascape, protected landscape, historically declared as a very important, critical body of water in the country. Tingnan po ninyo ngayon, ano ang kalagayan ng Manila Bay. At tingnan po ninyo ang nangyayari araw-araw, iyong mga baklad na nanggaling sa Cavite, papunta na po ng Parañaque. Darating ang araw, makatutulay na tayo papunta ng Cavite sa pamamagitan ng mga baklad.

All of these are violations, but who has been made to account for all of it? My point is that we would like to support your best intentions for the environment, but be realistic enough at huwag na tayong mamulitika, harapin natin ang problema. Ang mananagot diyan ayon sa ating Saligang Batas ay ang mga gobyerno lokal; otherwise—there are 7,106 islands, and the DENR cannot guard that.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Yes, we appreciate and ...

REP. ATIENZA. We have 1,700 municipalities; the DENR cannot supervise that.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Yes.

REP. ATIENZA. But every place that I mentioned has a mayor, has barangay chairmen, has a governor, and all of them, together, will be the solution to the destruction of our environment.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. We appreciate the concerns of the honorable Gentleman. That is precisely the reason why we have delineated or we have clearly divided the functions and responsibilities of the PAMB, the local government unit, and the DENR. We would like to assure the honorable Gentleman that the local government will play a very important and crucial role in the implementation of this Bill if it becomes a law, and that the local government units shall take responsibility in the implementation. If they are the very problems or if they violate the provisions of this law, I again reiterate that they shall be charged administratively and criminally with an accessory penalty of perpetual disqualification from holding public office.

The only thing that we would want to guard against, Mme. Speaker, is usurping the mandated role or power of the DENR. That the DENR, which is very supportive of the passage of this Bill, cannot abdicate its mandate in this Bill. So that, as a conclusion, Mme. Speaker, the functions of the DENR will be strongly complemented by the powers and functions of the local government unit through the PAMB in this Bill. And, I would like to assure the honorable Gentleman that there is a novel provision in the Bill that provides for a management plan that will be passed by both the DENR or participated in by the DENR, the local government units and the NGOs, and that this management plan will be strictly enforced and followed. Again, there is a provision in this law providing for a joint congressional oversight committee to ensure the strict implementation of and compliance with the provisions of this law.

Again, we appreciate the concerns of the honorable Gentleman and we would like to consider his recommendations or proposed amendments to the measure.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, with due respect to the Lady, I take her assurances as direct answers to our question. But, I would like to hear her say that she would accept an amendment where we will pinpoint the responsibility, or that local government unit officials shall be directly accountable if this law is not enforced.

I am not asking the Lady to abdicate or to remove the mandate of the DENR. I am not asking her to change the setup, where we have a Department of Environment and Natural Resources. What I am asking her is to allow

an amendment to this proposed law so that LGUs will be made to be directly accountable. I would like to see some mayors go to jail, criminally charged for allowing the destruction of our environment, kasi ang pinag-uusapan natin dito ay yaman ng ating bansa. Protected areas is the main centerpiece of the richness and wealth of our nation—natural resources and natural wealth. Pero mayroon pong mga project na katulad po nang reclamations, o protected area, protected landscape, magkakaroon ng reclamation. Nabanggit po ba ninyo iyan dito sa ating panukalang batas?

Right now, there is a reclamation craze sweeping the nation, na kapag hindi napigil, ang kapuluan ng ating bansa ay magbabago ang hugis sa dami ng reclamation projects that are now being pursued by the LGUs. Kaya ko sinasabing ang LGU ang pinakamahalagang ahensya rito sapagkat sila talaga ang may kapangyarihan na mag-implement ng anumang proyekto. Iyong reclamation projects all over the country are all projects of the LGUs.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Wala po tayong hindi pinagkakasunduan na ang local government unit will play a very critical role in the successful implementation of this Bill. Ang hindi lang po namin masagot sa inyo nang direktso ay iyong sasabihin dito sa batas na ang primary agency for the implementation of this Bill or this law shall be the local government unit because we will be violating several laws which clearly provide that the mandate of the DENR is to be the primary government agency responsible for the conservation. We are not saying, Your Honor, that if we do not declare the local government as the primary unit or agency responsible for the implementation and success of this Bill, eh hindi po natin bibigyan ng mabigat na katungkulan ang ating local government units. Sinasabi ko nga po na nandiyan po, naka-enumerate na ang mga dapat na responsibilidad ng local government unit. Mayroon pa pong kaparusahan, hindi lamang po fine, kung hindi lamang po preso. Iyong sinasabi ninyo na gusto ninyong makakita ng gobernador o mayor na makulong, kasama ninyo po ako diyan. Gusto ko ring makakita. Kaya po nandito sa batas na ito na hindi lamang fine, sila ay puwede pang ma-imprison from one to six years or from six years to 12 years depending on the crimes that they have committed. And, ang pinakakinatatakutan po ng mga elected officials ay iyong magkaroon ng penalty or accessory penalty na perpetual disqualification from holding public office.

So nakalagay na dito, na iyong obligasyon at responsibilidad ng local government unit ay complementary doon po sa ibinibigay ng batas na karapatan o kapangyarihan sa DENR.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, I am quite

frustrated, because although the Lady accepts the fact and the points that we are raising, she still has not assured this Body that she will accept our proposal, that in this particular piece of legislation ilalagay na natin sa ayos, hindi katulad ng 7586 na walang nakulong sa mga lumabag sa protected area efforts ng gobyerno. Ang DENR, huwag ninyong ipilit, hindi po kaya ang trabaho na bantayan ang 7,000 kapuluan ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Kaya nga po ...

REP. ATIENZA. ...at ang ating 800 na ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. ... kaya nga po ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... ilog at sapa ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. ... kaya nga po, hindi ko naman sinasabi ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... na binibigyan natin ng ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. ... na kahit primary responsibility ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... proteksyon. Ang gusto ko lamang marinig ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. ... ng DENR ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... ay sumasang-ayon sila na lagyan natin ng criminal liability ito.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Nandoon na po iyon sa ...

REP. ATIENZA. Hindi po iyong ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. ... batas. It is ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... disqualification from office.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. ... very clear po that...

REP. ATIENZA. Alam ninyo kung bakit? Sapagkat ngayon, ang mga gumagawa ng krimen, ang palaging naririnig natin, "Prove it and I will resign from my office ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Eh ganoon din naman iyon e.

REP. ATIENZA. ... and I will never run."

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Hindi nga po ...

REP. ATIENZA. Hindi iyon ang parusa eh. Prove it. If you are proven guilty of violating the law, you go to jail.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Eh that is ...

REP. ATIENZA. You are not disqualified ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. ... the function ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... from running for public office.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. ... of the judicial branch of our government, Your Honor. And, ngayon po idinideklara namin na kung ang isang, hindi lamang po ang local government executive, kung hindi kahit na sino pong tao na lumalabag sa probisyon ng batas na ito will be, not only, not only administratively liable, pero they will be criminally liable. At, sinasabi ko nga pong paulit-ulit na sila, depende sa kanilang violation, ay makukulong nang isa hanggang anim na taon, or anim na taon hanggang 12 taon.

So, we will make it clear po at nandiyan naman po iyan sa batas that public officials who will violate the provisions of this law will not only be administratively liable, but criminally liable.

REP. ATIENZA. Hindi po ganoon ang pagkakasulat. Ang nakalagay po rito ay ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Eh di ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... without prejudice to being criminally charged. What I am asking for ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Hindi nga po. Mayroon pong ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... is a commitment to make it a criminal act ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Okay, ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... to abuse the environment.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. ... then, we give you that commitment because it is very clear, ...

REP. ATIENZA. Kung kayo ay papayag, magkakasundo tayo.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. ... if you want a clear, ...

REP. ATIENZA. Kung hindi po kayo papayag, hindi po matatapos itong debateng ito.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Hindi po kami—sinasabing hindi po pumapayag. Ang sinasabi ko lang po, it is very clear in the law that there is a criminal liability not only for public officials, but for any person who violates the prohibited acts or violates the provisions of this law. And, I would like to assure you that the Chairman and the other coauthors are now saying that because we believe in your wisdom and in your experience, then, we will make sure that all public officials, elected or otherwise, will suffer criminal liability in case they violate any provision of this law.

