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No. 57

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

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

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

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

ROLL CALL

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 57, dated January 31, 2018.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Speaker is present.

Mme. Speaker, the roll call shows that 211 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). With 211 Members responding to the call, the Chair hereby declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 56, dated January 30, 2018.

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. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we now proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

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

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 7034, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ALL COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS SERVING FOOD TO THE PUBLIC TO PROVIDE ONE-HALF

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

CUP OF RICE SERVING AS A MENU OPTION, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF SUCH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Almario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 7035, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GIVING OF GRADUATED CASH GRANTS TO SENIOR CITIZENS”

By Representative Villarica
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 7036, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING CONSTANCIO PADILLA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN SAN JOSE CITY, NUEVA ECIJA TO SAN JOSE CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL”

By Representative Violago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 7038, entitled:

“AN ACT ALLOWING THE AUTHORIZATION OF ALTERATIONS AND/OR ERASURES IN CHECKS THROUGH COUNTER-SIGNATURE OR COUNTER-INITIAL, THEREBY OVERTURNING THE PERTINENT ITEM GUIDELINES OF MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 15-460 OF THE PHILIPPINE CLEARING HOUSE CORPORATION (PCHC) WHICH DECLARED CHECKS AND POST-DATED CHECKS WITH ERASURES AND ALTERATIONS AS INELIGIBLE AND UNACCEPTABLE FOR CLEARING”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 7039, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION OF CLASSES FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN ALL LEVELS IN CASE OF NATIONWIDE STRIKE OF PUBLIC UTILITY JEEPNEYS AND/OR PUBLIC UTILITY BUSES”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 7040, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE EFFECTIVITY OF REGISTRATION OF BRAND NEW PRIVATE VEHICLES FROM THREE YEARS TO FIVE YEARS”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 7041, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE FIRST AND SECOND DISTRICTS OF THE CITY OF PARAÑAQUE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 7042, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING HAZARD PAY TO REGIONAL TRIAL COURT JUDGES DURING THEIR INCUMBENCY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Silverio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7043, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING SABLAYAN EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SABLAYAN IN THE PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cortuna
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 7045, entitled:

“AN ACT GOVERNING THE ROUNDING OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF CASH TRANSACTIONS”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 7046, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING THE TERM ‘UNIFORMED PERSONNEL’ ”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 7047, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PANGLAO – BOHOL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER AND OPERATE THE

PANGLAO – BOHOL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Relampagos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 7048, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING ACT NO. 4120 KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PROMOTION OF RESEARCH WORK ALONG SCIENTIFIC LINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Aumentado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1617, entitled:

“RESOLUTION TO LOOK INTO THE FULFILLMENT BY THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND OFFICERS OF THEIR LEGALLY MANDATED ROLES AND DUTIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR LAWS ON OFWs, TO PROTECT OUR OFWs, PARTICULARLY ON THEIR DEPLOYMENT TO NON- OR PARTIALLY COMPLYING COUNTRIES TO THEIR DETRIMENT AND TO URGE THE SAME TO COME UP WITH A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF THE WILL BE AFFECTED WORKERS, ON THE ERADICATION OF FEARS OF RESORT TO ILLEGAL RECRUITERS BY THE OFWs WHEN A BAN ON DEPLOYMENT IS NECESSARILY BEING CONSIDERED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, IN AID OF LEGISLATION”

By Representative Bertiz

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1618, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI), SEC. RAMON M. LOPEZ, TO DEVISE A DETAILED MECHANISM TO EFFECTUATE A SYSTEMATIZED COORDINATION AMONG ALL THE DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH

LUZON, AS WELL AS, AN EFFECTIVE INFORMATION DISSEMINATION WITH RESPECT TO DTI’S ENVISIONED ‘ROLL-IT-PROGRAM’ AND SUCH OTHER PROGRAMS/PROJECTS THAT WILL BOOST THE GROWTH OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN INVESTMENTS”

By Representatives Savellano, Ortega (P.), De Venecia, Vargas-Alfonso, Celeste, Nolasco, Cua, Go (M.), Cosalan, Ting, Mangaoang, Eriguel, Go (A.C.), Ortega (V.N.), Aggabao, Bulut-Begtang, Bataoil, Bernos, Cuaresma, Arenas, Baguilat, Primicias-Agabas, Chavez and Singson

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NORTH LUZON GROWTH QUADRANGLE

House Resolution No. 1619, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EARNESTLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) LEADERSHIP TO PROVIDE RELEVANT INFORMATION REGARDING ITS PRESENT AND FUTURE PHILIPPINE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (PRDPs) TO THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH LUZON TO ENSURE COHESIVE TEAM EFFORT OF ALL THOSE CONCERN IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION”

By Representatives Savellano, Ortega (P.), De Venecia, Vargas-Alfonso, Celeste, Nolasco, Cua, Go (M.), Cosalan, Ting, Mangaoang, Eriguel, Go (A.C.), Ortega (V.N.), Aggabao, Bulut-Begtang, Bataoil, Bernos, Cuaresma, Arenas, Baguilat, Primicias-Agabas, Chavez and Singson

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NORTH LUZON GROWTH QUADRANGLE

House Resolution No. 1620, entitled:

“RESOLUTION ASKING THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF) TO CONTINUE THEIR USUAL RE-CLASSIFICATION OF PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES EXCEPT QUEZON CITY AND MANILA WHICH SHALL REMAIN AS SPECIAL CLASS CITIES”

By Representatives Savellano, Ortega (P.), De Venecia, Vargas-Alfonso, Celeste, Nolasco, Go (M.), Cosalan, Ting, Mangaoang, Eriguel, Go (A.C.), Ortega (V.N.), Aggabao, Bulut-Begtang, Bataoil, Bernos, Cuaresma, Arenas, Baguilat, Primicias-Agabas, Chavez and Singson

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NORTH LUZON GROWTH QUADRANGLE

House Resolution No. 1621, entitled:

“RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT) TO INCLUDE THE PROVINCES OF PANGASINAN AND NUEVA VIZCAYA IN THE LUZON CLUSTER 1 FIELD OPERATIONS OFFICE (NORTH LUZON CLUSTER OF REGIONS COMPOSED OF REGIONS 1, 2 AND CAR) IN THE IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING OF DICT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES”

By Representatives Savellano, Ortega (P.), De Venecia, Vargas-Alfonso, Celeste, Nolasco, Cua, Go (M.), Cosalan, Ting, Mangaoang, Eriguel, Go (A.C.), Ortega (V.N.), Aggabao, Bulut-Begtang, Bataoil, Bernos, Cuaresma, Arenas, Baguilat, Primicias-Agabas, Chavez and Singson
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NORTH LUZON GROWTH QUADRANGLE

House Resolution No. 1622, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE MASSIVE GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION ON THE RESPIRATORY HEALTH CRISIS IN ALBAY FOLLOWING THE ERUPTION OF MAYON VOLCANO”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Resolution No. 1623, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS’ APPROVAL OF CHINA’S MARINE STUDY OF PHILIPPINE (BENHAM) RISE”

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

House Resolution No. 1624, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CURRENT EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT PLASTIC WASTE FROM GOING INTO THE OCEAN, SEAS AND OTHER BODIES OF WATER WITH THE END IN VIEW OF IMPROVING THE COUNTRY’S SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1625, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING DR. RICARDO F. ORGE FOR WINNING THE MANILA WATER FOUNDATION PRIZE FOR 2017 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD”

By Representative Aumentado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1626, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THRU THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE DISCOVERY OF A SEPTIC SEEPAGE AT THE BASEMENT FLOOR OF THE NEW CENTRAL BLOCK BUILDING OF THE NEGROS ORIENTAL PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL (NOPH). FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS DEMANDED TO REASSESS THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF THE BUILDING BY A TEAM OF STRUCTURAL EXPERTS, AND FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CERTIFY IF THE CENTRAL BLOCK BUILDING IS STILL VIABLE FOR HOSPITAL USE”

By Representative Teves
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated January 29, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed without amendment House Bill No. 477, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 23 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE DECLARATION OF THE FIRST PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated January 29, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 454, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE REGISTRATION, LICENSURE, AND PRACTICE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

Message dated January 30, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on January 29, 2018, designated Senators Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino IV, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, Joseph Victor G. Ejercito, Richard J. Gordon and Francis N. Pangilinan as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the conflicting provisions of Senate Bill No. 1533, entitled:

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

and House Bill No. 5792, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BALIK SCIENTIST PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 586), re H.B. No. 2553, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TEODORO N. PEPITO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF VALENCIA, FOURTH DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Roque (R.) and Nograles (K.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 587), re H.B. No. 7061, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES MEDICAL CENTER IN DAVAO CITY, FROM ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED (1,200) TO ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (1,500) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTHCARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5324

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Nograles (K.A.) and Nograles (J.J.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 588), re H.B. No. 7062, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE MINDANAO

CENTRAL SANITARIUM IN PASOBOLONG, ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO A TERTIARY LEVEL HOSPITAL, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FOR GENERAL CARE SERVICES TO THREE HUNDRED (300), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3426

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Dalipe and Nograles (K.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 589), re H.B. No. 7063, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY FOR TERTIARY GENERAL HEALTH CARE OF THE DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND SANITARIUM IN TALA, CALOOCAN CITY FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO EIGHT HUNDRED (800) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9420, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT CONVERTING TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS OF THE 2,000-BED DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND SANITARIUM FOR TERTIARY GENERAL HEALTH CARE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4434

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Malapitan and Nograles (K.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 590), re H.B. No. 7064, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF DON EMILIO DEL VALLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (DEDVMH) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF UBAY, PROVINCE OF BOHOL FROM FIFTY (50) TO THREE HUNDRED (300) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4624

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Aumentado and Nograles (K.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 591), re H.B. No. 7065, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE AMANG RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER IN THE CITY OF MARIKINA, FROM THREE HUNDRED (300) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS, UPGRADING THE SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE THEREIN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5637

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Fernando, Roa-Puno and Nograles (K.A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education (Committee Report No. 592), re H.R. No. 1630, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE CEBU TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (CTU) TO ESTABLISH A CAMPUS AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALAMBAN, PROVINCE OF CEBU, TO BE KNOWN AS THE CEBU TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY-BALAMBAN CAMPUS”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 1006

Sponsors: Representatives Hofer and Garcia (G.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 593), re H.B. No. 7070, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE BALANGAY, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BUTUAN BOAT, AS THE NATIONAL BOAT OF THE PHILIPPINES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 986

Sponsors: Representatives Durano and Fortun
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6973

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, under the Calendar of Unfinished Business, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 6973, as

contained in Committee Report No. 572, submitted by the Committee on Metro Manila Development. For this purpose, we ask that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the Bill.

