



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17th CONGRESS, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

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Tuesday, February 6, 2018

No. 59

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Bai Sandra Sinsuat A. Sema called the session to order.

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Everybody is requested to rise for the singing of the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Please remain standing for a minute of meditation.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

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

ROLL CALL

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). 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. 59, dated February 06, 2018.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The roll call shows that 226 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). With 226 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we defer the approval of the Journal of the previous session. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we now proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 7069, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS PHILIPPINE BAMBOO MONTH”

By Representatives Savellano, Durano, Escudero and Atienza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

House Bill No. 7071, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY APPOINTMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER IN EVERY PROVINCE, CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 484 (A), ARTICLE XIV, TITLE V, BOOK III OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991’ ”

By Representative Suansing (E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 7072, entitled:

“AN ACT POSTPONING THE MAY 2018 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS TO OCTOBER 2018, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164”

By Representative Pimentel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 7073, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND RATIONALIZING THE CAREER SERVICE OF THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES BY ESTABLISHING A LEGISLATIVE CAREER SERVICE AND A LEGISLATIVE ACADEMY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 7074, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING RATES OF PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) WHILE ON OVERSEAS DUTY WITH A PHILIPPINE EXPEDITIONARY OR PEACEKEEPING CONTINGENT PURSUANT TO A PHILIPPINE COOPERATIVE COMMITMENT TO A UNITED NATIONS SANCTION OR POLICY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 7075, entitled:

“AN ACT TO EXPEDITE AND STREAMLINE THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR

SECURING BUILDING PERMITS AND CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6541, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 7076, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE AMUSEMENT INDUSTRY SAFETY BOARD THEREBY STRENGTHENING THE AMUSEMENT PARKS AND RIDES INDUSTRY, INSTITUTING SAFETY STANDARDS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 7077, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A POLICY MECHANISM FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF THE ISLAND OF BORACAY, MUNICIPALITY OF MALAY, PROVINCE OF AKLAN, DEFINING FOR THE PURPOSE THE MODE OF ACQUISITION FOR PARCELS OF LAND WITHIN THE ISLAND CLASSIFIED AS AGRICULTURAL LAND OPEN TO DISPOSITION UNDER PROCLAMATION NO. 1064 AND PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 7078, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF CHIROPRACTIC CARE IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 7079, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 7080, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MORE RESPONSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE REGULATION FOR THE PRACTICE, LICENSING, AND REGISTRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SANITARY ENGINEERS IN THE PHILIPPINES AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1364 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 7081, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CARLOS HILADO MEMORIAL STATE COLLEGE IN THE CITY OF TALISAY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, ALL ITS SATELLITE CAMPUSES LOCATED IN THE CITIES OF TALISAY AND BACOLOD AND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BINALBAGAN, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CARLOS HILADO MEMORIAL STATE UNIVERSITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Gasataya, Benitez and Mirasol
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 7082, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR UNIFORM FEES OF SERVICE PROVIDERS OF GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS”

By Representatives Batocabe and Co
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7083, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND BENEFITS GRANTED TO BENEFICIARIES OF UNIFORMED AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD (PCG), NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI), BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS (BUCOR), AND PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (PDEA), WHO ARE KILLED OR PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED

WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTY OR BY REASON OF THEIR OFFICE OR POSITION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6963, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND
SAFETY AND TO THE COMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 7084, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7392, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PHILIPPINE MIDWIFERY ACT OF 1992’ AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 7085, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 7086, entitled:

“AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATE COUNSEL, BY RE-DEFINING, EXPANDING, STRENGTHENING, RATIONALIZING AND FURTHER PROFESSIONALIZING ITS ORGANIZATION, UPGRADING EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7087, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE TIME OFF WITH PAY FOR EMPLOYEES WHO DONATE ORGAN, BONE MARROW, BLOOD, OR BLOOD PLATELETS”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 7088, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND
ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 7089, entitled:
“AN ACT PROVIDING POST-HARVEST
FACILITIES TO RICE FARMERS”
By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 7090, entitled:
“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING PRIVATE
LAND FORESTRY TO ENHANCE
REFORESTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AND PROVIDING
INCENTIVES THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”
By Representative Alejano
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
REFORESTATION

House Bill No. 7091, entitled:
“AN ACT PROVIDING BENEFITS TO PUBLIC
EMPLOYEES WHO SUFFER ANY INJURY
IN THE LINE OF DUTY THAT LEADS TO
DISABILITY”
By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 7092, entitled:
“AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS
OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER
7431, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
‘RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY ACT OF
1992’, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”
By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 7093, entitled:
“AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE RECYCLING
PROGRAM FOR ALL RECHARGEABLE
BATTERIES MANUFACTURED, SOLD
AND DISTRIBUTED IN THE PHILIPPINES,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”
By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 7094, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SOLAR ENERGY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”
By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 7095, entitled:
“AN ACT MANDATING THE USE OF
TRANSACTION WINDOWS AND THE
CREATION OF E-SERVICES IN ALL
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, MINIMIZING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE COMMISSION
OF BRIBERY AND OTHER CORRUPT
PRACTICES, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”
By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 7096, entitled:
“AN ACT DEFINING AND REGULATING THE
TRAVEL AGENTS PROFESSION”
By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 7097, entitled:
“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 2 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1827 SO AS TO
IMPOSE HIGHER PENALTIES FOR THOSE
ENGAGED IN UNFAIR AND UNETHICAL
LOBBYING PRACTICES”
By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE’S
PARTICIPATION

House Bill No. 7098, entitled:
“AN ACT ENHANCING THE TRANSPARENCY
OF THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS
BY MANDATING THE VIDEO
RECORDING OF ALL PROCUREMENT-
RELATED CONFERENCES, THEREBY
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED
9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
‘GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT
REFORM ACT OF 2003’, PRESCRIBING
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF,
AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES”
By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 7099, entitled:
“AN ACT PROMOTING AND PERMITTING
THE USE OF WASTE-TO-ENERGY
TECHNOLOGY, AMENDING FOR THIS
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED
8749, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
CLEAN AIR ACT OF 1999”
By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 7100, entitled:
“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE YOUNG

FARMERS' PROGRAM, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 7101, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING THE POSITION/RANK OF FIRE TRUCK OFFICER (FTO) IN THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION"

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 7102, entitled:

"AN ACT EXPANDING THE NUMBER OF DISORDERS INCLUDED IN THE NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7103, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING A CLASS D DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PAMPLONA, CAMARINES SUR"

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 7104, entitled:

"AN ACT STREAMLINING THE REGULATORY COMMISSION ON ENERGY, RENAMING THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION INTO THE PHILIPPINE POWER REGULATORY COMMISSION, AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001', APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Velasco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 7105, entitled:

"AN ACT ENHANCING REVENUE ADMINISTRATION AND COLLECTION BY GRANTING AN AMNESTY ON ALL UNPAID INTERNAL REVENUE TAXES IMPOSED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR TAXABLE YEAR 2017 AND PRIOR YEARS"

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas and Cua
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 7106, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GOVERNMENT SERVICE CENTER (GSC) HOUSING SATELLITE OFFICES OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BANGUED IN THE PROVINCE OF ABRA"

By Representative Bernos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 7107, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 8 AND 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10575, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2013, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Leachon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7108, entitled:

"AN ACT REGULATING THROUGH QUOTAS ON MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION APPROVALS AND LICENSE PLATE ISSUANCES THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES ON THE ROADS OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Abayon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 7109, entitled:

"AN ACT REQUIRING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO PROVIDE LEFT-HANDED ARMCHAIRS"

By Representative Roa-Puno
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 7110, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONWIDE CURFEW FOR BETTER CHILD SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF WELFARE OF PERSONS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD"

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 7111, entitled:

"AN ACT STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SECURITY BY PROVIDING FOR THE

ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF
FOREIGN ENTITIES UNDER CERTAIN
CONDITIONS”

By Representative Fariñas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE
AND SECURITY

COMMUNICATION

Letters dated January 30, 2018 of Roger E. Dino, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. Circular No. 990 dated 22 January 2018;
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2018-006 dated 19 January 2018;
3. Memorandum No. M-2018-001 dated 12 January 2018; and
4. Memorandum No. M-2018-002 dated 17 January 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education (Committee Report No. 595), re H.R. No. 1645, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONFERRING THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF ACHIEVEMENT TO DR. AMADO GABRIEL ESTEBAN FOR BRINGING HONOR AND PRESTIGE TO THE PHILIPPINES THROUGH HIS EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA) AS PRESIDENT OF TWO (2) MAJOR ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND FOR HIS INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE TO FILIPINO SCHOLARS IN THE USA”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 1119