REP. ATIENZA. So, kayo po ba ay tumatanggap na sa takdang panahon mag-aamyenda po ang inyong lingkod, gagawin ko pong ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Paki-ano lang po ang ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... primarily criminally liable ang sinumang local official na napatunayang hindi nagtrabaho at hindi nagpatupad ng batas? Papayag po ba kayo roon?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Sige po at pumapayag po kami dahil alam ko, nasa batas din po iyan. Pero, kami po ay tatanggap ng inyong gustong amyenda dito po sa aming inihahaing batas.

REP. ATIENZA. Well, with that assurance, Mme. Speaker, I will insist on an amendment in due time to make this law clothed with enforceability. Otherwise, it will suffer the same fate as R.A. No. 7586.

Maraming protected areas, 113 of them, but none of them is really protected because in many of them, the principal violators are the local authorities in the area. I will cite to you Laguna de Bay, I will cite to you Manila Bay. Palagay ko hindi na kayo makapagde-deny ng katotohanan. Iyan pong mga, ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Hindi po natin ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... iyan pong,

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. ... idini-deny ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... iyan pong mga katubigan ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. ... ang mga nagyaring iyan

REP. ATIENZA. ... na iyan, iyon pong mga katubigan na iyan ay inabuso at hanggang ngayon, inaabuso. Pati ang Pangulo ng bansa, frustrated na.

Sabi niya noong isang araw, at ako ay natutuwa, ipakukulong niyang lahat ang mga mayor diyan kapag hindi inalis iyong mga baklad na iyan. Pati si Pangulong Duterte aminado siya. Sino ang makakatulong sa kaniyang magandang pangitain sa Pilipinas? Ang mga mayors and governors, hindi po Congress, hindi po batas. Kung ang batas ay hindi ipinatutupad, balewala po iyan. Ang batas na pananagutan ng sinuman na tinutukoy ng batas, iyon ang magbibigay ng bisa sa batas.

Maraming salamat po. Thank you very much for your acceptance.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Maraming salamat po.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, before we call the next interpellator, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Alfredo “Albee” B. Benitez. Joining us here in the gallery are Atty. Angelito Aguila of the HUDCC, Mr. Cid Jacobo of the HUDCC, Atty. Siegfried Lapasaran of the NHMFC, Atty. Maria Luisa Pangan of the HLURB, Atty. Kristel Duque of the HDMF–Pag-IBIG, Mr. Froilan Kampitan of the NHA, Ms. Agnes Agay of the NHA, Mr. Luis Bacamonte of the NHA, Mr. Niko Mercader of the NHA and Mr. Tito Butardo of the NHA.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Will the guests of the Hon. Alfredo “Albee” B. Benitez please rise to be recognized? (*Applause*) Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize our next interpellator, the Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate of Party-List BAYAN MUNA.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Hon. Carlos Zarate is recognized.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Sa ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, puwede ho bang magtanong patungkol ho dito sa ating mga tinatalakay sa panukalang batas? Maraming salamat po.

Habang tayo po ay may magandang layunin para sagipin ang integridad ng ating kapaligiran, hindi ho natin maikakaila na ang kalikasan at ang tao ay magkasama sa area na sasakupin o magiging target nitong Expanded NIPAS. Sa katunayan po, sa ngalan ng pangangalaga ng kalikasan, hindi ho natin maiwasan na may panghihimasok sa karapatan, halimbawa, ng mga katutubo sa kanilang lupang ninuno, at hindi lang sa kanilang lupang ninuno kundi maging sa kanilang karapatan sa sariling pagpapasya ang panukalang

batas na ito. At ito nga, gusto nating palawigin pa ang masasakop ng NIPAS.

Mme. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, sa esensiya ho sa pagtingin ng ilang mga katutubo na ating nakakausap at ilang mga advocate ng mga karapatan ng mga katutubo, sa tingin nila, noon pa man at hanggang ngayon, huwad ang programang proteksiyon ng NIPAS. Hindi nito tunay na napangalagaan ang ating kalikasan at ang kapaligiran lalung-lalo na para sa interes ng ating mahihirap na mamamayan. Parang ang napangangalagaan lang nito ay ang interes ng mga malalaking kapitalista lalung-lalo na doon sa usapin ng lupa at biodiversity.

Sentral na mga usapin dito halimbawa, Mme. Speaker and Mme. Sponsor, para sa mga katutubo ang usapin ng komun na pagmamay-ari sa lupa at sa rekurso na nasa loob nito sa buod ng sistemang katutubo ang usapin ng land use, for example, na ipinapataw ng gobyerno sa mga lupaing ito sa isang porma ng sa tingin nila ay pangangamkam. Nandiyan din ang usapin ng komersiyalisasyon ng kultura, lupain at kahit na ang kalikasang pinangangalagaan ng mga katutubo sa loob ng daang taon. At pangatlo, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, sa tingin ng ating mga katutubo at ng mga advocate ay hindi ang mamamayan ang pangunahing prinoproteksiyunan ng NIPAS o maging itong Expanded NIPAS kundi ang tinatawag na “kalikasan” na ihinihiwalay ang tao o ang mga katutubo sa kalikasan kaya ito ay may banta na mapalayas sila sa mga komunidad na daan taon nang may tinatawag nating symbiotic na relation sa kapaligiran. Kaya sa tingin namin, mali ang pagtingin na ang mga taong gumagamit ng rekurso ng kagubatan at katubigan ang magiging dahilan ng pagkasira nito.

Kaya sa punto pong ito, hayaan ninyo pong maglinaw ako ng ilang mga katanungan patungkol dito sa ating binabalangkas na batas.

Una po, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, dito ho sa ating panukalang batas, puwede ho bang mailinaw natin kung ano ang mga probisyon na nagtitiyak na walang mga katutubo o mga upland settler, not necessarily mga katutubo, kahit na mga upland settler o mga komunidad na magdudulot ng physical or economic displacement sa kanila? Saan ho ba rito iyong mga probisyon na ito?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Napakaklaro po ng probisyon sa ating inihahain na batas specifically Section 11. It states:

As part of heritage preservation and pursuant to the need to conserve biologically significant areas, the territories and areas occupied and conserved for and by indigenous peoples and communities shall be recognized, respected, developed and promoted.

The ICCs and IPs concerned shall have the responsibility x x x

At ito po ay nire-recognize natin ang kanilang karapatan—

x x x to govern, maintain, develop, protect, and conserve such areas, in accordance with their indigenous knowledge systems and practices and customary law, with full and effective assistance from NCIP, DENR and other concerned government agencies.

A mechanism for coordination and complementation between the indigenous traditional leadership and governance structures and the NCIP, DENR, government agencies, concerned LGUs and civil society organizations shall be created.

Ang isa pa pong probisyon ay kasama po ang ating IPs doon sa PAMB na iyon po ang magma-manage ng protected areas, at doon din po nakalagay sa ating seksiyon na nire-recognize po natin iyong preexisting rights noong ating mga—lalung-lalo na iyong mga katutubo na nandoon po sa loob ng ating protected areas, lalung-lalo na po kung ang protected areas na iyan ay nasasakop din po ng ancestral domain ng ating mga katutubo.