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 House Bill No. 6973.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.”

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that it is in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that the author of the Bill, Rep. Bayani F. Fernando, be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Rep. Bayani Fernando is recognized.

REP. FERNANDO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Mme. Speaker, I am now ready for the interpellation.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. 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 period of sponsorship and debate is hereby opened.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List, Rep. Jose “Lito” L. Atienza Jr.

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

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader. With the kind indulgence of the Sponsor, this Representation would like to continue our interpellation on his measure to give more powers to the Metro Manila government. Ano po nga ang sagot ng Kagalang-galang na Fernando?

REP. FERNANDO. I welcome, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Salamat po. Mme. Speaker, we were given the opportunity to interpellate the Gentleman the other week or two weeks ago, and we were asking him the basic reason—for our objection—in giving more powers to an experiment or experimentation that has failed to produce answers to the basic questions of urban living. Ang sinasabi po nila, ang batas na ito ang magbibigay ng tunay na pagbabago. Ito po ay binuo noong 1975 by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 824 and this was started by the First Lady then and now Cong. Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

During the period or the term of Mrs. Marcos, it was quite successful basically because she was Mrs. Marcos, and she wielded power from the President at that time, in fact, the ruler of martial law, Mr. Ferdinand Marcos. Lahat nang ginusto ng ating kagalang-galang na Gobernadora noon ay nasunod subalit pagkatapos po ng term ni Mrs. Marcos, kung saan-saan na po napunta iyan. Naging Metro Manila Commission, naging Metro Manila Authority, naging Metro Manila Development Authority—all talking about the promise of a development plan/direction for Metro Manila; but, Mme. Speaker, wala po tayong nakitang direksiyon na pupuntahan nitong region na kinabibilangan natin. Ang mga problemang kanilang pinangakong bibigyan ng paraan at solusyon ay hindi po naman nangyari—baha, basura, iyong ating peace and order condition, the development of the potentials of the region, how to utilize clean water from our sewerage system so that we can all benefit from our fresh water supply, the communications that we use, traffic, just to name a few.

A simple reason, Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues, is that the Metro Manila Development Authority, as it is known now, does not have a development plan at all. Papaano natin bibigyan ng mas higit na kapangyarihan ang isang ahensiya na walang plano po kung ano ang gagawin nila. Iyon pong aking hiningi sa kanila—magpakita kayo kung anong bibliya ng pagbabago at development na inyong iaalok sa ating lahat ngayon para masabi nating ang batas na ito ay karapat-dapat. From that time on, they sent me voluminous books, pamphlets, materials, but Mme. Speaker, none of these materials reflected a development plan for the region. Mga reports po ito, mga motherhood definitions and terms covering Metro Manila, an analysis on what caused paralysis in the region pero wala po rito iyong

hinahanap kong development plan na binuo nila noon kung mayroon man, at kung wala naman ay aminin na natin.

The Metro Manila government is being ruled on a day-to-day basis, depending on the thinking of the new chairman. Basta may bagong chairman, may bagong programa. Noong panahon ni Chairman Fernando, iba ang programa. Noong pinalitan siya, at napalitan siya, at bago na ang chairman, may panibagong programa na naman kaya wala po tayong nararamdamang tunay na pagbabago sa Metro Manila Region. Hindi po natin masasabing ang mga materyal na ito ay bibliya ng development in Metro Manila. None of these materials will qualify under that definition. So, I would like to inform the Gentleman, kung siya man ang nagpadala sa akin nito, naghihintay pa rin ako ng development plan na masasabi ninyong sinunod ninyo noong panahon ninyo at ginagamit ng sumunod sa inyo, at sinusunod naman ng mga local government units sa Metro Manila.

Ako po ay naging Mayor ng Maynila, siyam na taon, sunod-sunod, pero wala po akong nakuhang development plan mula sa mga Metro Manila governors na naglingkod, kasama na po si Kgg. Bayani Fernando. Ang mga pinasunod niyang mga programa ay iyong mga proyektong na, sa tingin niya, ay tama noong panahon niya pero wala po siyang sinunod na bibliya kung saan makakatulong ang bawat mayor, upang makatulong tayong lahat sa pag-unlad ng kabuhayan at wastong pamumuhay in Metro Manila.

So, today, I am informing him formally that these materials definitely do not qualify to be called a development plan which they should have done maybe 25 years ago. Malayu-layo na po siguro ang Metro Manila ngayon kung mayroon silang plano sana. Siguro ay mayroon na tayong subway system ngayon; marahil malinis na malinis na po ang tubig ng Manila Bay; marahil naiinom na muli ang tubig mula sa Laguna de Bay; at marami pa pong pagbabago ang naganap sa pagtutulong-tulong ng lahat ng mga local government units kung mayroon silang development plan.

REP. FERNANDO. Thank you very much, dear colleague. With due respect, I beg to differ from your claim that these development plans were not ever used. You were Mayor, if I may recall, in 2012 and since that time, we always had a development plan approved by the Metro Manila Council—of which you are a member—and so, I do not know why you never received a copy of the development plan. But I know that each local government unit, the members of the Metro Manila Council, were all furnished copies of this and no less than representatives, maybe representatives from your office, may have attended the process of approving these development plans.

I would admit, I would accept that the MMDA may be part of a great experiment but so are all enterprises.

They go through experimentation. Every day is an experiment. So, one management guru said that “To survive, your organization will have to be innovative.” We have to be continually experimenting and so, I would say that the experiment actually is not for naught. We did develop, maybe not fully, but we actually did from the time of our Mme. Imelda Marcos to this day, and based on the foundations they had laid for the agency, we were able to come out with new solutions to our problems. So, let us say, no less than these development plans were the bases of the zoning ordinances of all local government units and the bases of the approval of the MMDA of the zoning programs or plans of each local government in the metropolis.

Mme. Speaker, I respect the opinion of our colleague but I would say that, if we have failed in our actions which were all based, during my time, on the MMDA Law which was passed and which actually came from the wisdom of this Chamber, of this Congress, and so, I would say that this measure being proposed will actually make this MMDA Law more effective; and if you have failed, then probably, this is the solution so that we can move forward.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, of course, we would like to move forward. That was the idea why this agency was created—to get Metro Manila in line with the developing regions of Asia, at least. Asia was booming and developing and their metropolitan areas were organized to form a new government to provide precisely a plan for developing in their region, a capital region. Tokyo, Taipei, even Singapore, even Jakarta—they all have their capital regions wherein they planned the development and the direction so that slowly but surely, in these fast-changing times, answers were provided by this development plan.

I would like to remind the Gentleman, Mme. Speaker, that the Metro Manila government was tasked/ given the assignment, told to prepare a development plan for Metro Manila. Iyon po ang kaibahan doon sa sinasabi niya. Kaming lahat na local government units, mayroon pong development plan, tama po. That is provided for by law. Our budgets cannot even be used without a development plan approved by the council, including even by the Congressmen of the city. Iyong development plan na pinag-uusapan po natin—I hope we understand each other—this is a development plan na isinasaad ng batas na bumuo ng Metro Manila Commission noong 1975, na mayroon dapat binuong bibliya kung saan ang lahat ng local government units at ang kanilang mga development plans ay isusunod sa programang iyon.

Kagaya ng sinabi ko kanina, marahil dapat mayroon na tayong subway system ngayon. Iyong ating problema ng baha ay nabigyan na ng kasagutan. Ang basura malamang ay hindi na po pinoproblema ng ating mga

mamamayan. Ngayon, wala pong sagot lahat iyan. Why? Because nagkanya-kanya po ang takbo at wala po namang konduktor. Ang konduktor dapat ay or the conductor of the whole governance in Metro Manila should have been the Metro Manila Development Authority. Kaya nga po sila tinawag na MMDA o Metro Manila Development Authority pero wala po silang development plan kaya papaano po tayo magkakaroon ng pagkakaisa na susundin?

Uulitin ko po, noong panahon ni Chairman Fernando, kung ano ang naisip niya, iyon ang ginawa niya. Sabi niya ay nakikipag-ugnay ang Metro Manila Development Authority sa mayors. Hindi po totoo iyon sapagkat may mga proyekto siya na binuo niya on his own. Naglagay siya ng mga toilets sa sidewalks. Kanya lang po iyon, hindi po sa akin iyon. Iyon po ay hindi ko pinayagan sa Maynila sapagkat hindi po bahagi ng aming development plan na magkaroon ng palikurang bayan sa sidewalk, at marami po roon na itatayo pa sa harap ng mga dormitoryo ng mga kababaihan. Hindi ko po pinayagan iyan. Naglagay sila ng iba’t ibang mga proyekto na hindi po namin pinayagan sa Maynila sapagkat lihis doon sa aming kagustuhan, sa aming sariling pagpapalano, dahil nga po walang development plan ang Metro Manila Commission na Metro Manila Development Authority ngayon. Kaya hindi ko po maubos maisip kung bakit bibigyan natin ng kapangyarihan samantalang hindi nila ginagawa ang kanilang trabaho.