Sponsors: Representatives Hofer and Belaro
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Agrarian Reform (Committee Report No. 596), re H.B. No. 7115, entitled: “AN ACT PENALIZING THE CONVERSION OR CAUSING THE CONVERSION OF IRRIGATED AND IRRIGABLE LANDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW OF 1988”

recommending its approval in substitution of House

Bills Numbered 1396 and 5501

Sponsors: Representatives Relampagos, Amante and Alvarez (P.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 597), re H.B. No. 652, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN OZAMIS CITY, CONVERTING THE MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT COMPRISING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CLARIN AND TUDELA INTO THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT OF CLARIN, AND CREATING A NEW MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT COMPRISING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SINACABAN AND TUDELA, ALL IN THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSABLG. 129 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendments

Sponsors: Representatives Umali, Nograles (K.A.), Veloso and Oaminal

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Justice (Committee Report No. 598), re H.B. No. 7120, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO MR. PHILLIP LEACH”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5658

Sponsors: Representatives Umali, Alvarez (P.), Fuentesbella, Tiangco, Ferrer (J.) and Castro (F.H.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mme. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of guests of the distinguished Lady from the Second District of Pampanga, the Hon. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. They are members of the Kayanakang Manalakaran Ning Floridablanca of Floridablanca, Pampanga.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Please rise.

REP. DE VENECIA. If I may read their names, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. These are the Hon. Michael Galang, Municipal Vice Mayor; Jeric Apellanes, Andrea Nicole Pastor, Joshua Rom Sunglao, Adrian Diego of Basa Air Base National High School; Alyssa Gayle Delloso, Randell Lumanug and Kristerlex Ruiz of Diosdado Macapagal Memorial High School; Jesusa Nanette Pascual, Diosdado Macapagal Memorial High School (SSG Adviser); Rodolfo Manalang, Meriel Guanlao and Ian Guanlao of Floridablanca National Agricultural School; Marvin Velasquez, Floridablanca National Agricultural School (SSG adviser); Roy Alipio, Ruth Reyes, Patricia Anne Marie Simon of Gutad National High School; Edwin Capitli of Gutad National High School (SSG adviser); Carl Jean Rongcal, Jhulyn Mungcal of Megabyte College with their adviser Delia Viray; Missy Bonifacio and Jewel Baul Bernal of Paguiruan High School with their adviser Rina Mañalac; Lyca Baguing, Jeffrey Buna Cruz, Jhaira Yamat of San Jose High School with their adviser Judilyn Pangilinan, and Imelda Estacio; Alicia Rhyzel Supan, Shenna Marie Sampang, Angela Bless Austria of St. Augustine Academy of Pampanga with their adviser Jethro Mari Lalic; Erick Estrella, Patrocino Bacros and Rany Paguio of the LGU Floridablanca; Christian Sacad of San Pablo 2nd High School; and Manuel Santiago, LGU Floridablanca, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). To the guests of the former President and now Representative, Mme. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mme. Speaker, we would also like to acknowledge the presence of guests of the Hon. Michael L. Romero, PhD, of 1-PACMAN Party-List. They are Inna Valera, Carla Valera, Winnie Lagman, Charisse Amisola, Linda Mayor, Agnes Valera, Mario Lapid, Manolo Lagman, Elmer Lagman, Nico Manzano and Gerry Lagman, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). To the guests of Rep. Michael Romero, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6754
ON THIRD READING

REP. DE VENECIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6754

and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on February 1, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6754, entitled: AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO ULTRASONIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8081, ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING THE ULTRASONIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES" FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 59, dated February 6, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6754
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). With 222 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6754 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we include the additional coauthors to House Bills No. 7033 and 7054 and House Resolution No. 1636, as contained in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6913
ON THIRD READING

REP. DE VENECIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6913 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on February 1, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6913, entitled: AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO RADIO MARINE NETWORK, INCORPORATED, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4607, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7512.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 59, dated February 6, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6913
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6913 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6938
ON THIRD READING

REP. DE VENECIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6938 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on February 1, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6938, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILD PASSENGERS IN MOTOR VEHICLES.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 59, dated February 6, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6938
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). With 225 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6938 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6974
ON THIRD READING

REP. DE VENECIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6974 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 30, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6974, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE BAGUIO CITY, LA TRINIDAD, ITOGON, SABLAN, TUBA, AND TUBLAY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (BLISTTDA), DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 59, dated February 6, 2018.*

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6974
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). With 225 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6974 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6995
ON THIRD READING

REP. DE VENECIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6995 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting. I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on February 1, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6995, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING THE CAMARINES SUR INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES AND MARINE SCIENCES (CASIFMAS) – RAGAY CAMPUS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RAGAY, CAMARINES SUR INTO A TESDA-SUPERVISED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS RAGAY POLYTECHNIC SKILLS INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 59, dated February 6, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6995
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). With 225 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6995 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Amihilda J. Sangcopan of Party-List AMIN who wishes to rise on a question of personal and collective privilege. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

Rep. Amihilda Sangcopan is hereby recognized.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF
REP. SANGCOPAN

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

Azubillah minashaitan nirajeem. Bismillahi rahmani rahim. Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu.

Mme. Speaker, dear colleagues of this House of the People, in this day and age, women have more choices than they ever had. My choice is to live my faith and the modesty it teaches, and I seek to empower other women with understanding through this measure I put before you now. Understanding is the first step to tolerance on the road to peace, and peace is what we all seek. So, I begin this speech by wishing you all peace.

The word “hijab” comes from the Arabic word “*hajaba*,” which means to hide or screen from view or to cover. Sometimes, “hijab” refers to a woman’s headscarf. Sometimes, it is used more generally to refer to the practice of wearing modest clothing in accordance with Islamic religious beliefs and therefore, is a verb for an act of piety. In many places around the world, however, “hijab” becomes a symbol of oppression, terrorism and the lack of freedom. It is for these reasons that ANAK MINDANAO Party-List would like to shed light on the mystery of hijab and promote awareness of its virtue. We would like to encourage programs and activities that would foster deeper respect and understanding among and between Filipinos of varying cultures and faiths so that we can truly build national unity and peace.

Personally, wearing a hijab is a means of self-discipline: you compose yourself. You tell yourself to be good, to be kind and to be the best that you could be as a person. That is what our hijab represents, contrary to what so many people think. Wearing a hijab is an act imbued with integrity. So, when a security guard kept following me and my hijabi friends inside the mall in a frantic fashion, all because we were Hijabis, I politely reassured him by saying: “Sir, we are not terrorists.” This is my story. I have chosen not to enumerate plenty of other stories of similar vein because I choose to emphasize instead that the hijab is not an obstacle that keeps Muslim women from becoming productive members of society.

Instead, and with their permission, I would like to introduce three of these women who have experienced discrimination in schools and in their places of work,

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

yet, have proved their worth doubly well. They are 1. Bangsamoro Transition Commission Commissioner Atty. Maisara Dandamun-Latiph; 2. Dr. Naheeda Dimacisil; and 3. Entrepreneur Diamillah Disimban-Ramos. Seeing that Hijabi women are very capable of contributing and they have actually contributed very well to society, we take on the challenge of this misinformation and discrimination by taking a proactive stance.

Mme. Speaker, dear colleagues, the World Hijab Day is an annual event, encouraging Muslim and non-Muslim women to wear the hijab so they can experience the life of a Hijabi woman for a day.

The first wide-scale observance of the World Hijab Day in the Philippines was in 2014, when former ANAK MINDANAO Party-List Rep. Sitti Djalia Turabin-Hataman urged this august Body to stop all forms of discrimination against our Muslim Hijabi women. Some of my female colleagues have joined the “Be a Hijabi for a Day” challenge since then up until today. Sa lahat po ng women legislators na nakisabay po sa obserbasyon ng World Hijab Day, maraming, maraming salamat po.

Since 2014, Mme. Speaker and fellow Members of this august Chamber, some educational institutions have taken the challenge of World Hijab Day. ANAK MINDANAO would like to especially mention the De La Salle College of St. Benilde-Center for Social Action, which has partnered with us in this endeavor to improve the understanding and tolerance of our manner of practicing our faith. The University of the Philippines in Diliman, some schools in major cities in Mindanao like Davao, General Santos, Zamboanga and Cagayan de Oro City have also embraced the idea of being a “Hijabi for a Day,” a challenge that empowered them to experience what it is to don the hijab for one whole day while going through the usual day-to-day affair. Some even have organized fora to highlight government responses to the advocacy, such as those provided in various memorandum circulars of the Department of Health and the Department of Education.

Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues, in a multicultural country like ours, peace should be everybody’s business. This simple piece of legislation is a small step toward making all sectors in the country—particularly the employment and education sectors—to promote respect for diversity in religious beliefs and practices. This simple measure empowers all stakeholders: media, for more informed and responsible journalism; educational institutions and parents who can continue educating young minds about cultural sensitivities and enact policies and programs that reflect the same even outside the walls of their classroom. The annual observance of the World Hijab Day is not just for women who choose to wear the hijab. It is also not just about non-Muslim

women expressing solidarity for women who choose to don it. This is actually an opportunity for us to empower these women, whatever they stand for, especially if that stand is for their freedom to choose how they will live and practice their faith.

Mme. Speaker, dear colleagues, I am a Muslim woman, a Hijabi, and I say that with a deep respect for those who seek to understand this. I seek to practice my faith and share my experience with other women, so they may understand just how much this aspect of Islam is a part of the life Allah has blessed me with.

Thank you for listening without prejudice, Mme. Speaker and dear colleagues. Thank you for joining us in the observance of the World Hijab Day.

Thank you and *wassalam*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Thank you, Congresswoman Sangcopan.

In behalf of the Body, we would like to thank all our Lady colleagues who participated in this World Hijab Day. I would like to share how touched we were with your support: one, I know that some of you may feel awkward wearing this new style, but you wear it nevertheless so you will understand us; and two, I know some of you feel uneasy wearing it, but you wear it nevertheless because you want to be counted with us. I know you feel beautiful wearing it because indeed you are beautiful.

In behalf of the Bangsamoro, we appreciate what you are doing today and today is such a beautiful day.

Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BAG-AO. Mme. Speaker.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Kaka J. Bag-ao from the Lone District of Dinagat Islands for her statement of solidarity.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Rep. Kaka Bag-ao is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. BAG-AO. Mme. Speaker, maaari po bang magpaunlak ang Kinatawan ng ANAK MINDANAO ng ilang katanungan mula sa Kinatawang ito.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Will the Lady yield to some questions?

REP. SANGCOPAN. My pleasure, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. BAG-AO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Mme. Speaker, I stand today in solidarity with my dear friend, Cong. Amihilda Sangcapan. Maraming salamat din, Congresswoman Ami, sa aking kasuotan. I feel proud and honored.

Para mas maunawaan po ng ating mga mamamayan at ng mga nakikinig sa atin, iyong unang tanong ko lang po ay: Paano naging simbolo ang hijab sa pakikibaka ng mga kababaihang Muslim sa pagkakapantay-pantay, sa kawalan ng diskriminasyon, sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran ng ating bansa, at sa pagkakaunawaan ng mga mamamayan?

REP. SANGCOPAN. Gaya po ng nabanggit ko sa aking question of privilege, ang hijab po ay imbued with integrity, bitbit po nito ay integridad. Bitbit po ng aming hijab ang struggle naming mga Bangsamoro women. Bitbit po namin dito ang pakikipaglaban hanggang ngayon na sana sa aming paaralan ay hindi kami makaramdam ng diskriminasyon; sana sa aming pinagtatrabahuan, hindi kami makukutya dahil kami ay naka-hijab; at sana dumating iyong panahon na maintindihan po nila na ito ay bahagi ng aming pang-araw-araw na buhay and this is how we intend to practice our faith. This is us—this makes us Muslim women.

REP. BAG-AO. Maraming salamat. Naalala ko lang noon, sinabi ng isang anak ni Cong. Sitti Djalila Turabin-Hataman, iyong dati pong Kinatawan ng ANAK MINDANAO Party-List, ang sabi niya noong nagkukuwentuhan kami: “I don’t believe that most people hate us, they just don’t know us.” Naniniwala po ba kayo dito?

REP. SANGCOPAN. Mme. Speaker, tayo po ay naniniwala doon. Una sa lahat, hindi po siguro tayo tatayo sa araw na ito at i-deliver ang question of privilege on the observance of the World Hijab Day kung tayo ay hindi naniniwala na kung mayroon pong pagkakataon na puwede nating ipaabot sa ating mga kasama, sa taong bayan, kung ano po ang halaga ng hijab sa isang Bangsamoro woman, malaking bagay po iyon. Sa tingin ko, tama ho iyong sinabi noong bata. Gaya ng sinabi ko sa speech ko, and allow me to repeat it: “Understanding is the first step to tolerance on the road to peace, and peace is all what we seek,” and I know ang kagalang-galang na Representative ng Dinagat Islands ay kasama po namin pagdating po sa paghahanap ng kapayapaan para sa isla ng Mindanao.

Maraming salamat po.

REP. BAG-AO. Maraming salamat, Cong. Ami Sangcapan, at nakikiisa po ako sa inyo sa pakikibaka ng ANAK MINDANAO at lahat ng mga Muslim, hindi lamang po sa Mindanao pero pati na sa buong Pilipinas.

When we try to know each other, we learn not only to respect but love one another, and putting ourselves in this hijab of our Moro sisters is one way to show our solidarity to this cause. Ako po ay author din ng SOGIE Equality Bill at ng Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Bill, at kasama po ni Congresswoman Ami, tumitindig po ako laban sa anumang uri ng diskriminasyon sa lipunan laban sa sinumang mamamayan.

Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker, mga kasama, at mabuhay po kayo, Congresswoman Ami at ANAK MINDANAO. Kasama po ninyo kami sa inyong laban. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Thank you.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mme. Speaker, I now move that we recognize the Hon. Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica from the Fourth District of Bulacan for her statement of solidarity.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). The Honorable Villarica is recognized.

REP. VILLARICA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. *Assalamu alaykum*, brothers and sisters in Islam.

Today is a special day for us women legislators in Congress. As you can see, we are wearing a special head scarf called “hijab” in solidarity with our colleagues here and all Muslim women. We are celebrating the World Hijab Day, an awareness campaign that was founded in February 1, 2013, by Ms. Nazma Khan, a Bangladeshi who lives in New York City. The World Hijab Day is celebrated in recognition of millions of Muslim women all over the world who choose to wear the hijab and live a life of modesty. It became a movement to foster religious tolerance and understanding by inviting non-hijabi women all over the world to experience the hijab even for just one day.

The wearing of hijab is a woman’s right. It is not just a piece of scarf wrapped around the head for fashion or accessory; it is more than that. It symbolizes purity and modesty, acceptance and surrender to a belief, and a way of life. There is a correlation between the Qur’an and hijab in that the purity and modesty of women is perpetuated by wearing this attire. We are one with all the hijabi women all over the world in raising awareness to put a stop to this misconception and discrimination, and to be more respectful of other people’s beliefs, culture and practices, regardless of our own. The world will be more bearable if we are a little considerate of others. On behalf of the Association of Women Legislators Foundation, Incorporated, this is our way of saying that we are one with you and we respect you.

Thank you and *wassalam*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Thank you.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Finally, Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu from the Second District of Batangas for his statement of solidarity.

REP. ABU. Thank you, Majority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). The honorable Deputy Speaker Ranie Abu is recognized.

REP. ABU. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. It is but fitting that the presiding officer now is our distinguished colleague, the Deputy Speaker coming from Mindanao and is one of our Muslim leaders. It is also very fitting that the one who rendered the question of privilege about World Hijab Day is our colleague from ANAK MINDANAO Party-List.

Mme. Speaker, pagpasok ko po kanina dito at nakita ko ang mga kasamahan natin na Lady legislators wearing a turban or a headscarf, tinanong ko po, “Ano ang ibig sabihin niyan?” Sabi sa akin ng mga kasama ko, “hijab.” Bakit suot ninyo ang hijab, ano ang ibig sabihin niyan, ano ang significance niyan? Walang makasagot sa akin and so nagpunta ako kay Congresswoman Ruby at sabi ko, “Congresswoman, ano ang ibig sabihin po niyan? Sabi niya, “Ito’y every February 1, nagse-celebrate kami ng World Hijab Day. Iyan ay sign ng modesty sa aming mga babaeng Muslim at ini-encourage din namin ang mga kababaihang kahit hindi mga Muslims.”