Ako po ay galing sa isang lalawigan na may mga katutubo din kaya kami po ay—at alam na alam ko po iyan at kasama po kami sa pakikipaglaban ng mga katutubo na kahit kailanman ay hindi po sila madi-displace o mapapaalis sa kanilang mga lupaing ninuno. Kami rin po lalung-lalo na ang ibang local government units ang tumutulong sa ating mga katutubo na iyong kanilang mga CADTs ay maibigay na po sa ating mga katutubo. So, dito po sa batas na ito ay papangalagaan po natin ang karapatan ng ating mga katutubo at we will make sure that hindi po sila mapapaalis lalung-lalo na nga po kung iyan ay nakasasakop sa kanilang lupaing ninuno at sila po ay kasama sa lahat ng pagpapalano doon po sa protected area na nasa kanilang nasasakupan.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. So, sa inyong tinuran dahil andito naman itong probisyon na ito, itong Section 13 or bagong Section 11, ang inyong sinasabi ay hindi malalabag ang karapatan ng ating mga katutubo. Gusto ko lang pong ipunto na irehistro na kahit pa man sa kasalukuyan ay mayroon na ngang sinasabing batas, halimbawa, para sa proteksiyon ng ating mga katutubo, andiyan ang IPRA, pero malinaw po na hindi ho kaila sa atin na tuluy-tuloy pa rin iyong displacement ng ating mga indigenous peoples mula po sa kanilang mga komunidad. In fact, even as we speak now, sa amin pong rehiyon sa Mindanao ay nagbabakwit ang mga katutubo dahil ho ang kanilang lupang ninuno ay pinag-iinteresanan ng mga malalaking korporasyon at ang tingin nga nila ay

maraming batas na binabalangkas pero ito ay parang empty dahil hindi sila natutulungan.

Nabanggit ninyo po kanina iyong usapin ng CADT o CALT. Siguro naman po ay alam ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, na mababa po ang antas ng pagpapalabas ng Certificate of Ancestral Land Title or CALT ng NCIP. Paano po natin matitiyak na ang mga katutubong hindi naghahawak, walang hawak na CADT or hindi CADT holder ay hindi mawawalan ng lupa o mapapalayas sa kanilang mga lupain? Paano po ang proseso, halimbawa, sa mga lupang ninuno na hindi pa napapailalim sa CADT or CALT, Mme. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Iyon pong usapin ng CADT ay nasasakop po iyon ng ibang batas. Ang atin lamang pong pinag-uusapan at sinasakop dito po sa ating pinag-uusapan na gusto natin iyong panukalang batas ay iyon pong mga lupaing ninuno na nasasakop doon po sa idinedeklarang na protected area. So, iyon po ang ating dapat pag-uusapan dito dahil iba po namang usapin at iba pong batas ang nakasasakop doon po sa mga ibang usapin ng pag-i-issue o sa mababang pag-issue ng mga CADT o CALT na tinatawag po natin. Pero ako po sa aming lalawigan ay halos 90 percent na po ang nai-issue po namin doon sa aming mga katutubo. Iyon pong problema natin sa Mindanao at alam ko po ay masakit din po sa loob natin na iyong mga katutubo natin ay—iyon ngang sinasabi po ninyong bakwit ay iyon po naman ay iba rin pong usapin at iba rin po ang nakasasakop doon.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Ang sinasabi ko lamang po that within the ambit of this Bill is that we will make sure and I am sure that all the possible provisions to protect the rights of our indigenous peoples and indigenous cultural communities will be protected and that nobody will be displaced or will be driven out of their communities especially if it is within their ancestral domain.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po kagalang-galang na Sponsor, Mme. Speaker.

Kaya ko po naitanong iyan dahil inaamin na rin natin na totoo po, tama naman po iyon na ibang batas na sa IPRA ang usapin ng CADT at CALT. Ang gusto ko pong puntuhin dito, paano po ang mga lupang ninuno na hindi pa naman nabibigyan ng CADT or CALT na masasakop na nito o mapapaloob dito sa Expanded NIPAS? Hindi ho ba magiging sagka, magiging hindrance na dahil nasasakop na ito ng ENIPAS? Sa pagdating ng panahon ay mawawalan na sila ng karapatan, halimbawa, na mailagay ito, halimbawa, sa loob ng isang CADT or CALT, Mme. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor. Mayroon ho bang assurance?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Kaya nga po mayroon pong probisyon dito sa ating isinusulong na batas na binibigyan po ng mandato o ng utos ang PAMB na within one year from the effectivity of this law ay kailangang magkaroon sila ng masusing pag-aaral kung ano ang mga nandoon sa loob ng protected areas. Iyon pong—katulad ng sinabi ko na isasakatuparan po nila ang proteksiyon noong mga katutubo sa kanilang pagpatuloy na pagtirá doon po sa kanilang komunidad. Iyon po ay isa sa mga probisyon na nandito. Nabasa ko na rin po iyan. Mayroon pa rin pong isang probisyon na talagang nire-recognize po iyong preexisting rights nila.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker.

By the way, kanina po ay nabanggit ninyo na ang nasasakop na ngayon ng protected areas ay nasa mahigit 100 na.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Opo. Kung maaaprubahan po natin itong additional na 94.

REP. ZARATE. Ninety-four.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Kasi 20 taon na po na effective iyong dating batas natin ng NIPAS. Pero sa 20 taon po na iyon ay 13 pa lamang po ang nale-legislate ng Congress na idineklarang protected areas or national park.

REP. ZARATE. Oo.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Ibig ninyong sabihin po, 20 taon ay 13 pa sa napakarami pong naproklama na, na-delineate na, na-demarcate nang protected areas. Pero ang nasa Constitution po natin, hindi po kumpleto ang proseso hangga't hindi po nagkakaroon ng batas sa Kongreso. Kaya, ito pong 94 nandito na ating—nakakumpleto na po ng mahabang proseso sa—para madeklara ng ating Kongreso na protected areas o national park ay 94 lang po.

So, marami pa po na hindi pa nasasakop ng NIPAS pero mayroon ding probisyon dito na iyong mga hindi pa nadedeklarang na protected areas ay iko-consider po sila na parte pa rin ng system at inilalagay po dito, detalyado kung ano ang proseso na susundin para itong mga protected area na gusto nating maisabatas ay maisabatas na sa lalong madaling panahon dahil ang sabi nga po nating lahat ay time is of the essence, dahil habang nade-delay na ideklara natin na protected areas ang mga ito ay lalo—lagi naman pong nagiging, iyong sinasabi ninyo nga po ay napapasukan ng ibang interes at nasasalaula naman po talaga ang ating protected areas.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po, Mme.

Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. Just for the information of the Body lang po, kung na-approve ho natin itong dagdag na 94, so all in all, mayroon hong 107 areas ano na sasakupin ng ENIPAS. Just for the information of this Body, ilang libong ektarya po ang sasakupin nito sa buong kapuluan?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. This will cover 53 provinces, 15 regions and will cover a total land area of 3,096,846 hectares or approximately 10 percent of our country's total land area.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. By the way, nabasa ko ho rito na isa sa mga probisyon, tama po ba ang pagkakaintindi ko na ipinagbabawal na po dito sa ENIPAS, sa ating panukalang batas, ang poaching or sa tingin po ng mga katutubo rito ay pangangaso ito, ano? Paano na po ito? Kung ito ay ipinagbabawal, paano natin ito maire-reconcile doon sa indigenous practice ng ating mga katutubo na pangangaso para sa kanilang kabuhayan? Hindi po ba daan taon nang practice ito ng ating mga katutubo at iba pang mga upland settler, ang pangangaso, ang pangangalap ng mga halamang gamot na likas namang ginagawa nila lalo na sa mga liblib na pook? Ano po ang tingin ng kagalang-galang na Sponsor dito?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Alam ninyo po mayroon akong personal na eksperyensiya sa sinasabi ninyo dahil iyon pong aming national park na kasama rin po dito, iyong Mounts Iglit-Baco National Park, ay diyan po nakatira iyong endangered species na tinatawag natin na tamaraw na doon lamang po sa aming isla ng Mindoro nakikita at nowhere else in the world. Dati po, marami rin pong poachers diyan at ang nakapaligid po na community diyan ay iyong mga Mangyan community namin.