While we are debating on this issue now, noticeably, the Metro Manila Development Authority is working. They are enforcing the law in the streets of Metro Manila. EDSA traffic today is improving. Why? Because they are working. Lahat iyan, ilagay nila sa isang plano na maaari nating pagtulung-tulungan. Iyan ang sinasabi ko. Hindi kapangyarihan ang kailangan kundi plano. Wala pong mabubuo kung walang plano. Bahay hindi mabubuo, gusali hindi mabubuo, ang Metro Manila hindi po mabubuo kung walang plano.

Naaalala ko po, Chairman Fernando built a monstrosity of something. I cannot define it, maybe he can enlighten me now. Mayroon siyang itinayo sa may airport a gigantic rotunda with a gigantic structure na bakal na hindi namin malaman kung ano iyon—monumento. Monumento nino? Wala pong makasagot. Monumento ng ano? Baka maaari niyang sagutin ngayon iyon.

In your time, if you say you told the mayors of your plans—but let me correct you, I was not the Mayor in 2012. I was the Mayor up to 2007 only pero nagsabay tayo.

You constructed a monumental structure of steel doon sa may airport na hindi namin maintindihan lahat. Magkano po ba nagugol doon? How much was spent for that monument which we do not even know for whom or for what? Magkano po ba nagastos doon at ito ay pera galing po sa Metro Manila government iyon, I am sure.

REP. FERNANDO. Mme. Speaker, with all due respect to the interpellator, the issues raised have already become rhetoric. We deviated completely from the Bill under consideration.

Actually, the Bill is so simple—it is only to correct or to, at least, make the policies of the Metro Manila Council and to give everybody a little—an idea of what the Metro Manila Council is. It is composed of all the mayors of Metro Manila, and along with the President of the Councilors' League of Metro Manila and the President of the Vice Mayors' League, they are all voting members of this council. Now, the big problem faced by us, in spite of the MMDA Law—or there must have been little need to amend the MMDA Law so that the decisions of the Metro Manila Council will be respected by the courts—this is on the question of autonomy, of which the authors in this Congress when the Bill was made, had difficulty or actually defining the position of this local autonomy that the MMDA might transgress. So, that actually became the limitation, the very same limitation on the MMDA Law which we are trying to cure now and with this measure, we will even reinforce the council and because of this, we will have more people involved in the management of the metropolis.

The local autonomy will be preserved since with this measure, the decisions of the Metro Manila Council will be forwarded to all the local government councils of Metro Manila for them to approve. It will now be the local councils approving and a majority vote of the councils will make that bill or law approved by the Metro Manila Council legal and unquestionable in courts. That is the very simple intention actually of the measure and with that, I believe all the questions that the Gentleman had raised earlier on the inability of the MMDA to progress or to deliver what is expected of it will actually be answered by this measure. The amendments to this Bill will give it more power to implement things as actually mandated by the same MMDA Law.

So, I would ask the Gentleman's understanding on this measure and hope that his disappointment with the MMDA will be covered by this measure. I would ask the Gentleman to give it a chance, let us give it a chance. In my eight years in that agency, it is this one thing, this question of autonomy, that has bogged us down and made it difficult really to implement the so many nice things that Metro Manila needs. So, the indulgence of the Speaker is sought by this Representation.

Thank you.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, I will join the Gentleman on any measure that will improve the quality of life of our people in Metro Manila. I know his passion for service, and I am sure he also knows my passion for effective service. Hindi po niya sinagot iyong tanong

ko. I believe that we wasted hundreds of millions of pesos on a project whimsically decided upon by the Metro Manila Chairman.

Ngayon po, nawala na po iyong monumento ng kawalan, malaking-malaki po iyon, parang ampaw o parang siopao na bakal. Kung saan dinala, hindi ko po alam at baka ibinenta ang pundidong bakal. Doon po ay may nagastos ang gobyerno at nawalan ng pera ang maraming mga serbisyo dahil ginusto ng Chairman noon na magtayo ng monumento sa kawalan. Iyon lang po ang aking napapansin, na ang Metro Manila government, instead of concentrating on development planning, competes with the local government units. It is competitive, it is a direct competitor of the LGUs. Tapos, bibigyan pa natin ng kapangyarihan pero susundin po ba ng mga nahalal iyan? Hindi po, dahil naniniwala ang mga mayor na nahalal na dapat sana ang MMDA ay nandoon po sa development planning at itinuturo ito sa kanila para sama-sama po ang paggalaw tungo sa paglilingkod.

As I mentioned and I will keep on saying it, kung nagtatrabaho ang MMDA noon, mayroon na tayong subway system ngayon. Walang lungsod o kalunsuran sa buong Asya na wala pong subway system. Wala po tayong problemang gaano sa traffic ngayon kung mayroon tayong subway system. Bakit wala po tayo? Sapagkat wala pong ginawa ang Metro Manila government to answer to the traffic needs of Metro Manila. They go on a day-to-day governance at nakikipagkompetensiya sa mga local governments, na hindi po naman sila papayagan sapagkat ang mga mayor ay nahalal at sila ay appointed. There is something wrong with the structure and if we give them more powers now, we will have a bigger problem immediately.

The point of this Representation is that, instead of giving more authority to a government unit that has proven to be ineffective in its present structure and character, ay i-review na natin ito, tapos, pagtulung-tulungan nating iayos. Maybe, getting the Chairman elected directly by the people of Metro Manila would be a solution para magkaroon na po ng regional government ang Metro Manila as a prelude to federalism. Maaaring unang hakbang po ito towards federalism. Just to give powers to an agency that seems to be lost, lost in the forest of governance, at hindi nila malaman kung sino sila, kung ano sila, pagkatapos ay bibigyan natin ng kapangyarihan ngayon? Hindi po masusunod iyan.

I really beg to disagree with the Gentleman. It has been proven time and again, hindi po nangyayari ang tama sapagkat mayroon tayong dambuhala na kung tawagin natin ay Metro Manila Development Authority, na hindi po nagpa-plano ng maski na ano, kaya wala pa rin tayong waste water treatment facilities. Lahat po ng kalunsuran sa buong mundo, inaalagaan na nila iyong tubig na galing sa poso negro pero sa Metro Manila po

ay wala niyan although they claimed that we have. I challenge them because Manila Bay dies everyday due to the inability of the Metro Manila government to plan and implement a waste water treatment system that will clean the water in our toilets and households before it flows into the estero, into the Pasig River and Laguna de Bay or Manila Bay.

Iyon po ang aking idinidiin na mga isyu na hindi po naman sinasagot ng ating kagalang-galang na kaibigan. Ang sabi ko: ipakita mo nga kung mayroon kayong binuong isang development plan magmula noong simula. Ang ibinigay po sa akin ay mga definition of terms. Ito po ay report ng mga Metro Manila governors na dumaan. Mayroon po ritong panaginip, Metro Manila Greenprint 2030, pero wala po namang sinasabi kung papaano ito masusunod. Papaano ang gagawin ng mga mayors? Ano ang gagawin ng mga barangay? Wala po. Ang sa kanila ay basta't masabi lamang na mayroon silang puwesto at mayroon silang kapangyarihan, which I am today, questioning the wisdom and the practicality thereof. Wala pong naitutulong ang sistema ngayon kaya hindi po dapat bigyan pa ng kapangyarihan.

The traffic in Metro Manila is one big mess simply because wala silang talagang tunay na plano na sinusunod. Parang ito ay day-to-day capricious, whimsical and discretionary, kung ano ang gustong ipagawa ng Chairman, kung sino man siya. Chairman Lim has been appointed, and I am still awaiting—to wait and listen to his vision and plan that we can all support. Why? The other Chairmen did not have any and so, today's Chairman is no different because he probably feels na “Tumatakbo naman itong gobyerno natin, na araw-araw ako ay nagsasabi kung ano ang gagawin at sinusunod naman. Maski mali ay masusunod po.”

Naalala ko si Chairman Fernando, nag-isip siya ng magandang traffic scheme on his own, by himself. Kalaban niya ang Department of Public Works, kalaban niya ang buong Gabinete pero ipinilit niya at nagkaroon tayo ng elevated U-turn. Dito lang po sa Metro Manila mayroon niyan, ang elevated U-turn. Hindi po gumamit ng clover leaf, hindi ginamit iyong pondo para magkaroon ng mas malaking gamit. Ipinilit niya iyong kanyang gusto, itong elevated U-turn ay nangyari, at makikita ninyo po ngayon iyon sa C-5, sa kaliwa't kanan, para tayong mayroong elevated skating rink, papanhik kayo para makabalik kayo. Sana man lang ay pinakinabangan natin iyong daan-daang milyon na ginastos doon.

My point, Mme. Speaker, is that adding more powers in the hands of the Metro Manila Development Chairman or to the MMDA, the Metro Manila Development Authority, is not going to be a step forward but rather, 10 steps backward. If you genuinely want to improve the lives of Metro Manilans, let us reshape, let us restructure. Baguhin po natin ang sistema sa Metro Manila and at this point in time, we know very well that

elections are still the best way to come up with the best among our people.