Then, hindi po ako natapos doon at dahil talagang curious ho ako, nag-research ako at nalaman ko na noong February 1, 2013, doon unang isinagawa ang World Hijab Day sa pangunguna ng isang residente sa New York, si Nazma Khan. Reading further kung ano iyong pinagsimulan kung bakit nagsasagawa tayo ng World Hijab Day, nakaka-touch at nakalagay nga dito:

For many people, the hijab is a symbol of oppression and segregation. By opening up new pathways to understanding, Nazma hopes to counteract some of the controversies surrounding why Muslim women choose to wear the hijab.

Nazma knows exactly what she’s talking about. The social activist came to this country from Bangladesh at the tender age of eleven where she found herself being the only Hijabi in middle school. She remembers her experience as a difficult one.

Sabi po niya:

Growing up in the Bronx, in NYC, I experienced a great deal of discrimination due to my hijab, she reflects. In middle school, I was “Batman” and “Ninja.” When I entered university after 9/11, I was called “Osama Bin Laden” or “terrorist.” It was awful. I figured the only way to end discrimination is if we ask our fellow sisters to experience the hijab themselves.

Noong binabasa ko po ito, nakaka-touch ho. Masyado tayo naging emosyonal dahil tulad ho ng mga kasama ko dito sa Kongreso, kaming mga kasama ninyong mga mambabatas na lalaki, ang pagtingin namin at pagpapahalaga sa kababaihan, ano man po ang kanilang antas at ano man po ang kanilang relihiyon, maging ito ay Katoliko, Muslim o iba pang relihiyon, napakataas po ng pagtingin namin dahil kami pong mga kalalakihan, alam namin na hindi kami mabubuhay kung hindi kami nagmula sa aming ina at pinagpala kami ng aming ina, pinalaki kami ng maayos.

Mme. Speaker, sa pangalan po ng mga kalalakihan dito sa ating plenaryo dito sa Kongreso, amin pong ipinahahayag sa inyo ang aming pakikiisa at patuloy na pagkilala sa kung anuman po ang simbulo ng kababaihan, lalo na po ng mga kasama natin dito na nagmula sa Mindanao, mga kapatid po nating Muslim. Alam po namin ang kahalagahan nila at ang pagtaas ng pagtingin namin sa kanilang pagiging disiplinado, lalo na kanilang pagkilala po sa ating mga kasamahan dito sa Kongreso.

Marami pong salamat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Maraming salamat, Deputy Speaker Abu at nakakataba po ng puso ang iyong mga binitawang salita.

Maraming salamat po.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that the question of privilege of the Hon. Amihilda Sangcapan from the Party-List AMIN, and the interpellation of Congresswoman Bag-ao, and the statements of solidarity coming from her, Congresswoman Villarica and Congressman Abu, be referred to the Committee on Rules.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the same is referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we direct the Secretary General to transmit immediately to the Senate all measures approved on Third Reading.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Secretary General is directed to transmit to the Senate all the Bills that have been approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7054
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up the Business for the Day and consider House Bill No. 7054, contained in Committee Report No. 585, as reported out by the Committees on Energy, and on Appropriations.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7054, entitled: AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES EMERGENCY AND RESILIENCY FUND, PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.

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

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

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Sponsor, the Chairman of the Committee on Energy, the Hon. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). The Hon. Lord Allan Jay Velasco is recognized.

REP. VELASCO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Good evening.

Mme. Speaker, may I request that the Explanatory Note of the said Bill be adopted as my sponsorship speech on the measure and that it be included in the Record.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). The Explanatory Note of the said Bill is adopted as the sponsorship speech thereon.

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

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is opened.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is closed.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Second Reading on House Bill No. 7054 under Committee Report No. 585.

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

VIVA VOCE VOTING

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7054
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 7054 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL BILLS
ON SECOND READING

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, with leave of the House, I move that we consider the Bills under the Calendar of Business for Thursday and Friday. Mme. Speaker, pursuant to our Rules, allow me to present an omnibus motion for the consideration of the following measures:

1. House Bill No. 7037, contained in Committee Report No. 583;
2. House Bill No. 7044, contained in Committee Report No. 584;
3. House Bill No. 2553, contained in Committee Report No. 586;
4. House Bill No. 7061, contained in Committee Report No. 587;
5. House Bill No. 7062, contained in Committee Report No. 588;
6. House Bill No. 7063, contained in Committee Report No. 589;
7. House Bill No. 7064, contained in Committee Report No. 590; and
8. House Bill No. 7065, contained in Committee Report No. 591.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is opened.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider the respective Explanatory Notes of the bills as the sponsorship speeches on the respective measures. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

Explanatory Notes of the Bills are hereby considered as the sponsorship speeches thereon.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, with no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measures, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is hereby terminated.

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

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby terminated.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading the following local House Bills: House Bills No. 7037, 7044, 2553, 7061, 7062, 7063, 7064 and 7065.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). As many as are in favor of the approval of the aforementioned Bills on Second Reading, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS
ON SECOND READING

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

The aforementioned bills are hereby approved on Second Reading. *

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1636

REP. GULLAS. Under the Business for the Day, Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1636, contained in Committee Report No. 594, as reported out by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). 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. 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.

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

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1636

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1636.

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

House Resolution No. 1636 is adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1630

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1630, contained in Committee Report No. 592, as reported out by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to

read only the title of the measure. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). 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. 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.

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

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1630

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1630.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Is there any objection? (*Silence*)

The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. House Resolution No. 1630 is adopted.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 58, dated February 5, 2018.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Is there any objection? (*Silence*)

The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). The session is suspended for two minutes.

It was 5:25 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:40 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6425

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up the Unfinished Business and consider House Bill No. 6425 under Committee Report No. 389, and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the Bill.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the title of the Bill.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6425, entitled: AN ACT PRESCRIBING AN URGENT, COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED LAND-BASED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT POLICY TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION CRISIS IN METRO MANILA, METROPOLITAN CEBU AND METROPOLITAN DAVAO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that we are in the period of interpellation. With that, Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Sponsor, the Chairman of the Committee on Transportation, the Hon. Cesar V. Sarmiento.

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

The Honorable Sarmiento is hereby recognized as the Sponsor of said measure.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Honorable Tinio for his interpellation. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

Representative Tinio is recognized for his interpellation.

REP. TINIO. Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker. Diretso na po ako G. Iponsor.

Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, maaari po bang tingnan natin iyong big picture muli. So, of course, ang layunin ng panukalang batas na ito ay, sabi nga, ano, essentially mga emergency measures para masolusyunan ang problema sa traffic. Mme. Speaker, puwede po bang ipaliwanag sa atin ng Sponsor, paano po o ano-ano po iyong mga hakbang, ano ho iyong mga patakaran na nakapaloob sa Bill na kapag ipinatupad ay magreresulta sa pagluwag, kung hindi man pagresolba ng traffic? In other words, kapag napasa natin ito—bakit kailangan natin ito ipasa? Paano masosolusyunan nito ang problema ng traffic na lumalala araw-araw?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Maraming salamat po, Kagalang-galang na Tinio. Alam naman po natin na nakakaranas lahat tayo ng matinding pagsikip sa kalsada dahil sa maraming factors—dahil sa maraming sasakyan, nandiyan po ang kawalan ng disiplina ng ating mga drivers, at kahinaan po ng enforcement kung kaya't nakakaranas po tayo ng problema at ramdam po natin itong lahat. Ngayon, ang panukalang ito ay may layunin na ayusin ang trapiko sa mga kalakhang lugar tulad ng Metro Manila, Metro Cebu and Metro Davao, with the end in view of not necessarily completely addressing the problem, but alleviating the problem of traffic.

Sa paanong paraan? Kung babasahin po natin ang objectives or policy ng panukalang batas na ito, among others, is “to adopt responsive, effective and comprehensive measures that address the crisis brought about by land traffic congestion and gridlock and the shortage of efficient, safe, secure, and accessible mass transportation x x x.” Layunin din nito na i-harmonize ang iba't ibang local ordinances, rules, regulations patungkol sa trapiko dahil ang Metro Manila po consists of 17 LGUs, 16 cities and one municipality, each with their own traffic ordinances, kaya nagkakaroon ng overlap. Layunin po na ayusin ang mga ito, na magkaroon ng isang Traffic Management Plan kung saan ang layunin ay maibsan or i-alleviate po ang problem sa traffic.

REP. TINIO. Okay, so, ang Bill po ay nakatuon sa tatlong area—Metro Manila, Metro Cebu and Metro Davao. Actually, ang itatanong ko po, ano iyong major elements noong Bill na mag-a-address o magpapaluwag sa problema ng trapiko? So, ang unang binanggit ng Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, sa Bill na ito ay mayroong itatak dang isang pambansang awtoridad, ito iyong Traffic Administrator na iyong Kalihim ng Department of Transportation,...