Ang amin pong ginawa diyan ay ginawa namin na sila na po ang tagabantay ng mga tamaraw namin at binigyan po sila ng alternative livelihood. Iyan din po siguro ang maisasama dito, doon sa kapangyarihan ng PAMB na kasama po ang ating mga katutubo sa pagpapalano kung papaano pong mapoprotektahan iyong livelihood ng mga tao at ng ibang mga nakikinabang doon sa protected areas. Nandito po iyon sa batas na mina-mandate po at inuutusan ang PAMB na gumawa at mag-ano ng batas o ng plano upang maprotektahan ang livelihood. At kung iyan po ay makakasira sa ating protected areas ay bibigyan po ng alternatibong livelihood ang ating mga nakikinabang sa protected areas natin.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. Tama po dahil dito ho sa ating panukalang batas, isa sa mga prohibited act nga

iyon. Pero, may nakalagay naman din po dito na “without the necessary permit, authorization or exemption,” specifically doon ho sa usapin ng hunting, taking, collecting or possessing of any wildlife, et cetera.

So, ibig po bang sabihin nito, may mga pagkakataon rin na mayroong ibang mga tao na puwede rin namang mangaso? Kaya itinanong ko ho iyon dahil isa na hong kaugalian o isang tradisyon na o kabahagi na ng buhay ng ating mga Lumad, ng mga indigenous peoples talaga ang pangangaso, at ito ay ginagawa nila na hindi naman ho kumukuha ng permit, at alam nila ang batas ng kalikasan. Hindi ho abusado ang mga katutubo natin. Kung mangaso man sila, ito ay para sa kanilang pangangailangan lamang at hindi para sa commercial na sadya. Nabanggit ninyo ho, puwedeng magiging isang kapangyarihan o poder ng PAMB na magbalangkas, halimbawa, ng mga regulation para mabigyan ng alternatibong kabuhayan ang ating mga katutubo, pero ako lang ho ay medyo may pagkabahala rito, sa formulation natin na, while ipinagbabawal iyong pangangaso, na kabahagi naman ng practice na ng ating mga indigenous peoples, but in some ways, sinasabi nating puwede naman kayong kumuha ng permit. Paano ho natin ito maire-reconcile, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Kaya nga po—kasi may areas po na puwede pang payagan pero regulated po, pero may areas po na talagang halos, eh wala ka nang mahuhuli diyan, na talagang endangered na po iyong huhulihing hayop diyan, eh iyon po ang ating paghihigpitan. Kaya nga po nakalagay doon na ang PAMB po ay binibigyan ng karapatan na sila ay magkaroon ng masusing ugnayan sa indigenous peoples at sa lahat ng communities surrounding the protected areas.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker.

Ang sunod ko pong tanong ay sa usapin naman po ng mga penalties?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Opo.

REP. ZARATE. Dito po sa ating panukalang-batas, kapansin-pansin na mataas po ang mga penalties na ipapataw sa mga lalabag dito sa panukalang-batas. Sa tingin ko po, mabigat ito lalung-lalo na sa mga ordinaryong mangangaso, sa ating mga katutubo, o iba pang upland settlers na papatawan ng ganito. Halimbawa po, ang mga katutubong nomadic, nomadic pa sa kanilang pamamaraan o kaya ang mga subsistence farmers

natin, na nag-e-engage sa kaingin, sila po ay papatawan ng malaking penalty. Ano po ang tingin ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsors dito? Hindi po ba gusto nating protektahan ang protected areas, pero paano naman po ang ating mga mamamayan? Mukhang naiipit po sila, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Opo. Alam po ninyo, masusi po iyong aming pag-aaral dito sa penalties na in-impose namin dahil gusto po namin that this will serve as a deterrent to all and sundry na para magkaroon ng talagang ngipin ang batas na ito.

Gusto ko lamang pong ipaalaala sa ating kagalang-galang na kasama sa Kongresong ito na ang pinag-uusapan po natin dito ay iyong poaching or iyong sinasabi ninyong pangangaso sa protected areas. Hindi po nasasakupan nito iyon bang sa labas ng protected areas. Ang atin lamang pong binibigyan ng tuong pansin dito ay iyong protected areas dahil nandiyan po sa protected areas ang endangered species na po natin na dapat talaga ay hindi po natin papatayin o hindi natin huhulihin, hindi na natin kakainin dahil ito po ay parte na ng ating patrimony. Kaya ang sinasabi ko po, hindi naman po ipinagbabawal ang pangangaso outside the protected areas. Ang atin lamang pong inaalagaan ay iyong protected areas dahil nandiyan po iyong endangered species natin.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker.

Maganda po ang intention at deterrent, pero ang nakakabahala lang po talaga sa akin dito, halimbawa, P200,000 but not more than P1 million na fine, and imprisonment of one year but not more than six years. Sa isa hong ordinaryong Lumad or katutubo, napakabigat po nito. Mayroon ho ba tayong pagsasaalang-alang dahil tandaan po natin, ang karamihan sa protected areas na ito ay nasa loob din ng lupang ninuno ng ating mga katutubo. Kaya direkta po, unang tatamaan nito ay ang ating mga katutubo. Siguro mayroong ilang mga settlers, pero ang kalakhan po sa tatamaan na papasok diyan sa tinatawag nating protected areas ay ang ating mga katutubo. Kaya parang napaka-excessive po ang tingin ko ng penalty na ito. Hindi ho kaya ito ay labag sa ating Saligang Batas na huwag namang mag-impose ng napaka-excessive na fine or penalties po, Mme. Sponsor.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Siguro po ay iyong proteksiyon po ng ating kalikasan at ng ating environment ay wala pong katapat na halaga. Mas mahal po, mas malaki at mas malawak ang magiging epekto sa ating kinabukasan kung hindi po natin poprotektahan iyong ating protected areas po.

As I have said, I would just want to emphasize the fact that kung sinasabi po ninyo that most of these protected areas are within the ancestral domain of our indigenous peoples, you should also realize na iyong ancestral domains po natin ay napakalalawak po, napakakonti lang po, kumbaga isang tuldok lang po sa lawak ng ancestral domain itong protected areas natin. Kaya siguro po, kailangan lamang ng masusing pag-aaral, at iyon nga pong sinasabi ko na inilalagay po dito at minamandatuhan ang ating PAMB na magkaroon ng plano para doon sa livelihood ng mga tao na dating kinukuha nila within the protected areas.

Ako po ay nakikiusap, let us give due importance po, ang kritikal na sitwasyon ng ating protected areas na sana po kahit po sino ay dapat hindi na po sirain ang nakikita within the protected areas. Hindi naman po siguro excessive ito at hindi po naman siguro ito namimili ng ating paparusahan, but ito po ay ia-apply sa lahat ng tao na magva-violate ng provisions po ng ating ano.

As I have said, we will always strive at nandito po sa batas iyan, ang alternative livelihood for those people who can no longer get their livelihood from the protected areas.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. Sana nga po ay hindi mangyari ang aking pinangangambahan na marami ho sa ating mga indigenous peoples o mga katutubo ay makulong dahil hindi nila kayang magbayad ng napakamahal at napakabigat na penalties na ito.

Mayroon na lang ho akong iilan, aapat o lilimang katanungan. Napag-usapan na po natin, matagal na rin itong NIPAS, ano? Sa katunayan, mula noong 1992, ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Dalawampung taon na po.

REP. ZARATE. ... thirteen areas na iyong nai-declare na under the NIPAS. Ang panukala natin ngayon, dagdag na 94 areas for the Expanded NIPAS.

Ang tanong ko po, sa loob po ng sinasabi ninyo kanina, 20 taon na nandiyan ang NIPAS, ang NIPAS po ba ay naging deterrent o naging sagka para po hindi makapasok ang mga mapanirang proyekto sa ating kalikasan tulad ho ng mga dambuhalang dam at mga mapinsalang proyekto ng pagmimina nitong nakaraang 20 taon na nandiyan po iyong batas ng NIPAS, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Kaya nga po tayo naghahangad ngayon na maamyendahan ang ating NIPAS Law of 1992, dahil mayroon pong mga butas ang batas na iyan na hindi po naging kaaya-aya o hindi po

nakatulong sa pagpoprotektang tunay ng ating kalikasan at ng ating protected areas. Kaya nga po mas marami ang mga prohibited act ngayon, na iyong sinasabi ninyo, iyong mga dambuhalang, pagpapalagay na natin na example lang po, iyong mga dambuhalang nagmimina, eh dito po exploration lang eh bawal na po. Hindi na po pwedeng pasukan ng kahit na anong pagmimina ang protected areas natin. Kahit nga po paglalagay ng mga kongkretong imprastruktura within the protected areas ay ipinagbabawal din po. Iyon lamang pong pagpapasok ng species na hindi po talaga endemic sa ating protected areas ay ipinagbabawal na din.