Lahat po tayo ay nandito ngayon sapagkat inihalal tayo. Sila ay nasa Metro Manila Development Authority dahil na-appoint sila, but an appointed official will automatically be not in consonance with the democratic system. As you mentioned, and I agree, local autonomy dictates that local government units are supreme in planning anything for themselves, so, papaano po kung ipagpapatuloy pa natin ito? Huwag na lang nating galawin ito until federalization comes into the picture and then, Metro Manila will truly enjoy the character of a democratic structure that will be very responsive to the needs of our people.

Anyway, we will be discussing federalism shortly as I am inclined to support it. I would suggest na itabi na muna natin ito, Mr. Sponsor, Congressman Fernando and let us wait for the federalization law to be passed and to become a reality. Then, Metro Manila can fully enjoy the character of a region that is managed and planned well and handled properly by the elected officials who will be running it.

Ano po ba ang thinking ni Congressman Fernando sa federalization, for example?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The distinguished author will please respond.

REP. FERNANDO. Maraming salamat po sa mga nabanggit ninyo, at sana ay nakasama ko kayo doon sa MMDA ng mas maraming panahon at ako ay nagabayan ninyo sa lahat ng pagkakataon. Dangan nga lang at dahilan sa kakulangan nga ng batas na siyang pinanghahawakan ng MMDA, ay hindi naging sapat at sa bandang huli, ang mismong mga mayor, ang mga local governments, ay nawalan na rin ng interes sa ating MMDA. Dahil na nga roon, hindi nila makita kung ano ang lakas nito dahil nga doon sa limitasyon sa maraming bagay. Unang-una na nga ay iyong local autonomy at ang pangalawa ay maraming mga ahensiya ang nag-usurp, they usurped the powers or the work of the MMDA.

Katulad na lang po ng nabanggit ninyo tungkol sa railroad, ang MMDA po ay hindi makapakialam diyan. Mayroon po tayong Department of Transportation na siyang humahawak niyan. Lahat po ng mga iyan, mga railroads, MRT, LRT, iyan pong ating mga Skyways, dapat po iyan lahat ay sa MMDA. Sadya pong tama ang inyong sinabi na dapat ang MMDA ang gumawa niyan, dangan nga lang po at may mga mas malalaking ahensiya na mas may mga tao sapagkat limitasyon po sa budget din ang aming suliranin.

Naalala ko tuloy, nabanggit ninyo iyong sa may airport po, ang tawag ko po doon ay *Circulo del Mundo*, so that those who are going out of the country may have a last glimpse of Metro Manila, of the Philippines. If

they drop by, there will be some things there or probably, they can have their pictures taken before they enter the airport. To build that one, we did a lot of work to have that elliptical circle there, to at least ease the traffic in the area which, by now, has actually helped. Without it, the traffic in that place would have been horrendous. I removed a barangay hall there. I removed a church. I removed a warehouse in that area just to create that space. It was a barren space and so, we decided to put up a little monument, a *Circulo de Obrero*, the chosen design of which was based on a competition. We invited great artists of the country to decide and choose the best design presented to us and it came out to be what you saw. I am sorry if it did not meet your taste or your requirement but at least, give us the credit of having labored to have it. Now, because of this need to pass a Skyway through there, the dispensation at that time decided to remove the monument. I do not know what happened to it but that was actually removed so that the Skyway in front of the airport can pass through. Had they moved that monument about a few meters away, we could have saved it kasi sayang. Ako po ay nanghihinayang talaga pero wala po tayong magawa dahil hindi ko na po panahon.

Noong isang linggo, iyan din ang inyong nasabi nga: “Bakit walang continuity? Bakit nagkakaganoon?” Ito na nga po siguro marahil ang sasagot sa katanungan na iyon. With this measure, we are now involving no less than the councilors of each local government composing Metro Manila and there are about 286 councilors of Metro Manila who will now know and be part of this decision making for Metro Manila. So, they will protect the interests of Metro Manila and although our terms may not coincide, we have a better assurance of continuity, a better assurance that good things will be institutionalized for all of us to benefit from.

Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for all that you said, and I can assure you that in my eight years of experience with the MMDA, this is the thing that we were looking for before. This is actually the very thing, the very solution that we needed during our time in the MMDA. We were there together.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Chair, can I ask the Gentleman a very simple, straight question—Is he supportive of the federalism that is now being foisted over the country as a possible improvement in our structure of government? Is he in favor or is he not in favor? Huwag na po nating ipaliwanag.

REP. FERNANDO. Mme. Speaker...

REP. ATIENZA. Kayo po ba ay in favor of federalism or not ?

REP. FERNANDO. I think it is too early for that question as it is still being tackled by the Committee in this Chamber. I will wait for the results of their studies before I say anything about it, but one thing about this measure, this setup may probably be a good model on our part. If there will be federalism or whatever structure, this would be a good way to help make decisions for us, but that is too early to say at this point and so, let us give it a try as soon as possible, before any of these talks about federalism finally come to fruition.

So, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, we are planning to change the system. I think that change is prevalent in this Chamber and in the country, and no less than the President is pushing for that.

This measure before us today is a measure that will be contradicting the spirit of federalism. Why? Because we will have an appointed set of officers in Metro Manila, while the rest of the regions will elect their officers. Iyon po ang sinasabi ko. Huwag na nilang ipilit ito sapagkat baka mga ilang buwan lamang, ito ay ma-overtake na ng federalism. Hindi naman papayag ang Metro Manilans na dito lamang walang halalan, Ang sabi, lahat ng rehiyon sa buong bansa ay magkakaroon ng halalan, tapos, sa Metro Manila ay wala dahil ipinasa natin itong measure ni Congressman Fernando—although well-meaning, it is out of tune, out of character and definitely, not needed at this point in time.

Isipin natin forward—mabubuo ang federal system of government, mabubuo ang mga regional governments, tapos, Metro Manila will remain in the hands of the Metro Manila Development Authority? Baka hindi pumayag ang mga tao diyan at matalo tuloy sa plebisito iyong federalism. Huwag na natin ipilit ito ngayon at maghintay tayo ng kaunti. Nagtiis na tayo ng 42 taon, 42 years of existence ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and now, mamadaliin natin in one measure to provide more permanence to it? I am sure the Senators will not agree with that notion, and I am sure the people will not agree to that idea. This Representation does not agree with it, and that is why we are pushing a serious objection by way of interpellation to expose the weakness of what is going on. Wala silang pagpa-plano. Ang gusto nila ay kapangyarihan, higit pang kapangyarihan kung maaari. Huwag naman. Magpakita naman sila ng kaunting kakayahan at sumunod sila sa layunin ng batas. This agency was created so that the planning of Metro Manila will be organized and handled by one body, and that is the MMDA. But they are not involved in planning, Mme. Speaker, they are involved with day-to-day corruption in the streets of Metro Manila. That is why the main tasks of this agency are not attended to. Ang problema natin sa baha dumarating na, ang problema natin sa mga lansangan, ang kaligtasan ng ating mamamayan.

Ang sabi niya ay wala raw silang kinalaman sa mass transport system. Wrong. Basahin lang ninyo ang creation ng MMDA. Transportation and mass transport are major features of its creation. Everything that is precisely expected of them by the public is anchored on effective planning of the transportation needs of our people, effective communications for our people. Huwag nilang sabihing wala silang pakialam sa efficiency ng ating Internet. The despicable condition of our communications in Metro Manila is another responsibility of an agency tasked with the development and the future of this region.

I would say, Mme. Speaker, huwag na nating bigyan ng paraan na ito ay maaksyunan ngayon. Hintayin natin ang federalization at parating na po iyan. No one can say that it is just an idea because it is an idea that is already gaining ground in the country, and being pushed by no less than this Congress and the President of the land. As I had said, we will be among those who will consider it seriously because it is supposed to improve the quality of life for everyone. If Metro Manila is exempted from that change of the structure, I am sure Metro Manilans will reject it altogether.

With that, I am appealing to the Gentleman not to use again his character of just pushing for what he believes in passionately, like what happened to us in many, many ways. I can count with both hands the failures of governance in Metro Manila simply because the system is defective. I am not ready to criticize Bayani Fernando in particular, but I would rather blame the system that we would like now to even give more powers. Sana ay magisip-isip tayo, mga minamahal kong mga kagalang-galang na Miyembro ng Kongreso. This measure is not the answer to the problems of Metro Manilans. It will aggravate them more, and this will fall heavily on their shoulders and we will all be blamed later on. Bakit natin ipinasa ang isang measure na hindi naman nagbibigay ng solusyon, bagkus, lalo pang gagamit ng kapangyarihan na wala naman sa lugar.

Maraming, maraming salamat po. Thank you for the opportunity and I wish my good friend will still consider me as a friend and although we have very serious fundamental differences, I consider him a Filipino with passion; but the problem is, he is holding on to a defective structure.

Salamat po.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Lone District of Navotas City, Rep. Tobias "Toby" M. Tiangco for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Gentleman from the Lone District of Navotas, the Hon. Toby Tiangco, is recognized.

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker, may I know if the honorable Sponsor, the Gentleman from Marikina, is willing to yield to some questions?

REP. FERNANDO. I will yield to the Gentleman, Mme. Speaker.

REP. TIANGCO. First of all, Mme. Speaker, I want to know why my name was included in House Bill No. 5057 when I do not remember signing any co-sponsorship for this measure?

REP. FERNANDO. Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. FERNANDO. I am sorry. The name of the Gentleman should not have been listed there. I know for a fact that he did not sign as coauthor as the 30 other Congressmen from Metro Manila did. His name should be stricken off that list. I am sorry, my dear colleague.