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Transportation.

REP. TINIO. ...tapos, ang isa sa mga kapangyarihan niya ay ang pag-standardize...

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Harmonize.

REP. TINIO. ...ang pag-harmonize ng traffic rules and regulations. Tama po ba?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Tama po iyon.

REP. TINIO. Gagawin ito sa pamamagitan ng, well, one, pagpapalakas noong MMDA sa Metro Manila; tapos sa Cebu ay mayroon din pong counterpart ito at saka sa...

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Davao

REP. TINIO. ...Davao. Okay. So, tapos, ang isang kapangyarihan, ang isang emergency power, ang kakaiba po rito ay sa esensiya, may kapangyarihan—Tama po ba?—ang administrador na ma-override iyong awtoridad na binibigay ng Local Government Code sa mga LGU kaugnay sa pangangasiwa sa trapiko. Tama po ba?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Tama po iyon.

REP. TINIO. Okay. So, isa lang iyon. In other words, ang isang measure dito ay ang pagsasaayos ng traffic policy rules and regulations. Okay. Ano pa po? Iyon lang po ba?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well...

REP. TINIO. In other words, ang problema sa trapik o kaya tayo may trapik ay dahil iba-iba at hindi nagkakasundo na traffic rules and regulations sa bawat city at municipality in the metropolitan areas. Ito na ba iyon?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, marami pa po iyan. Gaya ng sinabi po dito sa panukalang batas, to adopt a comprehensive measure basically to address the problem of traffic which would include—nandiyan po iyon—to conduct a route rationalization. Kung baga, mag-iimbentaryo sa isang ruta para alamin ang route's measured capacity para malaman kung ano ang type, size, and number of vehicles or mode of transportation na puwedeng bumaybay sa isang ruta. Alam po natin na may mga ruta na may maraming prangkisa kaya aalamin natin kung ano talaga ang tamang numero at ano ang akmang mode of transportation ang puwedeng bumaybay sa rutang iyan.

REP. TINIO. Okay. So, binabanggit po ninyo na

ang isa pang element ng panukalang ito, na bukod sa pagsasaayos ng mga traffic rules and regulations, ay ang pag-address sa usapin ng mass transport and in particular, ang binabanggit po ninyo na route rationalization. Sa paliwanag ninyo at sa pagka-intindi ko po, ang ibig po ninyong sabihin ay aaralin ang mga ruta at titiyakin kung ano iyong angkop na moda ng public transport at kung ano iyong tamang bilang ng mga, halimbawa, jeep sa isang ruta—ganoon po ba—ng mga jeep o bus sa isang ...

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Or bus. For instance, dito sa kahabaan ng EDSA, sa datos na ibinigay po ng MMDA, as of 2010, around 13,000 buses ang bumabaybay sa EDSA which is 24 kilometers long, and then out of that 13,000—about 54,000 at that time ay mga city buses po iyon at base sa pag-aaral, sobra-sobra ang numero ng bus na bumabaybay sa EDSA. In other words, napakarami po ng public buses na bumabaybay sa EDSA at sobra ito para sa kapasidad ng EDSA.

REP. TINIO. Okay. So, ang sinasabi po ninyo, ang suri ng Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, ang isang dahilan kung bakit, halimbawa, ma-trapik sa EDSA ay sobra, hindi kulang, ang mass transport. In this case, ang mga bus, sobra ang bus. Tama po ba?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, sa pag ...

REP. TINIO. O kaya sobra ang mga jeep, kaya kasama rin ang mga jeep sa rationalization.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, we are talking here muna of EDSA. Hindi pa natin binabanggit ang mga jeep.

REP. TINIO. Okay pero iyon ang dating kasi noong rationalization. Siguro, magpapalawig tayo later—actually, doon muna tayo sa overview. Anyway, iyong pagsasaayos ng policy, tapos, ang kasunod niyan, specifically sa mass transport, ay route rationalization. Sometimes ang tawag dito ay “modernization,” ganoon. Ano pa po ba, iyon lang po ba? Sa pamamagitan ng dalawang iyan ay mareresolba na ang trapik?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, marami pa po iyan, at tungkol po sa—since malaking problema ang hinaharap po natin and in order to effect change, ay magkakaroon po tayo or that would entail sacrifices from everybody dahil may maaapektuhan. For instance, may nakalagay po diyan na magkakaroon po tayo ng driver's examination sa mga professional drivers para alamin kung sino ang dapat bigyan ng professional driver's license, so only those deserving would be given a driver's license.

Alam po natin na ang isa rin sa mga dahilan sa

traffic ay iyong kawalan ng disiplina ng ating mga drivers—isa iyan po. Then, babanggitin ko po ang roadworthiness at nakasaad po diyan na magkakaroon po ng roadworthiness test para ang mga bumabaybay sa ating kalsada ay roadworthy. Isa rin sa mga dahilan ng pagsikip ng ating trapiko ay iyong mga aksidente dahil po sa mga hindi dapat po na bumabay sa ilang mga kalsada natin.

REP. TINIO. Okay. So, actually, iyan po siguro ang ibig ninyong sabihin sa Declaration of Policy na instituting “a system of responsibility and accountability for all land-based traffic stakeholders.” So, kasama po siguro doon iyon, ang pag-review ng mga professional drivers na nabibigyan ng lisensiya.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Opo.

REP. TINIO. Okay. Tapos, iyong roadworthiness, ito ang pag-verify sa roadworthiness ng mga public utility vehicles, so, isa pa iyon. Pangatlo na iyang policy harmonization, rationalization of PUVs and then, itong parang tinatawag dito na “system of accountability.” Saan po ba pumapasok iyong infrastructure?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Dito po, makikita ninyo sa powers and functions ng Traffic Chief as provided for under Section 7, na ira-rationalize ang existing public transport operations, infrastructure requirements and the use of thoroughfares to promote safe and convenient movement of persons and goods. Then he will exercise the power to issue rules and regulations specifically covering many items and, among others, iyong clearing of sidewalks and side streets, regulations on the street parking of vehicles, enforcement of setbacks and construction of driveways especially on main thoroughfares. Kung ang isang business establishment ay nagiging cause ng traffic kasi wala ang requisite setback, may appropriate measure na puwedeng gawin ang Traffic Chief para dito. Then, iyong establishment and operation of terminal and removal of illegal terminals. Andito po iyon sa Section 7 ng panukalang batas.

REP. TINIO. Okay. Sige po. So, Mme. Speaker, ayon sa proponent, sa Sponsor, malulutas or mapapaluwag ang sitwasyon sa trapiko sa mga metropolitan areas ng bansa kapag bibigyan ng emergency powers ang Executive Branch para, katulad ng binanggit niya kanina, sa mga sumusunod: one, harmonization ng traffic rules and regulations; two, route rationalization ng PUVs; three—among tawag ninyo diyan?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Roadworthiness.

REP. TINIO. Roadworthiness, accountability, and

so on, and then, pang-apat, infrastructure o pagsasa-ayos ng infrastructure. Tama po ba? Okay. So, isa-isahin po natin.

Unang-una, doon sa coverage, in terms of coverage, nabanggit na nga po, the three metropolitan areas. In terms of duration, diyan po ay interesado po tayo sa Section 5, Duration of the Act, kung gaano katagal po ang bisa ng hinihingi na emergency powers. So, kakaiba nga. Ibig sabihin, sa panahon na ito, may pagsuspende ng mga maaaring umiiral na mga batas o regulasyon at patakaran. Sabi po dito, three years lang ito.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Opo.

REP. TINIO. Tama po ba?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Tama po iyon.

REP. TINIO. Gayunpaman, three years ito pero mayroong ilang mga exceptions. Sabi po dito, “The following provisions of this Act shall continue to take effect unless revoked or repealed by other subsequent laws.” Tama po ba?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Opo, yes, tama po.

REP. TINIO. So, in other words, actually, hindi lang pansamantala, hindi lang sa loob ng tatlong taon ang effectivity nito, kung hindi, habang nananatiling batas ang batas na ito. Hindi po ba? So, anu-ano po iyon at bakit po may ganoong qualification? Ang unang dating kasi ay hindi three years lang itong emergency powers pero, actually, permanente ito unless otherwise revoked or repealed by Congress. So, kailangang malinaw po tayo dito: Anu-ano po iyon na kahit matapos na ang tatlong taon ay mananatili pa rin?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, under Section 5, nakasaad po dito that “The authority granted to the Traffic Chief shall be valid and effective for a period of three years from the effectivity of this Act unless sooner withdrawn by a joint resolution of Congress.” Now, there are provisions in this Act which shall continue to take effect unless revoked or repealed by other subsequent laws like Section 6 on the Continuing Reorganization Power of the President, and Sections 9 and 10 on the existence of the Metropolitan Cebu Traffic Coordinating Council and the Davao Traffic Administrator, and Section 11 pertaining to the policymaking power of the MMDA.