Iyong pagpasok ng GMO o genetically modified organism doon sa ating protected areas ay ipinagbabawal na rin po kaya po maganda iyong ang ating nasimulan nang NIPAS of 1992 pero marami pa pong kulang doon at ito nga po ang gusto nating gawin dito sa ating isinusulong na batas.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. Naitanong ko ho iyan dahil totoo po, halimbawa sa Bukidnon, ang Mt. Kitanglad is a protected area pero ito po ay batbat ng maraming mining application at kahit ho sa Occidental Mindoro, may areas diyan na covered na ng NIPAS pero hindi rin ito nakaligtas.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Sa Occidental Mindoro po ay hindi po kami pumapayag na nagmimina. We have declared Occidental Mindoro as a mining-free zone.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po. So, ganoon po ang nangyari noong nakaraang dalawang dekada na kung saan nandiyan ang NIPAS, hindi ito naging hadlang para pasukin ng mga mapaminsalang proyekto ng pagmimina noong mga dambuhalang dam ang protected areas na nagresulta naman hindi lang sa pagkasira ng protected area kundi displacement ng ating mga mamamayan lalung-lalo na ang ating mga katutubo.

Pero dito naman po sa ating isinusulong na panukalang-batas, nabasa ko rin po na pinapayagan din nating pumasok ang mga proyektong enerhiya, energy projects sa protected areas basta ito ay pumasá sa ating EIA System. So anong klase pong energy projects ang papayagan natin na puwedeng pumasok sa expanded protected areas, ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Nakalagay...

REP. ZARATE. ... for as long as they submit or go through the Environmental Impact Assessment System, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Ang pinapayagan lamang

po ay nakalahad po iyan sa Section 14. Payagan po ninyo akong basahin na:

x x x Consistent with the policies declared in Section 2 hereof, x x x THE exploration FOR ENERGY RESOURCES MAY BE ALLOWED IN PROTECTED AREAS only for the purpose of gathering DATA AND information x x x AND only if such activity is carried out with the least damage to surrounding areas. Surveys FOR NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS shall be conducted only in accordance with a program approved by the DENR, and the result of such surveys shall be made available to the public and submitted to the President x x x WHO SHALL MAKE THE APPROPRIATE x x x RECOMMENDATIONS to Congress. x x x THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS ARE PROHIBITED IN AREAS CLASSIFIED AS STRICT NATURAL RESERVES AND NATURAL PARKS.

Iyon po, basta sa strict nature reserves and natural parks, hindi po ina-allow iyan but for all others, ang ina-allow lang po sa energy projects diyan ay iyong non-renewable po.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. Tama po iyon pero ang kasunod ho kasi na statement diyan, nasa ating panukalang-batas rin and I think parang there is inconsistency dito sa ating panukala, ang nakalagay naman din po, “energy projects within a protected area, including strict nature reserves and natural parks, shall only be allowed through an act of Congress.”

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Nandito po iyan.

REP. ZARATE. Yes. So, ibig pong sabihin, even in areas considered as strict nature reserves and natural parks, puwede pa rin pong pumasok ang mga proyektong ito for as long as papayagan ng Kongreso.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Kasi po...

REP. ZARATE. So, hindi ho siya absoluto. Alam naman po natin kung pupunta sa Kongreso at pinayagan ito, halimbawa ho gustong maglagay ng napakalaking coal-fired power plant dahil iyan ay isang nonrenewable energy project, at sasabihin na, “Pinayagan ako ng Kongreso eh.” So, it defeats the purpose of protecting the protected area. Iyan po ang gusto kong puntuhin dito, inconsistent ho ang mga probisyong ito. Sabi natin, proteksyunan, bawal ang mga mapaminsalang energy projects. Kung papayagan man sila, hindi dapat sa loob

ng areas classified as nature reserves and natural parks, but in the next breath, ay ito pala, puwedeng payagan pag mayroong pagpapayag ng Kongreso.

Ano ho ang ating masasabi rito?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Ang presumption naman po kasi dito, dahil kung sa pangangailangan po para sa enerhiya ay magkakaroon naman po ng masusi at malawak na konsultasyon bago po pumayag ang Kongreso. Inaano rin po na kahit na payagan iyan ng ating Kongreso ay magkakaroon din po ng istrikto at masusing pag-aaral diyan dahil may requirement po ng Environmental Impact Assessment, na iyan po ay medyo mahigpit din ang proseso bago po talaga magkaroon ng pahintulot na sila ay magkaroon ng renewable energy project diyan sa ating protected areas.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, Mme. Sponsor. Iyon na nga po ang gusto nating puntuhin dito. Ito po, pinagdedebatehan natin ngayon, nagpapanukala tayo ng Saligang Batas ng Kongresong ito, kung gusto ho talaga nating tunay na mapangalagaan itong mga areas na sasakupin nitong dagdag na 94 areas ay isara na natin. Kung talagang gusto nating mapreserve iyong natural parks, nature reserves, ayaw nating payagan na masira ito sa mga mapaminsalang proyektong enerhiya ay sabihin na natin ngayon. At dito po, nagbubukas iyan.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Iyon po ba ay inihahain ninyo bilang amyenda dito sa aming isinusulong na panukalang batas? Kung iyan po ay inyong isinusulong, sa tamang panahon po ay ibigay ninyo po sa amin at atin pong iko-consider.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, Mme. Sponsor.

Bilang panghuli po, ito po ay isang mainit na usapin ngayon. Nandito tayo, nagpapanukala ng isang batas para pangalagaan ang ating kalikasan at ang mga mamamayan sa loob ng mga pamayanang ito o sa mga areas na covered nito. Ano po sa tingin ninyo ang magiging epekto halimbawa kung aamyendahan at babaguhin ang ating Saligang Batas at sasabihin ng ating bagong Saligang Batas na lahat ng protected areas na ito ay mapawalang-bisa na, at dahil ibubukas na ang protected areas na iyan sa control at exploration, pagmamay-arian na ng mga dayuhan, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Ang akin pong paniniwala, bawat isa na nandito sa Kongresong ito ay tatayo at maninindigan para protektahan ang ating kalikasan kaya ako po ay hindi naniniwala na magkakaroon ng ganyang panukala para sa pag-aamyenda ng ating Konstitusyon.

Alam ko po na magiging at mga bayani ang mga tao dito, at ang first and foremost among us is to protect the patrimony of our nation.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, sa inyo pong pagpapaunlak sa ating mga katanungan at paglilinaw, at sana nga po, maging makabuluhan ang objectives ng panukalang-batas na ito.

Magandang hapon ho sa ating lahat.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, before we call on the next interpellant, we would like to acknowledge the presence of more guests with us in the gallery today, the members of the Constitutional Reformers for Federal Philippines led by CEZA Secretary Raul Lambino. They are the guests of the honorable Cong. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Second District of Pampanga. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). We welcome to the House of Representatives the guests of the Hon. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, led by the Hon. Cesar Lambino.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, may we recognize the Hon. Tomasito "Tom" S. Villarín of AKBAYAN Party-List for his interpellation.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Hon. Tom Villarín is recognized.

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

Would the good Sponsor be open to some questions?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Gladly and willingly, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. This is not to go against the proposed measure, but I would just like to raise some points that could, in a way, resolve certain concerns that I think should be included, Mme. Speaker, in the proposed measure. In particular, when we talk about the protected area system, there is a saying that this would be our ridge to reef in terms of the inclusivity of what should be protected. Is the good Sponsor supportive of that idea?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Yes.