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker, I am in support of any measure that will strengthen and hasten the delivery of services to Metro Manila residents. Mme. Speaker, the reason I did not sign this is I doubt the constitutionality of the powers that they want the MMDA to have. I will read the key provision of this measure, Mme. Speaker, on the council in issuing ordinances. Based on our Constitution, Mme. Speaker, Article X on Local Government, Sections 1 and 2 of the General Provisions states:

Section 1. The territorial and political subdivisions of the Republic of the Philippines are the provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays. There shall be autonomous regions in Muslim Mindanao, and the Cordilleras as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 2. The territorial and political subdivisions shall enjoy local autonomy.

Ang sinasabi ho diyan, ang mga probinsiya, siyudad, munisipalidad at barangay ay dapat may local autonomy. Gusto ko hong tanungin ang Sponsor ng Bill na ito kung papaano ho magkakaroon ng kapangyarihan gumawa ng ordinansa ang MMDA kung ang MMDA ho ay hindi naman isang political subdivision?

REP. FERNANDO. Mme. Speaker, my dear colleague, I heard that sometime or when Metro Manila

was conceived and made a region, consolidated by then President Marcos, there was a plebiscite conducted, and if I remember it right, I did vote for that in that plebiscite.

With that, I think the question of Metro Manila being in limbo, because—no, I think, it has not come to any conclusion but in essence, with that plebiscite, it made Metro Manila. I am not a lawyer, I am not too good or too familiar with these things but on that basis, I would say Metro Manila may have it.

In any case, the MMDA Law prescribed or in that law, the MMDA was given, in its mandate, to make and pass ordinances on certain matters. As an example, the MMDA is mandated to put up a single-ticketing system for Metro Manila and relative to that, the MMDA can make rules, regulations, policies, collect fines and pass ordinances. So, in that particular instance, the MMDA was given that authority to pass ordinances. In so many instances, I think that in the Charter of the MMDA, if I remember it right, in many occasions, it can pass ordinances. Unfortunately, in a certain case in the past which the MMDA lost, the Supreme Court, in its decision, may have not looked or may not have seen this provision and so, they declared that the MMDA may not have that power to make ordinances. In some other courts, it was accepted.

I think the issue on corruption in the roadways, as mentioned by the previous speaker, may be a good case in point. That issue, that thing would have been solved by a single ticketing system coupled by the no-contact traffic apprehension policy. If you will look at it, the main problem of Metro Manila's traffic is discipline, and that system would have solved it. That would have been done if we had the single ticketing system in place 24 years ago when the MMDA Law was passed. We would have, maybe, the most disciplined drivers or road users in Metro Manila, but it did not happen. Now, we are still hearing about the no-contact traffic apprehension policy and the MMDA is still using it, but I just do not want to talk about it. I do not want people to realize that it is in limbo in the courts. We were allowed to use it for a time but I do not know if it had been perfected or we have resolved that issue in court. But by this measure now, that issue will be resolved because it is the local government which has that power to pass ordinances and will basically decide on every ordinance that the Metro Manila Council may pass. So, that will resolve that issue. In so many instances, with that, the MMDA Council will find its worth or may find that it may be the best tool for Metro Manila that can be of use in every local government, to every mayor, everybody in this metropolis. That is the value, that is the importance of this measure. It is precisely an answer to the predicament of the Gentleman.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Tiangco is recognized.

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker, before I proceed, we have a one-hour rule, but my question took only two minutes and his answer took six minutes. If we will follow the one-hour rule, I will have lesser minutes than the Gentleman from Marikina and so, I hope we will be liberal on this one-hour rule just for this. Otherwise, I would request that we stop the clock when I will finish my questioning, and he can answer for whenever or however long he wants to.

Anyway, Mme. Speaker, I would like to reply to my colleague. The status of Metro Manila is not in limbo. The Metro Manila Commission was in effect until after the 1987 Constitution because the 1987 Constitution clearly stated the political subdivisions. So, it is not in limbo. So, Metro Manila—the MMDA as of now—is a special development and administrative region. Any ordinance passed by the MMDA will be in violation of the local autonomy provision of the Constitution. Second, Mme. Speaker, dear colleague, you mentioned that there are many decisions and you said something about the Supreme Court decision. Whether we like it or not, Mme. Speaker, dear colleague, the Supreme Court decision becomes part of the law of the land. So, the Supreme Court already, in fact, interpreted whether the MMDA has the authority or can be given the authority to make ordinances or not.

I just want to ask my dear colleague a very simple question: Is the honorable Sponsor aware that in the past, there was already an attempt by Congress to give to the MMDA the ordinance-making power?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Fernando will please respond.

REP. FERNANDO. I have no knowledge on that, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Tiangco is recognized.

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker, if my dear colleague has no knowledge about that attempt, I think that is the reason they are having this Bill that will give the MMDA the ordinance-making power. In the Tenth Congress, Mme. Speaker, the Honorable Belmonte, our former Speaker, tried to give the MMDA the ordinance-making power but at that time, the Chairman of the Local Government Committee stated that the MMDA is not a political subdivision and therefore, could not be given the ordinance-making power. Now, maybe, the honorable author will say "But that is the opinion," but that opinion, Mme. Speaker, has been that exact exchange and the deliberations of the Committee were exactly cited by the Supreme Court when they decided on *MMDA vs Bel-Air*.

Can you show the slide please, page 15. (*Slide presentation*) Mme. Speaker, this is page 15. It is the same as the one I quoted. This is then Chairman Alfeloro of the Local Government Committee and he stated, “There are only six political subdivisions provided for in the Constitution: barangay, municipality, city, province, and we have the Autonomous Regions of Muslim Mindanao and CAR.” So, we have six now.

On page 17, and this is the most important thing, I think our author will realize that the Supreme Court upheld this, so, he will realize that the MMDA, no matter how much we want, cannot be given the ordinance-making power.

Page 17, please. Okay, Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr., and I quote:

Yes, I believe so, Your Honor, when we say that it has policies, it was very clear that those policies must be followed, otherwise, what is the use of empowering it to come out with policies. Now, the policies maybe in the form of a resolution, it may be in the form of an ordinance. The term “ordinance” in this case really gives it with more teeth, Your Honor. Otherwise, we are going to see a situation where you have the power to adopt the policy but you cannot really make it stick [strict] as in the case now. I think, here is Chairman Bunye. I think he will agree that what is the case now, you got the power to set a policy. The Body wants to follow your policy, then we say, let us call it an ordinance and see if they will not follow.

So, Mme. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, even in the Tenth Congress, the Honorable Belmonte already wanted to give the MMDA the ordinance-making power. But what did the Chairman, the Hon. Ciriaco Alfeloro say?

THE CHAIRMAN: That is very nice. I like that. However, there is a constitutional impediment. You are making this MMDA a political subdivision. The creation of the MMDA would be subject to a plebiscite. That is what I am trying to avoid. I have been trying to avoid this kind of predicament. Under the Constitution, it states: i it is a political subdivision, once it is created it has to be subject to a plebiscite. I am trying to make this administrative. That is why we placed the Chairman as a cabinet rank.

So, Mme. Chair, honorable Sponsor, it has been decided already by the Supreme Court that we cannot give the ordinance-making power to the MMDA whether we want to or not because they quoted the deliberations on the case between *MMDA vs. Bel Air*. So, we cannot do it even if we want to, Mme. Chair.

REP. FERNANDO. Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. FERNANDO. The Bill precisely is not asking for the MMDA Council to have the ordinance-making power. It is giving actually whatever it may have, it is surrendering to the local government units through their Sanggunian’s. We have 17 local government units in Metro Manila. The Bill, any measure that the MMDA wants after approval by the majority of the Council, will be forwarded to each local government unit for them to vote on it and to signify their acceptance or disapproval of it. And the majority will then be the law, and the Metro Manila Council, after the vote, will only promulgate that decision of that local government council. So, it is not asking for any ordinance-making power.

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker. I will read from the Fact Sheet.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). One by one please. Has the honorable Sponsor finished?

REP. FERNANDO. Is there any line in the measure or in the Bill that says that it is asking for any ordinance-making power?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Tiangco is recognized.

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker, I will read the Fact Sheet of House Bill No. 6973:

Key Provisions:

- Mandates the Metro Manila Council to issue ordinances that shall have the full force and effect of law in Metro Manila.

So, it is the Fact Sheet that says so, it is the Fact Sheet. I was not the one who said it. So how can the Fact Sheet—and here, I will read the measure: House Bill No. 6973, AN ACT ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE METRO MANILA COUNCIL IN FORMULATING POLICIES, RULES, AND 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”.

It is the title of the Bill that says so.

REP. CASTELO. Mme. Presiding Officer, may I ask to be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Hon. Winston “Winnie” Castelo is recognized.

REP. CASTELO. Thank you very much, Mme. Presiding Officer.

We welcome the manifestation of the good Representative from Navotas but I would like to allay his fears that nothing was said in any provision of the proposed Bill that would denigrate the power of the local government or even empower the Metro Manila Council to have legislative functions. They are nowhere in the Bill. In fact, we are very aware of the *Bel Air vs. MMDA*. That is why during the deliberations on the said measure, we tried to skirt and even comply with that jurisprudence from the Supreme Court.

In fact, Mme. Presiding Officer, what is stated in the proposed Bill is only, “Any member of the Metro Manila Council may propose any policies.” If it achieved a majority of the proposal, it would be subjected to a ratification from the Sanggunian concerned.