REP. TINIO. Okay. So, para malinaw po na kahit tapos na ang three years ay mananatili po ang kapangyarihan ng Presidente na mag-reorganize ng mga, I suppose traffic-related agencies ...

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Agencies, opo.

REP. TINIO. ... and offices. Okay. Just to be clear, talagang kapangyarihan naman iyon ng Pangulo. Tama po ba?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Yes. Under the Administrative Code ...

REP. TINIO. Yes, okay.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). ... of the Philippines, he has a continuing power to reorganize.

REP. TINIO. So, wala pong madadagdag, walang nadadagdag na kapangyarihan ang Presidente as far as reorganization is concerned. Wala po ba o mayroon?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Wala. As provided for under the Administrative Code of the Philippines, the power to reorganize the Office of the President is with respect to attaining economy, simplicity and efficiency. As regards the Traffic Crisis Act, the power of the President to reorganize is for the purpose of addressing the problem of traffic.

REP. TINIO. Okay. Sa isang banda, puwedeng sabihin na nabigyan ng dagdag na poder ang Presidente dahil explicitly the power to reorganize is specifically recognized with respect to the traffic crisis, parang ganoon. Okay.

Ito pong "Section 5, (b) Sections 9 and 10 on the existence of the Metropolitan Cebu Traffic Coordinating Council and the Davao Traffic Administrator, and Section 11 on their policymaking power, including that of the MMDA"—actually, with this provision, sa esensiya, permanent amendment na po ito ng Local Government Code. Tama po ba? Ibig sabihin, kapag naisabatas ito, talagang sa usapin ng trapiko, ang iiral na sa patakarang pang-trapiko ay hindi na iyong mula sa LGU kung hindi ito nang tatlong ahensiyang ito. Tama po ba? So, kung ngayon, halimbawa, maaaring may sariling patakaran ang Makati when it comes to traffic at puwede nitong sabihin, "You know, wala kaming window. Iyong iba, may window"—although there was a time may ganoong sitwasyon, hindi po ba? Ngayon, hindi na puwede iyon dahil ang policymaking power with respect to traffic rules and regulations will now be permanently, unless repealed, with these Councils. Tama po ba?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, it will have the effect of amending the present law. The purpose of the Traffic Crisis Act, again, balikan natin ang layunin at para maiayos po iyon, ay kailangan po nating i-harmonize ang iba't ibang ordinances, rules and regulations pertaining to traffic. Now, once na-harmonize na ang mga iyon, naniniwala po tayo na makakatulong nang maayos na

maibsan ang trapiko sa subject areas. Like for instance, nailagay po natin ito dahil we are fully aware that under the present set-up, the weakness of Metro Manila is the absence of the power to enact ordinances. Sa ngayon, specifically diyan sa Mandaluyong City, may ordinance silang ipinasa allowing parking in certain areas.

Now, sa pag-aaral po ng Metro Manila Development Authority, diyan po sa lugar ng Greenhills, para maisaayos po ang traffic, dapat maalís iyong parking sa areas diyan sa Greenhills pero hindi nila nagawa iyan dahil wala po silang kapangyarihan, the so-called police power. Now, it is only the local lawmaking body that can do so by way of an ordinance. In the case of Makati, one of the ways na naisip po ng MMDA at that time was to open up iyong subdivisions para madaanan ng trapiko. This reached the Supreme Court at ang sinabi ng Supreme Court was that the MMDA has no police power and it does not possess the power to enact ordinances and so, the power to close or open a road can be done only by the local lawmaking body. Dito po sa panukalang batas na ito, bibigyan po natin ng police power para maayos natin ang trapiko dito sa Metro Manila.

REP. TINIO. Well, hindi lang police power kung hindi, in effect, policymaking power.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Yes.

REP. TINIO. So, kung naipasa ang batas na ito at kahit matapos na iyong three-year duration or coverage, actually, magkakaroon o permanenteng matitira ang mga nilikha, iyong Metropolitan Cebu Traffic Coordinating Council, iyong Davao Traffic Administrator and of course, iyong MMDA na nandiyan na. So, nandiyan pa rin sila even after three years at mananatili iyong kapangyarihan nila. Let me read:

...continuing powers of the MMDA and the Metropolitan Cebu Traffic Coordinating Council and the Davao Traffic Administrator or the development authorities as may have been created, to issue and enact, and review, harmonize, amend, revise, or repeal regulations, policies, ordinances, orders and circulars issued and enacted by the covered agencies and the component local government units (LGUs) pertaining to land-based traffic and road use, regulation, and management.

So, basically tinatanggal na po ang kapangyarihan, ang absolute na kapangyarihan ng mga local government unit through their local legislative bodies to enact traffic-related policies. In other words, major po iyan. Tama po ba? Gusto lang natin malinaw ito.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Tama po iyon.

REP. TINIO. Tama po. Okay. Mananatili pa iyong rationalization sa PUVs. Ito pa ang isa na napansin natin sa Section 21, on the requirement of obtaining a development clearance certificate from the relevant Metropolitan Development Authority.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, sa bagay po na iyan, Kagalang-galang na Tinio, ...

REP. TINIO. Oo.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). ... with respect to development clearance, ...

REP. TINIO. Yes.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). ... up to three years lang po iyan.

REP. TINIO. Sorry.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Hanggang tatlong taon lang po during the effectivity of this proposed measure.

REP. TINIO. Can I be clarified on that, Mme. Speaker? Ang sabi po kasi dito, “The following provisions of this Act shall continue to take effect unless revoked or repealed by other subsequent laws” and under that, on letter (h), Section 21, sinabi iyong requirement of obtaining a development clearance ...

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Okay.

REP. TINIO. ... from the relevant Metropolitan Development Authority. Ang sinasabi pa po rito, anumang construction project, infrastructure project, development project ng LGU along national roads or any road of significance, kailangan muna ipaalam ang mga ito at aprubahan ng relevant traffic authority, hindi po ba? Lahat ng construction ay kailangan munang dumaan sa traffic authority. If we go to Section 21, itatanong ko nga po iyon dahil nabanggit na rito, ang sabi po rito:

The Traffic Chief shall pass upon and approve or disapprove all plans, programs, and projects proposed by local government units, government offices and agencies within the metropolitan areas, the Department of Public Works and Highways, public corporations, and private persons or enterprises where such plans, programs or projects, including expansion or rehabilitation of existing infrastructure are either located along any of the radial or circumferential roads and their respective

arterial roads within or leading into or out of the metropolitan areas or any other road, street, or thoroughfare as may be identified by the Traffic Chief, or are determined to have potential adverse effects on traffic flow, movement, or management of any of the streets, roads, or thoroughfares as identified herein, regardless of their location in the metropolitan area.

Basically, ang sinasabi po rito, lahat ng construction ng kahit sino, whether LGU, government agency, ...

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Private.

REP. TINIO. ... private business, private individual, basta sabihin noong traffic authority na “May kinalaman sa traffic iyan, kailangan muna naming aprubahan”—kailangan dumaan muna sa doon sa inyong awtoridad? Tapos, kaya ko nga sinabi po iyong letter (h) kasi even after three years ay mananatili po ang kapangyarihang ito.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Yes, tama.

REP. TINIO. Hindi po ba medyo labis naman iyan, na kahit anong ipatatayo kahit ni Juan, aba ay puwedeng sabihin ng Traffic Administrator, “Teka muna, walang permit, dito muna.”

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, kung babasahin po ninyo iyong particular section, may qualifying phrase doon na “potential adverse effects on traffic”—so, ang mga iyon po ang kailangang may clearance.

REP. TINIO. Well, yes, of course, that is understood but nevertheless, that will affect the lives and the businesses, the interests of potentially hundreds of thousands of, well, public and private entities, hindi po ba? Lalo na sa Metro Manila, aba ay, you know, kahit doon sa mga side streets which have construction projects, they can very justifiably say, “Aba, may epekto sa traffic iyan.” Hindi po ba?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Actually, dapat i-qualify po natin iyong mga daanan ng pampublikong sasakyan kung iyong mga proposed plans and programs na nakasaad po sa Section 21 ay may adverse effect po sa traffic. Iyon po ang covered po ng section pong ito.