REP. VILLARIN. Because in the definition of what should be inclusive, the line in Section 4 A says, “Manage landscape/seascape...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Excuse me, what line please?

REP. VILLARIN. Section 4 A, the sentence states, “Manage landscape/seascape, as well as identified old growth forest xxx.” For this Representation, Mme. Speaker, if we take the concept of protection of ridge to reef, I think the word “reef” should be included after the “old growth forest.” Meaning, the protection should extend towards marine areas such as reefs and marine breeding ground.

Would that protection be inclusive of the marine areas?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. I do not think I was able to follow you, Section 4?

REP. VILLARIN. Mme. Speaker, perhaps in the period of amendments I would submit the same. But the general concept is that in the protected areas system, would this Bill encompass the concept of ridge to reef protection?

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Yes. If you have some proposed amendments, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, maybe you can just submit it to us.

REP. VILLARIN. Yes. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Because the Section 4 that you are quoting is not the Section 4 that I have here.

REP. VILLARIN. Yes. Perhaps, in the amendments that we would propose.

Now, on the issue, Mme. Speaker, of the composition of the Protected Area Management Board, ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. The PAMB.

REP. VILLARIN. ...under the present PAMB, we expanded it, but I am just apprehensive about including Senators and Members of the House in an Executive body because the PAMB executes the policies and laws of the land, and here we are legislators being made members of such Executive body.

My apprehension would be on the constitutionality of this provision, as this would be violative of the principle of separation of powers, being that Members

of the Legislative branch should not be given authority and jurisdiction over responsibilities meant for the Executive.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Yes. The Senator or a duly-authorized Representative where they are duly-registered residents where the protected area is located and the District Representatives were included because of the several complaints of our Congressmen that in the implementation of this Bill on the environment, they are not being consulted. This is also pursuant to the provision of this Bill providing for a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee. So, I do not subscribe to the apprehension of the Gentleman that this will be unconstitutional and that the mere membership of a Legislator in an Executive agency is an abdication of his or her Legislative function. This is just to make sure that the laws are being followed and implemented properly.

REP. VILLARIN. I am in agreement that, perhaps, a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee can be the body that would see to it that the full implementation of this law can be made. But the PAMB is basically an Executive body, meaning, that if we include Members of the Legislature in such Executive body, this would be *ultra vires* in the sense that this is beyond the jurisdiction of legislators to be part of the Executive branch. That is just my apprehension, Mme. Speaker.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. We will look into that, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. VILLARIN. Yes. Thank you, good Sponsor, Mme. Speaker.

There are also issues about the people.

My third point, Mme. Speaker, in a NIPAS area, certainly we have people and people over environment or, certainly, people need to exist also in the protected area system. It was pointed out earlier that we have indigenous peoples in such protected areas, and it is very crucial that their representation in this PAMB should be enhanced. Certainly, stakeholder participation is very important because protection will not come from those outside the protected areas. Protection would really ...

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Coming from within.

REP. VILLARIN. ... be made effective if the people themselves in the protected area system are included. I am appreciative of that fact that this is in this Bill, that it has been enhanced, although certainly, in the period of amendments, we will just submit some wordings as to the effect that representation should be mandatory

and the composition of the representation should also be more inclusive.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Yes, we appreciate that, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. That is precisely why we expanded the membership of the PAMB because we would want it to be transparent and participatory.

REP. VILLARIN. There are several very specific items. Perhaps through Cong. Kaka Bag-ao, I would just submit to her because she has manifested earlier to be the one to give the recommendations instead of just discussing the very specifics on the floor.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. We would welcome that.

REP. VILLARIN. Those are all my concerns, Mme. Speaker, good Sponsor, and thank you for the opportunity to enhance the measure.

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. Thank you very much.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, there being no other 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. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6772

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 6772.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6923 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6923, contained in Committee

Report No. 564, as reported out by the Committees on Government Enterprises and Privatization, and on Appropriations.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read 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. 6923, entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION (PCIC), REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1467, ENTITLED "CREATING THE 'PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION' PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND ACTIVITIES, PROVIDING FOR ITS CAPITALIZATION AND FOR THE REQUIRED GOVERNMENT PREMIUM SUBSIDY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," AS AMENDED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1733 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8175.

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

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

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Chairman of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, the Hon. Jesus N. Sacdalan, for his sponsorship speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Hon. Jesus Sacdalan is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. SACDALAN

REP. SACDALAN. Mme. Speaker, the objectives

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

of this Bill, with the different bills that we have reincorporated are:

- to expand the types of agricultural crop that can be insured by the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), and to include life and accident insurance to farmers and fisherfolk and their dependents;
- To strengthen the financial and organizational capacity of the PCIC; and
- To encourage private insurance companies to offer crop insurance.

This will include all the other crops that are being introduced in the country. So, I hope that this strengthening of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation or PCIC be approved, Mme. Speaker.

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

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

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is open.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I withdraw my previous motion. I move that we recognize the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD for his sponsorship speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The previous motion has been withdrawn.

The Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. BRAVO (A.)

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Majority Leader.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, good afternoon.

It is my honor and privilege to sponsor House Bill No. 6923, under Committee Report No. 564, entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION (PCIC), REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1467, ENTITLED: "CREATING THE 'PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION' PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND ACTIVITIES, PROVIDING FOR ITS CAPITALIZATION AND FOR THE REQUIRED GOVERNMENT PREMIUM SUBSIDY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," AS AMENDED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1733 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8175.

This Bill is not only favorable to the Filipino farmers, but to the country as a whole, as crop insurance is one major component of ensuring food security.

The impact of climate change is glaring. In the previous years, we have witnessed several catastrophic typhoons, floods and droughts that have left billions in damages in the agriculture and fishery sectors. In 2016, typhoon Niña alone has left an estimated P4.1 billion production losses according to the Department of Agriculture. These losses have affected the production of rice, corn and high-value crops, including vegetables and fruit trees that cover a total of around 80,000 hectares of farmlands in the Bicol Region.

By strengthening the PCIC, this proposed measure also authorizes the agency to do the following:

1. To extend life and accident insurance coverage for farmers and fisherfolk;
2. To ensure properties and facilities of the government used in agri-fishery-forestry projects;
3. To offer Weather Index-Based Insurance, specifically for excessive or insufficient rainfall; and
4. To offer crop insurance to encourage private commercial banks to sell crop insurance.

Mme. Speaker, given these notable provisions, we are more than happy to present these proposed measures that address the present predicament of our farmers, the threat to food security, and the limitations to the institutional capacity of the PCIC.

Let us give our farmers the safety nets that they deserve so we would have food security or a country secured by an empowered agricultural sector.

In summary, House Bill No. 6923 or the Revised Charter of Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation, is crafted to ensure food security, alleviate the financial burden of farmers and strengthen the PCIC itself.

Mme. Speaker, honorable Members of this august Chamber, let us pass this very important legislation with dispatch.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against House Bill No. 6923, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 6923 on Second Reading.

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

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 6923, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6923 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 6923 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6775 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6775, contained in Committee Report No. 532, as reported out by the Committees on Government Reorganization, Housing and Urban Development, and on Appropriations.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read 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. 6775, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DEFINING ITS MANDATE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo from Camiguin for his sponsorship speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Romualdo is recognized for his sponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. ROMUALDO

REP. ROMUALDO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, Majority Leader.

Mme. Speaker, esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

I stand here, Mme. Speaker, to sponsor House Bill No. 6775, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DEFINING ITS MANDATE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR. In short, this measure seeks to create, what we may have been pushing and articulating for many years here in Congress, a separate department of housing.

Article XIII, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution states that:

The State shall, by law, and for the common good, undertake, in cooperation with the private sector, a continuing program of urban land reform and housing which will make available at affordable cost decent housing and basic services to the underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlement areas. It shall also promote adequate employment opportunities to such citizens. In the implementation of such program, the State shall respect the rights of small property owners.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

The reasons why the issue of housing has been a subject of such significance are many, and I believe these are of utmost importance, and this administration, just like the previous administrations, has recognized this. Hence, the new Bill has merited inclusion in the LEDAC priorities.