So, rest assured, former Mayor of Navotas, that nothing in the Bill will be unconstitutional. We will respect the constitutional provision on giving powers to the LGUs; we will not interfere on the local legislation of any local government unit. What is only being asked by the proposed Bill is for the members of the Metro Manila Council to be empowered to propose policies; and said policies, if voted upon by majority of the members of the Council, will still be subjected to a vote of the majority of the Sanggunian. So, we are not usurping the powers of the Sanggunian in the proposed Bill, Mme. Presiding Officer.

Why is this necessary? Because, there is no holistic, there is no comprehensive approach, on any problem, that is mandated to be under the powers of the MMDA. For example, the bus terminals, iba-iba po ang mga requirements ng mga LGUs. Pagdating po sa mga Metro traffic, ang traffic code ng Manila is different from the traffic code of Makati. Just to emphasize, EDSA alone traverses about 10 kilometers and there are about 10 cities that traverse EDSA. Iba-iba po ang mga traffic code ho dito, wala pong unified, wala pong comprehensive, wala pong holistic. So, this is the intention, Mme. Presiding Officer. Sa basura ganiyan din po, iba-iba po ang mga patakaran ho dito.

So, we have to address this issue and it is only through this Bill that can we stop that problem in delivering the basic services to the residents of Metro Manila.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Tobias “Toby” M. Tiangco is recognized.

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker, first of all, the previous Speaker said that they were not asking for the ordinance-making power. I read it and he has not said anything, and then I have another Sponsor, while he has not replied yet.

The earlier Sponsor said that they were not asking for the ordinance-making power. I read the exact text of the Bill, it says, “enact ordinances.” What does “enact ordinances” mean? Does it not mean that you are asking for the power to enact ordinances? Ano pa ba ang ibig sabihin noong “enact ordinance”? Eh di gumawa ng ordinance. Eh sinabi na nga noong Supreme Court ruling, hindi pupuwedeng gumawa ng ordinance. Ano pa iyong sinasabi natin na hindi unconstitutional, eh sinabi na nga ng Supreme Court na unconstitutional iyon?

REP. CASTELO. Well, I think the intention of the authors here is to basically empower all the members of the Metro Manila Council. However, what is different right now is the means. The means would now be compliant with the provisions of the Constitution, Mme. Presiding Officer.

So, we assure the Gentleman from Navotas, Mme. Presiding Officer, that his point is very well-taken, we agree with him, we respect the jurisprudence of the Supreme Court with respect to *Bel Air vs. MMDA*. I assure the good Representative that nothing in the proposed Bill would trample upon the rights of local government units or even the Sanggunian on its power to legislate.

It is still vested on them. However, binaligtad lamang ho namin, ang nag-emanate ngayon ho ito sa mga mayors or iyong tinatawag po nating Metro Manila Council. Kasi, dati ho, lahat po ng mga inaaprubahan ng mga Metro Manila Council resolutions ay hindi po inaaksyunan. So, the purpose of the proposed Bill is to mandate that the Sanggunian take into action lahat po ng mga inaprubahan po na mga resolutions ng Metro Manila Council. Kasi dati po, right now, as we are speaking, ‘no, whatever is approved there, it has no force and effect of a law, hindi po pinapansin ng mga LGUs. In fact, iyong No Smoking ban ay in-implement na po ng mga Metro Manila mayors, however, it needs presidential intervention to be complied with by all residents of Metro Manila.

Noong nagkaroon po ng problema po ng mga traffic code, ‘no, iba-iba pa ho. So, hiwa-hiwalay po pero iisa lamang po ang mga involved, iyong mga Metro Manila residents. So, I hope the good Representative, who is a former Mayor, a very good Mayor at that, will also consider the beauty and the intention of the proposed Bill.

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Tiangco is recognized.

REP. TIANGCO. ... hindi ho sinasagot iyong tanong ko e. Iyon bang Bill na ito ay binibigyan ng kapangyarihan na gumawa ng ordinansa ang MMDA o hindi?

REP. CASTELO. Well, the intention is “yes”. However, may problema ho, ‘di ba? Iyong *Bel-Air vs. MMDA*. So, we have to comply with that. We agreed that the legal jurisprudence in *MMDA vs. Bel-Air* will be compliant with the proposed Bill.

So, yes, in effect. Strictly speaking, technically speaking, yes, that was the intention because we have to address all the problems that way beset Metro Manila—problems on garbage, problems on traffic, problems on peace and order. However, we have not been effective dahil inutil po iyong Metro Manila Council. Their hands are tied because wala pong mga compliance.

So, we tried to ensure that the proposal or the policies shall be complied with, without violating the Constitution and this is the answer, Mme. Presiding Officer.

REP. TIANGCO. So, ...

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, may we graciously remind ...

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

REP. DEFENSOR. ... may we graciously remind our colleagues to address the Chair as Mme. Speaker instead of Mme. Chair or Mme. Presiding Officer because that is in the Rules, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Thank you, Majority Leader.

The Chair wishes to remind the two Gentlemen to kindly address the Chair as Mme. Speaker.

REP. CASTELO. My apologies.

REP. TIANGCO. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. CASTELO. If I may just qualify it, not only Mme. Chair, but the beautiful Chair—Speaker, the beautiful Speaker, Mme.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Not even the descriptive word ...

REP. DEFENSOR. No, no, no.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). ... beautiful will change the word Chair.

REP. CASTELO. But, you deserve it, Ma’am.

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, again, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The honorable...

REP. DEFENSOR. ... I wish to remind our colleagues, ...

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

REP. DEFENSOR. ... I wish to remind our colleagues to address the Chair as Mme. Speaker or Mr. Speaker and not Mme. Chair because that is in the Rules, that we address the Chair here in plenary as Mme. Speaker.

REP. TIANGCO. Noted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Thank you, Majority Floor Leader. And, I hope that ...

REP. TIANGCO. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). ... that is clarified to both Gentlemen. No need of descriptive words.

REP. TIANGCO. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The honorable Chairman.

REP. CASTELO. Mme. Speaker.

REP. TIANGCO. Yes, may I ask for a qualified answer if it is yes or no.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). At this juncture, because it seems that this issue has been going on without any clear answer and, perhaps, to illustrate the point of the Honorable Tiangco, the Chair wishes to call the attention of the Sponsors to Section 3 which seeks to amend Section 5 of the old law, particularly letter (c), which states, “Undertake and manage on its own metro-wide programs and projects for the delivery of specific services under its jurisdiction, x-x-x.” And, this is the amendment, “x-x-x ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT ORDINANCES AND OTHR

REGULATIONS THAT FALL WITHIN ITS MANDATE, x-x-x.” Would the Honorable Tiangco wish to point to this particular Section?

REP. TIANGCO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, thank you very much. That is precisely the point. It is not only in that Section, Mme. Speaker. There are other Sections where they have mentioned ordinances. But the jurisprudence of the Supreme Court already stated very clearly that the MMDA cannot issue, cannot be given the power to issue ordinances unless we undergo a plebiscite wherein we will make the MMDA a political subdivision. That is the only time, Mme. Speaker, when the MMDA could be given the authority to make ordinances.

So, that is my issue here. Why are we insisting, Mme. Speaker, to give the MMDA the power to issue ordinances when the Supreme Court has clearly ruled against it already, Mme. Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Winston Castelo will respond.

REP. CASTELO. Again, Mme. Speaker, I may sound like a broken record but I would want to reiterate and emphasize once more that nothing in the proposed Bill would empower any member of the Metro Manila Council to have legislative functions.

We admit, that we are not disputing the contention of the former Mayor of Navotas, who is now a good Representative right now, that we are disallowed, the MMDA is disallowed by law to legislate. That is why the proposed Bill makes it imperative right now to make it effective. How can we now be functional and responsive, and efficient in line with the mandate of the MMDA in addressing basic functions?

So, I think, this piece of legislation is so important. This is of paramount concern. If we would want to be responsive, effective, and efficient in giving the mandate, the power to address issues like traffic, garbage, pollution, I think it is high time that we approve this, Mme. Presiding Officer; otherwise, it would be a vicious cycle. Our constituents in Metro Manila cannot bear it anymore. We are spending about P2 billion a day in traffic, in lost precious opportunities. So, I think it is high time now that we consider also after all we contend that there is nothing irregular and illegal in the proposed Bill, Mme. Presiding Officer—Mme. Speaker, Mme. Speaker, I am sorry.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Again, another gentle reminder, kindly address ...

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker.

REP. CASTELO. Mme. Speaker, we apologize.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Thank you, Honorable Castelo.

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Honorable Tiangco.

REP. TIANGCO. He keeps—the honorable Sponsor and the honorable former Chairman of the Metro Manila Development Committee keeps on saying that they are not giving authority, but it is all over the Bill. So, which do we believe, Mme. Speaker?

Section 1, the words “enact ordinances”; Section 3, “adopt and implement ordinances”; Section 6, “prescribe, formulate and issue ordinances”; so, the words “create ordinances”, Mme. Speaker, are all over the Bill, but he is now saying that they are not giving the power to enact ordinances. So, which is correct, what he is saying or what is written on the Bill, Mme. Speaker?

REP. CASTELO. If, Mme. ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Castelo is recognized.

REP. CASTELO. Mme. Speaker, if I may invite the attention of the good Representative from Navotas to page 8 of the proposed Bill, line 14, letter “H”, if I may read, “THE PROPOSED METRO MANILA COUNCIL SHALL DETERMINE IF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE”, proposed po ha, hindi pa ho approved, “IS APPROVED ...

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker, he is not answering the question. My time is ...

REP. CASTELO. I think I—that is the answer. That ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Kindly allow the Honorable Castelo to finish. Please proceed.

REP. CASTELO. That is my answer to the query. However, I am not being allowed to finish my statement.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). No, kindly—please proceed.

REP. CASTELO. Okay.