REP. TINIO. Well, yes, okay. Anyway, at this point, kinaklaro ko pa lang po iyong sa coverage and duration. Ang gusto ko lang pong i-point out na iyong napakasaklaw na kapangyarihan na ibinibigay ng Bill na ito sa Traffic Administrator at saka doon sa mga Councils, iyong MMDA, the Davao and Cebu entities, ay permanente po, actually. Tapos, sa esensiya, sasaklaw ito sa lahat ng construction, whether public or private.

Ako nga, ang isang pangamba ko, hindi kaya maging hadlang ito sa economic growth, na kailangang dumaan sa isang opisina ang lahat ng—you know, kung hindi man lahat ay napakalaking bilang ng mga potential development initiatives. Hindi nga lang government kasi kahit private pa, hindi ba?

So, isa pong concern natin iyan—and what I want to stress is this is not an emergency measure but rather a permanent measure. Gusto ba talaga natin ng ganoon? Iyon po ang isang tanong natin, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, going back again, ang layunin po natin ay maiayos po ang problema sa trapiko and then, naisip natin ito sa mga measure na may epekto sa trapiko. Kaya kailangan po na i-clear o to pass upon iyong mga plans and programs to be implemented by the private sector, DPWH, local government units, and this is simply to address the problem of traffic. While this may continue as provided for under Section 5, basta ang layunin is maibsan ang traffic dito sa Metro Manila, at alam po natin ang epekto sa atin kapag hindi natin tugunan ang problema sa trapiko. Daily, it costs our economy billions of pesos and so, we really have to address the problem of traffic. Now, if it is repealed by a subsequent law, mawawala po ito.

REP. TINIO. Okay, Mme. Speaker. Anyway, I have raised some serious concerns regarding the broadness of the powers granted to the Traffic Administrator and the traffic management entities, and that these powers will be not just for an emergency period but, you know, for as long as this law is not repealed. Okay.

Pakiklaro lang po. So, sa panukala, may Traffic Administrator na overall na nangangasiwa sa tatlong ...

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Areas.

REP. TINIO. ... metropolitan areas, but after three years, ano po ang mangyayari, mawawala na po iyong Traffic Administrator? Just to clarify po.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, it is very clear under Section 5 that he will no longer be the Traffic Chief after three years unless the period is shortened by both Houses. As regards the existence of Metropolitan Cebu and Davao, it will be up to the Traffic Chief to make a recommendation and then, subject to the approval of Congress to pass a law formalizing the creation of these two Councils.

REP. TINIO. So, just to be clear po, after three years, unless sooner withdrawn by a joint resolution of Congress, talaga pong maa-abolish na iyong posisyon ng Traffic Administrator.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Yes.

REP. TINIO. Okay. Mananatili iyong Councils, the Cebu Traffic Council and the position of the Davao Traffic Administrator, tama po ano, at saka iyong expanded powers ng MMDA.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Yes.

REP. TINIO. Okay. That is just to make it clear. Okay po.

Pumunta po tayo sa—well, ito na nga po ang isang controversial na nilalaman ng Bill na ito, iyong with respect to route rationalization in the so-called PUV Modernization Program. Alam naman po natin na in the past few months, nagkaroon ng mga protests at transport strikes sa pangunguna ng Piston at iba pa, specifically, on the PUV Modernization Program of the Duterte administration. Alam na natin kahit wala pa po ito, kahit hindi pa po ito napapasa, ay may ipinatutupad nang programa ang Department of Transportation. Mme. Speaker, kapansin-pansin po sa panukala o sa Bill na ito na ang mga patakaran ay tila nakatuon sa pag-regulate partikular sa public utility vehicles.

So, una, iyon na nga, iyong route rationalization. Sa initial na discussion natin kanina, nakatuntong ito sa pagsusuri, na actually isang dahilan ng trapiko ay dahil sa sobra ang mga public utility vehicles sa ilang mga ruta. For example, sa EDSA, sobra ang mga bus, so, kailangang bawasan, parang ganoon po. Tapos, napansin din po natin iyong mga professional drivers, sabi ninyo nga, mayroong requirement, Section 24, for professional driver's examination. They must undergo testing and examination prior to the issuance of new professional licenses. So, specific po ang requirements sa mga professional drivers. Tapos, kahit iyong roadworthiness, under Section 25, and I quote:

Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the LTO shall conduct roadworthiness testing of all PUVs operating within the metropolitan areas. The testing shall cover x x x Emission testing; x x x Chassis stability and x x x capacity; x x x Working headlights, break lights, x x x; and x x x Other testing x x x.

Hindi o ang ipinupunto ko po, Mme. Speaker, bakit po ang tuon ng pansin ng Bill na ito ay tila purely on the regulation of public utility vehicles—their operators, drivers and the vehicles themselves? Halimbawa, bakit sa roadworthiness, walang binabanggit dito about the roadworthiness of private vehicles. Ang mga smoke belchers lang ba—ang nagdudulot ba ng trapiko ay PUV lang, hindi mga pribadong vehicle? Wala bang mga pribadong vehicle na hindi na roadworthy?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, kung titingnan po

natin, ayon sa ating batas, every year po, nire-require po ang registration, whether private or public, and during the time of registration, it has to undergo a roadworthiness test. So, hindi lang po ang pampribado, even pampublikong sasakyan ay subject po sa roadworthiness test.

REP. TINIO. Well, iyon nga po, iyong binabanggit dito, halimbawa, sa professional driver's examination, kailangan kumuha ng exam ang mga professional drivers. Strictly speaking, lahat naman po ng mga kumukuha ng lisensiya, hindi ba nire-require talaga sa batas na kumuha ng exam bago mabigyan ng lisensiya?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, we have to ...

REP. TINIO. In the same way, Mme. Speaker, hindi po ba, supposedly, bago marehistro ang isang sasakyan, whether public or private, dapat nakapasa na ito ng roadworthiness test. So, ang tanong, ano iyong bago o iba dito? Bakit nandito pa iyan sa mga probisyon ng inyong batas?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, we have to admit that some drivers are issued drivers' licenses even if they are not supposed to be issued a driver's license—I mean, we have to admit that. In this particular case, we have to conduct an examination specifically for the vehicle that he is supposed to drive, kaya kung bus po ang kanyang ida-drive, he has to take the examination pertinent to or applicable for bus driving.

REP. TINIO. Well, again, hindi po ba ganyan ang sistema ngayon na iyong mga professional license holders, mayroong pagka, type one, iyong mga ganoon, restriction di ba? Ang tawag doon ay restriction—restriction one, two, three—iyong mga ganoon, that is, as far as my understanding—it is my understanding that it is based on the vehicle weight, di po ba? So, pagka truck, pagka ...

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well,...

REP. TINIO. Could you explain kung ano ba iyong mga restrictions sa lisensiya?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Medyo i-clarify po natin na once ang isang driver po ay nabigyan ng professional driver's license, halimbawa, sa tricycle ay qualified na rin po siyang mag-drive ng malalaking sasakyan. Dito po, ang layunin po natin dito, kung ano ang sasakyan na ida-drive niya, iyon ang examination na kukunin po ng aplikante for such driver's license.

REP. TINIO. Okay. With respect to roadworthiness

po, bakit po limitado sa PUVs ang roadworthiness provision dito?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, for this particular measure...

REP. TINIO. Hindi po ba makakaluwag sa trapiko kung lahat ng mga hindi roadworthy na sasakyan ay ire-require natin sa kanila na magkaroon ng, halimbawa—so, gusto ko lang pong malaman kung bakit partikular sa PUV?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, para masubukan natin kung ang sasakyan ay roadworthy, ang appropriate diyan would be having to pass through the motor vehicle inspection system. Since may kakulangan po tayo sa bagay na iyan and bibigyan po natin ng priority ang—to be subject to roadworthiness test—iyong public utility.