Mme. Speaker, as has been pointed out many times before, the government must be able to face and address the issues and challenges of rapid urbanization, urban growth, increasing urban poverty and worsening urban environment.

All of us are witnesses to the congestion and urban blight permeating the landscape not only in Metro Manila, but in other highly urbanized areas which we can no longer ignore. Indeed, the heightening number of sprouting informal settlers in public and private lands is alarming. From the standpoint of many of our people, there seems to be no official policy or action, or specific agency of government to take the resolution of the housing problem to the next level. In fact, it looks like even as parts of the quagmire of the resettlement issues are resolved, a big number of informal settlers are moving in droves, which complicates the housing problem further. This can be likened to a wobbly individual who may never be able to reach his destination moving one-step forward, two-steps backward, a perpetual motion kind of thing, with only a semblance of forward action.

It is very sad that some of the informal settlers have forcibly occupied and taken possession of some houses in Pandi, Bulacan out of extreme desire and necessity to have their own homes. For us legislators, this is a loud call to seriously address their concerns.

We know that the current housing agencies are doing their utmost best to resolve this problem of housing and urban development. The National Housing Authority, the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation, the Home Development Mutual Fund or Pag-IBIG, the Home Guaranty Corporation, and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board are in fact all there to oversee the different aspects of this important urban issue. As well as to cater to the needs and requirements of the sectors and communities, these agencies called the “key shelter agencies” have all the bases amply covered. But what could then be the problem?

The primary law in effect is Republic Act No. 7279 or the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992. Presently, each of the key shelter agencies has its own governing bodies, responsibilities, personnel, systems, and procedures. The National Housing Authority is the agency directly engaged in direct production of shelter needs and providing housing assistance to the lowest urban income earners. The Pag-IBIG Fund focuses on the administration of a nationwide Provident Fund for the government’s housing program. The Home

Guaranty Corporation mobilizes the resources to broaden capital requirements for low-income housing purposes. The National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation functions to operate a viable home mortgage market. And the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board is the regulatory body for housing and land development. But on top of all of these, another layer in this structure is the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, the highest policymaking body that has administrative supervision over all these agencies.

Taking all of these into consideration and the negative experiences of beneficiaries where policies are sometimes conflicting, shelter program being beset by huge backlogs at an estimated 5.7 million, and increasing housing need and inefficiencies, there is indeed a need to establish an integrated and comprehensive housing planning agency to address the requirements of the Filipino family.

The NHA is set to build close to a million housing units in a span of five years. Chapter 12 of the Philippine Development Plan states:

For the period 2017-2022, the housing sector targets to deliver direct housing assistance to 1,558,711 households, mainly through NHA Housing Production, Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) Community Driven Shelter Programs, and Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) End-User Financing Program.

Out of the 1.5 million target housing assistance from 2017 to 2022, the NHA will lead the building of at least 835,203 shelters to support the country’s response to the challenges confronting our human settlements. Housing assistance for calamity victims will get the biggest chunk of the project with 378,612 units allocated; followed by informal settler families with 333,078 units; 41,405 for the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, settlements upgrading with 39,454; cost recoverable housing, this is employees’ housing with 24,100; while high impact projects and vertical developments will be implementing 15,800 and 2,754 units, respectively. Thus, Mme. Speaker, the need to streamline and coordinate the various shelter agencies under a central department so that current policies would be able to work towards a full and timely response to address the housing problem.

As a full-fledged department, it will be able to reshape the process of formulating significant human settlement programs to meet the demands of the country’s increasing population and decreasing space—a new government entity that will provide

the necessary focus, impetus and adequate funding to address the needs and pressing concerns of the housing sector. Restructuring and rationalizing the functions of financial housing agencies therefore represent a principal interest in this institutional reform agenda.

Mme. Speaker, many of us who commented on one of the aspects of this shelter issue: the need to align the incongruence between local and national planning, and address the housing and urban development. Such lack of linkage between local land use plan or physical plan or community development plan on the one hand, and the national investment and budgeting guidelines on the other only creates confusion and divergence of efforts in seeking and propagating development in the countryside.

The Housing Bill we are sponsoring today has been filed as early as the Eighth Congress to reform what the previous Members of the House saw was a critical flaw and inefficiencies in the system and in the present law.

The House of Representatives, this Body, has consistently passed a bill creating a department that shall cater to the housing sector in the Eighth, Ninth, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Sixteenth Congresses.

Mme. Speaker, the consistent intent of the Members of the House to enact such a law is very much evident over the years. Unfortunately for one reason or another, previous efforts have faltered and we have been unable to enact a department of housing law. But this fact does not discourage us, it does not discourage the authors and Members of the House to come up with a legislation that will address persistent housing-related problems in the country today ranging from backlog in providing decent and affordable housing, access to financing for housing loans and housing projects, resettlement of informal settlers, and the proposal to reorganize the key shelter agencies under one roof, under one direction for better governance.

We ask the Members of the House now to look at how we in Congress would put this new framework to work under a new Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development. And we know that we in the Seventeenth Congress stand proud that we have been able to leave a program that would start to hasten the process not only of minimizing, if not eradicating, urban blight, but also of helping our poor kababayans to live decent and fruitful lives.

Accordingly, for all these reasons, Mme. Speaker, I would like to ask our esteemed colleagues to approve the Bill creating the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development as embodied under House Bill No. 6775.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished colleagues.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Chairman of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, the Hon. Alfredo “Albee” B. Benitez for his sponsorship speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Albee Benitez is recognized for his sponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. BENITEZ

REP. BENITEZ. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Before I proceed with my sponsorship speech of this important measure, may I humbly inform this august Body that the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, along with its Senate counterpart, sponsored a Ten-Month National Housing Summit and Urban Development, which began on May 27, 2015 and culminated on April 4, 2016. The Summit was participated by all key shelter agencies, other relevant government agencies, the urban poor, private developers, civil society organizations, the academe, and housing and urban development experts. That Summit recommended the creation of a Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development.

Mme. Speaker, esteemed colleagues, the measure before us is long overdue. It may interest the Members of this august Chamber to note that this measure was first filed as early as the Eighth Congress. Thereafter, the measure took the following legislative path:

In the Ninth Congress, it was filed by no less than Speaker Jose De Venecia, along with over a hundred coauthors. The House approved the measure on Third Reading. In the Tenth Congress it was refiled but was not accorded by the House the same enthusiasm. In the Eleventh Congress it was approved by the Joint Committees but met less favorable fate in the Committee on Appropriations. In the Twelfth and Thirteenth Congresses, the House approved it on Third Reading, respectively. In the Fourteenth Congress, it lost steam as the hands of the concerned shelter agencies were tied by the rationalization program of the government under Executive Order No. 366. In the Fifteenth Congress, the Joint Committees approved the measure and it reached the plenary but only to stay on freeze after the sponsorship speech. However, the measure passed the Senate in that Congress. In the last Congress, the House again approved it on Third Reading but failed to get the nod of the Senate. Indeed, time and again, it was a frustrating case of being “so near yet so far” for this vital piece of legislation.

In keeping with the Constitution, Congress enacted in 1992 Republic Act No. 7279 or the “Urban Development and Housing Act” which provides the government program for shelter and urban development.

What the government seemed to have overlooked were the enormous demands of this program as it created through Executive Order No. 9 a mere coordinating body to oversee the work of the various key shelter agencies under it. The need for a government machinery that will run the government's housing program cannot be over-emphasized. Three million housing units were registered as backlog when Republic Act No. 7279 was signed into law in 1992. It must be admitted, with much regret, that the government has failed to solve the shelter problem. Proof of this is the fact that we still grapple with the same problem today as some six million housing needs stare us in the face. There is no silver lining in sight as the population continues to grow faster than the government can provide roofs over our people's heads.

We, in the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, have toiled to bring to plenary committee reports on very timely and urgent housing and urban development concerns for our poor constituents. We strongly believe that the key to the country's shelter quandary is the creation of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development.