So, “THE METRO MANILA COUNCIL SHALL DETERMINE IF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE IS APPROVED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL.” If—proposal lang po ha, hindi pa ho ito

approved, “IF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE IS APPROVED, THE METRO MANILA COUNCIL SHALL RATIFY THE APPROVED ORDINANCE BY THE SANGGUNIAN.”

So, in other words, ito po ay—kailangan po ng conformity, kailangan po ng consent, kailangan po ng *imprimatur*, kailangan po ng ratification ng sanggunian.

There is no law, there is no ordinance, there is no resolution that would have the effect of a law unless it is sanctioned by the sanggunian. So, I think, the proposal is compliant with the requirement of the good Representative, unless he has other reasons or personal reasons for not having it approved.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Tiangco is recognized.

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker, I have been standing for 30 minutes but they have not been answering with either yes or no. Anyway, I will just go to another question.

What is the boundary, because according to the proposed Bill, kung tama ako, kapag naaprobahan ito ng karamihan ng sanggunian, ito ay magiging ordinansa. Tama po ba?

REP. FERNANDO. Tama po.

REP. TIANGCO. Okay. Mme. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, ang isang ordinansa na naaprobahan ng isang LGU, hanggang saan ho siya puwede ipatupad?

REP. FERNANDO. If it is not in conflict with that proposal or if ever the proposed ordinance will be in conflict with their own local government ordinance, then that issue needs to be resolved and that local government in interest may participate in the deliberations, in the preparation of that bill before it is passed, before it is put to a vote in that council. So, if they want an exemption, they can ask the Council, and if the Council says, “Give them their exemption,” that is good. If not, then they may have to change. If, finally, the vote of the sanggunian is in favor, if all the 17 sanggunians are in favor of the proposal, then the local government may have to amend their own ordinance because it is now for the general interest, it is a collegial decision that each one has to abide. That is actually the reason, that is the beauty of this measure. We can now see the fulfilment of the dream of that MMDA Law made 24 years ago that, at least, we will have a case in point, a single-ticketing system for Metro Manila, which never happened, because right now we have 17 local governments and we have 17 traffic rules for Metro Manila, 17 systems.

That is precisely why we can see the beauty of this measure. The good speaker, the good colleague was with me in that Council for a long time, and I think he should, by now, realize that we have been paralyzed, we have suffered enough because of the intransigence, because of the difficulty of having a unified mind for Metro Manila. So, that is actually my appeal to my colleague. Let us give it a try. Right now, who will make the laws for Metro Manila? To develop a Metro Manila, we need to have a unified law so we can change our people.

Laws do change the social life of people, the physical and the social environment; they change minds. It is the most compelling thing that we can have laws, laws common to all of us because we live in a small space, 13 million people living in a small space divided by 17 local governments with no boundaries, and so, any individual would not know where he is at any time. If they have different laws, they will get confused and will be at the mercy—because of this, everyone then becomes a victim or target for lagay, kotong and all these things.

Let us consider this measure as the best solution. Actually, in my time as Chairman, I made this proposal to the Committee in this spirit, but it is good that now, we are talking about it. Actually, during the Technical Working Group discussion, the issue of approval was raised. Before, it was actually the Metro Manila Council which approved and the local governments which ratified, but one good councilor from Metro Manila, a member of the Technical Working Group, said, “How can you ratify something which has not been approved?” Finally, we settled to have the local government councils approve, and when it is put to a vote and approved by the majority of the councils, the MMDA and the Metro Manila Council can do nothing but promulgate the decision. That is actually something that we have not tried before. It is innovative; and as the first speaker said earlier, we cannot see anything institutionalized in this Metro Manila but we can have it now. We can institutionalize things through this measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Tiangco is recognized.

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker, ang tanong ko, ang ordinansa ba sa isang lugar, sabihin na natin isang ordinansa sa Marikina, puwede ba ito ipatupad sa Pasig?

REP. FERNANDO. Pakiulit po, Mme. Speaker.

REP. TIANGCO. Ang ordinansa po ba sa Marikina ay puwedeng ipatupad sa Pasig?

REP. FERNANDO. Hindi po, hindi puwede.

REP. TIANGCO. Okay, hindi po pupuwede. Maliwanag ho iyon. Ang gusto nilang mangyari, Mme. Speaker, kapag karamihan ng LGUs sa Metro Manila ay pinasa ang isang ordinansa—sabihin na natin 16 na LGUs, ipinasa ang isang ordinansa, ang ordinansang iyon ay magiging effective pati doon sa siyudad na may kasalungat na ordinansa o hindi nag-approve. So, papaano hindi magiging against the local autonomy ito noong nag-iisang LGU, na iyong 16 na ordinansang ipinagsamasama ninyo ay gusto ninyong ipatupad sa isang LGU na hindi pumayag. Ang ordinansa ninyo ay effective lang doon sa LGU kung saan siya ipinasa. Hindi naman ito addition na pag pinagsama-sama mo ay puwede because the ordinance-making power of the sanggunian is limited to its local government unit.

In Book I of the the Local Government Code, General Provisions, Section 16, states in part:

Section 16. *General Welfare.* – Every local government unit shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, and incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare. Within their respective territorial jurisdictions, local government units shall ensure and support, among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, xxx.

Chapter III on Local Legislation, Section 48, states, and I quote:

Section 48. *Local Legislative Power.* – Local legislative power shall be exercised by the sangguniang panlalawigan for the province; the sangguniang panlungsod for the city; the sangguniang bayan for the municipality; and the sangguniang barangay for the barangay.

With these two provisions, Mme. Chair—sorry, Mme. Speaker, how can you implement an ordinance, assumingly approved by 16 LGUs, to the city where it is not approved? Earlier, the Gentleman already admitted that you cannot approve an ordinance other than that which is within its political boundary, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Sponsor will please respond.

REP. FERNANDO. Mme. Speaker, as the saying goes, “No man is an island” and no city is an island. We are, as I said earlier, a small tract of land with 13 million people, and you cannot just disassociate yourself from the problems of one. It is the collegial decision that binds because if the same thing would happen to another

LGU, then he is also bound by it and he will have to abide. It is a consensus—you are a part of it. With your council having voted, you become a part of it. When the council voted on it, the whole city is bound by it. They are represented by their council. So, everybody in the city is bound by it. It is a collegial decision and failure to abide by it or—may I just read my premise, “The cooperation of all member-LGUs is guaranteed by this. This will also compel member-LGUs to abide by these collegial decisions where wanton disregard may then have legal sanctions.”

This will actually bind everyone of us here in the metropolis. As I said earlier, if they have concerns or they feel that such ordinance will not be applicable to them, they can and they will have to raise it during the deliberations in the preparation of that ordinance. Now, because of this, the local governments will be more vigilant. I have experienced, during my term of eight years, that I can hardly get a quorum of local governments to attend meetings of the Metro Manila Council. With this, I think every local government council will never fail to attend, or at least send their representatives to participate. Their vigilance is their protection of their interest and failing in it, they cannot do anything about it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Tiangco is recognized.

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker, the effect of adding up all the ordinances and saying that this will be effective for the whole Metro Manila is going beyond the bounds or limitations of the approval of the ordinance because the ordinance is only approved to be implemented within the LGU that passed it. It does not mean, Mme. Speaker, that just because more LGUs will pass it, you can implement it in an LGU that does not pass it. That is contrary to local autonomy, Mme. Speaker.

I do not know why we cannot—we both have been Mayors-- I do not know why we have different interpretations of local autonomy. When the Gentleman already replied earlier that an ordinance in Marikina cannot be implemented in Pasig, I do not know why, when you add it all up, you can now implement an ordinance approved in the whole Metro Manila, approved by the majority of the Metro Manila LGUs, you can now implement it in Pasig which did not approve it. Of course, I am just using these two LGUs as examples to illustrate that it will be against local autonomy, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Sponsor will please respond.

REP. FERNANDO. Mme. Speaker, we both have been Mayors and we were together in the Metro

Manila Council. The laws—everything we do—are actually affected by the political situation in our local communities. Sometimes, we need the MMDA to do the unpalatable things. Those that would have political repercussions, it is best that these be tossed to the Metro Manila Council to save the local government from that political risk. So, this is actually one thing, the most important aspect on the dynamics of laws and politics in this country, and the way you implement things. These are very much affected by the political exigencies.

I would ask our esteemed colleague to, at least, consider. Based on my experience, I would be called upon by the local governments to demolish some illegal structures in their areas. I can do it because I am shielded as I am not part of the political scale or dynamics in that particular community. This is the same, as in demolition or whatever, also laws. Some local councils cannot do it by themselves but they have to. Now, they have a bigger council where they can do it for the good of their own constituency, for their self-serving interests.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Tiangco is recognized.

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker, there is no argument as to whether we want a better Metro Manila, whether we want garbage to be solved, whether we want a unified traffic system. There is no argument there, Mme. Speaker, but in whatever we do, tayo lahat dito, it is our sworn duty, Mme. Speaker, to uphold the Constitution at all times. So, whatever law we will pass should be in accordance with the Constitution. Iyon lang naman ho ang sinasabi ko. The Constitution guarantees local autonomy. The Constitution has stated that there are political subdivisions and since the MMDA is not a political subdivision, the power we want to give the MMDA will be unconstitutional. There are no shortcuts here. Even in the decision of *MMDA vs. Bel Air*, the honorable Justice Puno already stated that there are no shortcuts. He said that, not infrequently, the government is tempted to take legal shortcuts to solve urgent problems of the people, but even when the government is armed with best intentions, it cannot run roughshod over the rule of law. Iyan lang ho ang punto ko dito.