It is high time that we take the task of not only providing housing, but of establishing and nurturing human settlements, and managing urban development seriously by reengineering the puny coordinating body and elevating it into a full-fledged cabinet-rank agency. The Department will not only be concerned with the provisions of housing but will focus on building communities or habitats in both rural and urban areas where people settle themselves to live. It will not only deal with the physical element of housing but likewise provide the necessary link to community services and components such as education, health, culture, welfare, recreation, food and nutrition.

What we have on the floor is the best version of the bill on the Department's creation since it was first filed in 1989, almost three decades ago. Neither is it a photocopy of an old bill or a hastily rehashed copy filled with gaping loopholes, nor was it assembled from mutilated provisions of various dead bills into a legislative Frankenstein. The Bill is rather a product of one score and eight years of refinement and craftsmanship in the art of legislation and democratic consultation.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, let it be said, therefore, that our approval of this long-overdue legislation shall reaffirm and reassert the House's political will to introduce change for the better and to serve the greater good. We cannot achieve our dream of inclusive development if we cannot address the basic problem of housing. The creation of this Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development is a critical step towards

helping our citizens realize their dream of having their very own house. This Department will serve as a robust backbone structure towards building a stronger nation.

Our imprimatur on this measure signals our resolve to join other countries that have elevated the matter of human settlements and urban development to a department or a ministry level.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, the singular purpose of this Bill, the pursuit of a long-overdue quest, is to speed up shelter delivery, solve prevailing housing urbanization problems, and we, in the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, take pride and honor in bringing them to plenary for your support and approval.

Maraming salamat.

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6775

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration on House Bill 6775.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

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

1. House Resolution No. 1487, to the Committee on Appropriations;
2. House Resolution No. 1489, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;
3. House Resolution No. 1492, to the Committee on Health;
4. House Resolution No. 1496, to the Committee on National Defense and Security and Committee on Public Order and Safety;
5. House Resolution No. 1497, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
6. House Resolution No. 1500, to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;
7. House Resolution No. 1502, to the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization;
8. House Resolution No. 1505, to the Committee on Natural Resources;

9. House Resolution No. 1512, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;

10. House Resolution No. 1519, to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability and Committee on Health;

11. House Resolution No. 1520, to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability;

12. House Resolution No. 1546, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;

13. House Resolution No. 1547, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;

14. House Resolution No. 1548, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;

15. House Resolution No. 1551, to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability;

16. House Resolution No. 1557, to the Committee on Housing and Urban Development;

17. House Resolution No. 1558, to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability;

18. House Resolution No. 1563, to the Committee on Metro Manila Development;

19. House Resolution No. 1567, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;

20. House Resolution No. 1570, to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology;

21. House Resolution No. 1571, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety; and

22. House Resolution No. 1572, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

The aforementioned House Resolutions are hereby referred to the appropriate Committees.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF CERTAIN MEASURES

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

1. House Bill No. 126, from the Committee on Local Government to the Committee on Transportation;

2. House Bill No. 2332, from the Committee on Public Order and Safety to the Committee on Welfare of Children;

3. House Bill No. 4223, from the Special Committee on Food Security to the Committee on Government Reorganization and Special Committee on Food Security; and

4. House Bill No. 6742, from the Committees on Trade and Industry, and Economic Affairs to the Committees on Economic Affairs and Trade and Industry;

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection—please, proceed.

REP. GULLAS. House Resolution No. 1505 and the privilege speech of Rep. Vergara, delivered on November 27, 2017, from the Committee on Natural Resources, to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, the Senate passed with amendments, House Bill No. 3179.

We have been informed that the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, sponsor of House Bill No. 3179, as well as the authors thereof, has no objections to the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate.

Mme. Speaker, in accordance with our Rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 3179.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, the Senate passed with amendments, House Bill No. 5146.

We have been informed that the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, sponsor of House Bill No. 5146, as well as the authors thereof, has no objections to the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate.

Mme. Speaker, in accordance with our Rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 5146.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, the Senate passed with amendments, House Bill No. 2737.

We have been informed that the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, sponsor of House Bill No. 2737, as well as the authors thereof, has no objections to the amendments introduced by the Senate.

In accordance with our Rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 2737.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, the Senate passed with amendments, House Bill No. 5148.

We have been informed that the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, sponsor of House Bill No. 5148, as well as the authors thereof, has no objection to the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate.

In accordance with our Rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 5148.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 5150.

We have been informed that the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, sponsor of House Bill No. 5150, as well as the authors thereof, has no objections to the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate.

In accordance with our Rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 5150.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 5147.

We have been informed that the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, sponsor of House Bill No. 5147, as well as the authors thereof, has no objections to the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate.

Mme. Speaker, in accordance with our Rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 5147.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 5149.

We have been informed that the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, sponsor of House Bill No. 5149, as well as the authors thereof, has no objections to the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate.

Mme. Speaker, in accordance with our Rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 5149.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 5151.

We have been informed that the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, sponsor of House Bill No. 5151, as well as the authors thereof, has no objection to the amendments introduced by the Senate.

Mme. Speaker, in accordance with our Rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 5151.

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

CONSIDERATION OF S. JT. RES. NO. 8

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, the House and the Senate have approved on Third Reading House Joint Resolution No. 15 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 8, respectively, both of which seek to authorize the National Housing Authority to award to other qualified beneficiaries the unawarded housing units in the AFP, PNP, BFP, BJMP and BUCOR.

We have been informed that the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, sponsor of House Joint Resolution No. 15, as well as the author thereof, is in concurrence with the provisions of Senate Joint Resolution No. 8.

ADOPTION OF S. JT. RES. NO. 8

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, in accordance with our Rules, I move that we adopt Senate Joint Resolution No. 8 as an amendment to House Joint Resolution No. 15.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we include as additional coauthors of House Bills No. 6775, 6782 and 6913 those contained in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the titles of the bills.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6975, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AS AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY, AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3720, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9711”

By Representative Tan (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6976, entitled:

“AN ACT TRANSFERRING TO THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY THE AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OVER PROVINCIAL JAILS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas, Suarez and Daza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6977, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.) and Gonzaga

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6978, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Fariñas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1602, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF FORMER PASIG CITY MAYOR SOLEDAD C. EUSEBIO, MOTHER OF REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD C. EUSEBIO OF THE LONE DISTRICT OF PASIG CITY”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas and Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1603, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF MRS. GENEROSANAVARRO TIU, MOTHER OF REPRESENTATIVE JULIETTE T. UY OF THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas and Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1573

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1573, contained in Committee Report No. 554, as reported out by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read 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.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1573, entitled: A RESOLUTION URGING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE CEBU NORMAL UNIVERSITY (CNU) TO ESTABLISH A CAMPUS AT TOLEDO CITY, PROVINCE OF CEBU, TO BE KNOWN AS THE CEBU NORMAL UNIVERSITY-TOLEDO CITY CAMPUS.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1573.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1573

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 1573 is hereby adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1554

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1554.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read 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. 1554, entitled: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF JOSE V. LORETO, SR., FORMER MAYOR OF BAYBAY CITY, LEYTE, THE FATHER-IN-LAW OF REPRESENTATIVE OSCAR S. GARIN, JR. OF THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO AND UNCLE OF REPRESENTATIVE JOSE CARLOS L. CARI OF THE FIFTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1554.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1554

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there an objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 1554 is adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1602

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1602.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read 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. 1602, entitled: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF FORMER PASIG CITY MAYOR SOLEDAD C. EUSEBIO, MOTHER OF REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD C. EUSEBIO OF THE LONE DISTRICT OF PASIG CITY.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1602.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1602

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 1602 is hereby adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1603

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1603.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read 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. 1603, entitled: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF MRS. GENEROSA NAVARRO TIU, MOTHER OF REPRESENTATIVE JULIETTE T. UY OF THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1603.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1603

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. House Resolution No. 1603 is hereby adopted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until January 22, 2018, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is adjourned until January 22, 2018, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 6:28 p.m.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)