Okay, matatapos na ho ang oras ko. Ano ba ang ligal na paraan para makagawa ng ordinansa o batas ang Metro Manila na hindi lalabag sa Konstitusyon? Tatlong paraan ang naiisip ko. Iyong isa ay kapag itong proposal ng MMDA ay ipinasa sa lahat ng LGU, puwede nilang ipatupad iyan sa buong Metro Manila, ngunit ang sinasabi nga, and to be practical about it, mahirap talagang ipasa doon sa lahat ng LGU. So, mahirap ho ang proposal na iyon, ngunit hindi dahil mahirap ay dapat palitan natin ng ibang sistema na majority na lang dahil, again, it will be against the local autonomy

of the sanggunian or the LGU that did not approve it; and again, the local government that approved that ordinance, the ordinance is only effective within its territorial and political boundaries.

There are two left, Mme. Speaker. Iyan ang hindi ko maintindihan, bakit hindi natin ito ginagawa? Ang dapat hong gawin ng MMDA, kung ano iyong batas na gusto nilang gawin, ipasa nila sa Kongreso at imungkahi nila. Kaya nga tayo ay mayroong Committee on Metro Manila Development at iyan ho ang gagawa ng batas na epektibo sa Metro Manila. Diyan ho, walang lalabagin na constitutional provision because Congress is mandated to do this job, and we have to do this job. Ang problema ay wala naman hong pinapasa iyong Metro Manila Development Authority sa atin na mga iminumungkahing batas pero iyan ho ang isang paraan.

Ang pangalawang paraan ho ay sinaad na ng Kostitusyon sa Section 11. Dahil nga ho ang political subdivisions, according to Section 1, ay probinsiya, siyudad, munisipalidad, barangay, nagkaroon ho ng Section 11 ang Konstitusyon which states in part that, “The Congress may, by law, create special metropolitan political subdivision, subject to a plebiscite as set forth in Section 10 hereof.”

So, we just have to make a choice: Alin ba ang gusto natin, mag-propose iyong MMDA ng batas, didinggin ng Metro Manila Development Committee, imumungkahi katulad nito, ipapasa ng Second Reading, magiging batas sa Metro Manila, or gusto ba nating gawing political subdivision ang Metro Manila.

Iyan ho ang sinasabi ko, Mme. Speaker. I am not against what is good for Metro Manila pero ang importante lang ho, dahil sa ating sinumpaang katungkulan, sinumpaang natin na itataguyod natin ang Konstitusyon, dapat ho ang kahit anong batas ang ipasa natin dito ay hindi lalabag sa alituntunin ng ating Saligang Batas. Iyon lang po, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The distinguished Sponsor, do you wish to respond?

REP. FERNANDO. I do not think it is a choice, Mme. Speaker. That choice should have been decided by this Congress in the past. The MMDA Law has been there for 24 years, but has anyone touched it? There may be so many beautiful things that we can do about it but until now, we do not have any. So, I would say, at this particular time, Congress actually passed on to the MMDA that something which it cannot do because of the so many things to handle in passing laws—passing traffic laws for Metro Manila, passing garbage laws and all these things. So, it is actually passed on to the MMDA to make instead of Congress. The good speaker has been here in Congress for his third term and so, he

should know how long it will take to get a law passed in Congress.

So, the first option, I think, is not valid. The second option, I do not think it will ever happen in this decade because of those so many things. That is why I still find the MMDA Law a good law, but it may have infirmities; so, exactly why we have this Bill to make it more relevant, to make it more effective. That is the intent of this measure.

Well, anyway, we would like to thank the Gentleman. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Gentleman from Navotas, do you wish to continue with your interpellation?

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker, as I said earlier, it is a sworn duty to uphold the Constitution. I cannot agree to passing a bill that has provisions that are contrary to the Constitution. I have given the Gentleman and the honorable colleague of mine, who was my Chairman in the MMDA, enough time to explain why the provision allowing the MMDA to issue ordinances is not unconstitutional and why, even if the Supreme Court already has ruled and specifically said that the MMDA cannot be given the ordinance-making power, they have not proven why it is not against the Constitution or they have not proven why it is constitutional.

Therefore, Mme. Speaker, I move for the recommitment of the measure to the Committee on Metro Manila Development.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move for a suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is suspended.

It was 6:04 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:07 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Tiangco is recognized.

REP. TIANGCO. I respectfully withdraw my motion to recommit the measure to the Committee.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). It is duly noted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6973

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 6973.

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

The consideration of House Bill No. 6973 is hereby suspended.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is suspended.

It was 6:08 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:10 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6775 *Continuation*

PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

REP. DEFENSOR. We are still on Unfinished Business.

Mme. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 6775, and 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. 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. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo to sponsor the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Hon. XJ Romualdo is recognized.

REPROMUALDO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. We are now ready to receive proposed amendments.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, the parliamentary status of this measure is that we are already in the period of amendments and with that, I move that we introduce Committee amendments.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, since there are no Committee amendments, I move that we consider individual amendments.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Ron P. Salo to propose individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Hon. Ron Salo is recognized.

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

May I respectfully inquire whether the Chairman is willing to accept certain individual amendments?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The honorable Sponsor is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Gladly, Mme. Speaker.

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

INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

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

I respectfully move for the following amendments, Your Honor:

On page 1, line 11, to delete the word “private” between the article “the” and the word “sector,” and in lieu thereof, insert the word RELEVANT, and to the word “sector, ” to add S, so, SECTORS.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. May we know if this is acceptable to the Sponsor?

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

REP. ROMUALDO. We accept, Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve the individual amendment proposed by the Honorable Salo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the individual amendment of the Honorable Salo is hereby approved.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, I respectfully move also for an amendment on page 2, line 28, to insert the word LIVELIHOOD after the word “education” and the comma (,).

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

REP. DEFENSOR. May we know, Mme. Speaker, if this is acceptable to the Sponsor?

REP. ROMUALDO. We accept, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve the individual amendment as proposed by the Hon. Ron Salo.

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

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, I respectfully move also for the amendment on page 2, line 29, to delete the conjunction “and” between the words “food” and “nutrition” and in lieu thereof, to insert a COMMA (,); as well as on the same page and the same line, to insert a comma (,) and the phrase AND OTHER BASIC SERVICES after the word “nutrition.”

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, may we know if this is acceptable to the Sponsor?

REP. ROMUALDO. We accept, Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve the individual amendment proposed by the Hon. Ron Salo.

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

REP. SALO. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker. Those are all my individual amendments.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, there being no other 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; the motion is approved.

The period of individual amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 6775, as amended.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). We shall now vote.

As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 6775, as amended, 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. 6775, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6775, as amended, is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move for a suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is suspended.

It was 6: 15 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:15 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is resumed.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1522

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1522, contained in Committee Report No. 578, as reported out by the Committee on Poverty Alleviation.

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. 1522, entitled: A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) TO HASTEN THE PROCESS

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

OF IMPROVING THE TARGETING OF BENEFICIARIES SO AS TO LESSEN PROGRAM LEAKAGE; TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DELIVERY OF SOCIAL PROTECTION/WELFARE SERVICES TO 4Ps BENEFICIARIES; AND TO IMMEDIATELY LIFT THE SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION OF NEW BENEFICIARIES OF THE PANTAWID FAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps).

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

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1522

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1522.

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

House Resolution No. 1522 is hereby adopted.

REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

REP. DEFENSOR. 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:

House Resolution No. 1265 - inquiry re the violent dispersal by the Philippine National Police (PNP) of the residents of Barangay Manggahan, Pasig City, and the plight of the residents in the area, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;

House Resolution No. 1275 - inquiry re the illegal dismissal of workers under the Samahan ng Manggagawa ng Sorosoro Ibaba Development, Feedmill (SMSIDC-Liga Batangas) and the continuing practice of contractualization of labor of the Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative - Feedmill Plant (SIDC-FEEDMILL) in Brgy. Sorosoro Karsada, Batangas City, to the Committee on Labor and Employment;

House Resolution No. 1276 - inquiry re the reason for inaction on the seven year-old petition of OFWs in Cyprus to initiate the forging of a bilateral social security agreement between the governments of the Philippines and Cyprus, with the end in view of finally getting the desired agreement soonest, to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;

House Resolution No. 1277 - inquiry re the reported irresponsible dumping of wastewater by some establishments in Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan to the detriment of the clean and clear waters of the world class tourism destination, to the Committee on Tourism;

House Resolution No. 1582 - inquiry re Sandra Cam's allegations of lavish expenditure in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's Christmas party, to

the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability; and

House Resolution No. 1583 - inquiry re study on the implementation of the public utility vehicle modernization program of the government, to the Committee on Transportation.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the aforementioned House Resolutions are hereby committed to the appropriate Committees.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, there being no other items in the agenda, I move that we adjourn the session until ...

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is suspended.

It was 6:17 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:18 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is resumed.

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mme. Speaker, in the meantime, I would like to withdraw my earlier motion to adjourn for the Additional Reference of Business.

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

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

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

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following Committee Report, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding reference:

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report by the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Committee Report No. 594), re H.R. No. 1636, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL SCIENTIFIC

RESEARCH AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES
ON THE AREA EAST OF LUZON KNOWN
AS THE PHILIPPINE RISE, INCLUDING THE
MARINE EXPLORATION FOR MINERAL
DEPOSITS AND OTHER RESOURCES
THEREIN WHICH MAY BE USED AS
ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY”
recommending its adoption in substitution of House
Resolution No. 45
Sponsor: Representative Go (A.C.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that
we adjourn the session until February 5, 2018, at four
o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The
session is adjourned until Monday, February 5, at four
o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 6:19 p.m.