REP. TINIO. Well, iyon na nga, Mme. Speaker. Actually, ang concern natin na tila—kaya po nauunawaan natin ang hinaing ng mga operator at driver kaugnay sa PUV Modernization Program ng Duterte administration at maging sa panukalang batas na ito—ang dating ay ang pangunahing dahilan o isa sa mga pangunahing dahilan sa trapiko ay ang mga public utility vehicles mismo. Parang ganoon ang pinagmumulang pagsusuri kaya ganito ang panukalang hakbang na nagmumula sa kagalang-galang na Sponsor. Ang problema sa traffic ay “kayo mga public utility vehicles ay masyadong marami, magulo ang iyong mga ruta, iyong mga driver hindi disiplinaryado, iyong mga sasakyan hindi roadworthy, kaya ang solusyon dito ay humihingi ang Sponsor ng kapangyarihan para pakialaman ang prangkisa.” Sa esensiya, ito pong requirement for professional driver's examination, ang layunin po nito ay para tanggalan ng lisensiya ang mga driver, hindi ba, para mabawasan ang mga bilang ng may lisensiya. Ganoon din iyong mga provisions for roadworthiness. Nagbubukas ito ng kapangyarihan para tanggalin sa kalsada ang mga public utility vehicles.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, sa totoo lang, sa traffic crisis, huwag nating masyadong pagbigyan ng attention iyong tungkol sa PUV Modernization Program at ang pagtuunan natin ng pansin ay iyon pong honest-to-goodness route rationalization plan. Para sa route rationalization plan, may I bring your attention to Section 15 which provides:

There shall be established a Route Rationalization Plan for PUVs which shall be submitted to the JCOC not later than eight (8) months from the effectivity of this Act. It shall include the following minimum components:

a) Procedure for integration of different transportation modes into a unified public transport infrastructure network;

b) Identification of the various primary, secondary, and ancillary routes, with the corresponding determination of the primary and secondary routes' measured capacity based on the passenger demand and the destination of the demand during certain times of the day, with particular focus on traffic rush hours and road size;

c) Determination of the size, type, and number of PUVs including double-decker bus, articulated bus, mini bus, x x x appropriate to a particular routes' measured capacity;

Sa PUV Modernization Program kasi, kung titingnan natin sa pinapatupad ng DOTr, nakatuon iyong pansin nila doon sa environmental concern without taking into serious consideration that we are now faced with mobility problems because of traffic congestion. So, pag-aaralan po natin kung anong akma na sasakyan ang puwedeng bumaybay sa isang kalsada para ma-address ang problemang traffic and then, iyong mga ruta po, iko-connect po natin iyan to achieve interconnectivity para maganda ang daloy ng trapiko sa ating mga kalsada.

REP. TINIO. Well, Mme. Speaker, medyo nagulat lang ako doon sa statement ng Sponsor na huwag daw munang pagtuunan ng pansin iyong PUV Modernization Program but rather, iyong route rationalization. Bakit po ako nagulat? Sa Bill po kasi mismo ay mayroon pong pagkilala na ang tinatawag na route rationalization ay magresulta sa pagbawas o pagtanggap ng mga jeeps at iba pang public utility vehicles—so buses, jeepneys, tricycles—sa kanilang mga ruta, pagbawas ng bilang ng mga public utility vehicles na gumagana at pagkatanggal sa trabaho ng mga driver at ng kabuhayan ng mga operator. Kaya nga po mayroong mga probisyon dito na nagbibigay ng “safety net” para sa mga maaapektuhan. So, hindi po natin maikakaila na ang binabanggit ng Sponsor na route rationalization ay magresulta sa displacement.

So, iyon lang po. Mahirap pong sabihin na huwag tayong mag-focus diyan samantalang para sa libu-libo o daan libong mga kababayan natin, iyan ang immediate effect nito, na matatanggalan sila ng trabaho at kabuhayan. Hindi po ba, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, ina-anticipate lang po natin kung after the route rationalization program ng ating gobyerno, kapag nalaman natin na sa isang ruta ay sobra ang sasakyan, may maaapektuhan, pero, halimbawa, sa pag-aaral po, sa pag-conduct po ng route

rationalization plan ay tama lang iyong bilang po ng pampublikong sasakyan or kulang pa, madadagdagan pa ho iyan. We are just anticipating a situation where, after conducting the rationalization program, some would be affected, would be displaced, and so, we provided for a support mechanism for them.

REP. TINIO. All right, Mme. Speaker. Para tapusin na lang po iyong punto na ito, so, isa po sa napapansin natin na parang may maka-isang panig o one-sided na pagdidiin sa public utility vehicles, particularly, iyong mga jeep, bus at tricycle bilang sanhi ng problema sa trapiko. Iyon po ang isang napapansin natin. Sa kabilang banda, kapansin-pansin din na walang anumang banggit dito sa Bill na specific regulation ng private vehicles, pero maraming mga nagsasabi na ang hindi maitatangging dahilan ng problema sa trapiko ay una, iyong kawalan ng modern and effective affordable mass transit system, mass transportation system. Pangalawa, dahil doon, at magkaugnay iyan, ay, taun-taong parami nang parami ang bilang ng mga pribadong sasakyan. So, sa anumang discussion sa traffic, hindi po maitatangi ang factor na iyon, iyong taunang pagdami ng bilang ng pribadong sasakyan. Lalo pa kaya na bilang pribadong sasakyan, hindi ito efficient, lalo ang kotse, dahil iilan lamang ang nakakagamit niyan kumpara sa jeep o sa bus na marami ang naseserbisuhan. Alam natin sa ibang mga bansa na may problema rin sa trapiko, isa sa mga isinusulong nila, bukod sa pagsasaayos ng public transport, ay iyong aktwal na direktang regulasyon at limitasyon na ng bilang ng mga pribadong sasakyan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). May I remind the interpellator that he has already consumed one hour. Please wind up.

REP. TINIO. Mme. Speaker, I have consumed 56 minutes, so, I still have a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). You have four minutes.

REP. TINIO. Yes, Mme. Speaker. So, iyon po, bakit po tahimik dito? Sa Singapore, nabalita na hindi na po sila magpapahintulot ng mga bagong sasakyan, private vehicles, for a certain number of years, at kapagka naretiro lang ang pribado ay saka mag-a-allow ng bago. Bakit sa atin ay walang anumang usapan na ganoon?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Doon po sa Singapore, kaiba po ang sitwasyon po doon. May sinasabi po silang intelligent transport system na kung saan ay may effective dissemination program ang pamahalaan na ipinamimigay sa mga motorista kung ano ang sitwasyon sa particular street, kung may aksidente na dapat iwasan kaya huwag pumunta doon—napakaganda

po ng kanilang sistema. For your information, ang mga bus po sa Singapore ay pag-aari po ng gobyerno at iisa lang po ang nag-o-operate niyan kaya maayos ang takbo ng kanilang bus transport doon dahil iisa po ang nagpapatakbo. Mayroon silang system of dispatching, scheduled dispatch, na alam naman natin iyon po ang kailangan natin dito, ang magkaroon ng scheduled dispatching system. Dito po sa atin, ang sitwasyon sa Metro Manila, napakarami po ng operators na hindi po nasi-synchronize ang pagpapatakbo ng mga pampublikong sasakyan.

REP. TINIO. Well, in many cities, kaya po nagagawa iyong synchronized bus schedule, kasi po, either iyong local government o iyong national government ang may-ari at ang nagpapatakbo sa mga kompanya ng bus. Siguro, ang mas pinupunto ko po dito, iyong katahimikan ng Bill sa mga panukala kaugnay sa regulasyon ng pribadong sasakyan.

Dahil paubos na po ang oras ko, gusto ko lang pong buksan iyong usapin na ito. Sa palagay ko, ang isa sa mga pinaka-kontrobersiyal na emergency powers na hinihingi rito ay iyong sa esensiya, iyong suspensiyon ng Procurement Law, at sinasabi dito na idedeklarang national emergency ang problema sa traffic. Batayan na ito para isantabi ang open competitive or public bidding at maaaring direktang makipagnegosasyon sa mga piling supplier ang gobyerno para sa kanyang mga priority projects. Ang sabi po rito, “To promptly address the traffic crisis, the following are temporarily suspended throughout the effectivity of this Act, but only insofar as they apply to the priority projects under this Act.” Ano po ba iyong priority projects under this Act? Hindi po actually nakalista rito kung ano iyong mga priority projects na iyan.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Under Republic Act No. 9184, it is provided therein the modes of procurement, iyong iba’t-ibang modes of procurement. Ang isa nga doon ay iyong negotiated procurement.

Dito sa panukalang batas, we consider the situation now as a crisis na maituturing natin na emergency para mag-qualify doon po sa Section 52 ng Republic Act No. 9184, na nagsasabi na kapag emergency, puwedeng mag-enter into a negotiated procurement. So, ano ang magka-qualify sa negotiated procurement? Iyong mga priority projects that will immediately address or alleviate the problem of traffic, iyong mga big-ticket projects, gaya ng sinabi ko noong nakaraang interpellation, na hindi po magka-qualify dahil po matagal ang gestation noong mga big-ticket projects.

REP. TINIO. So, anu-ano po iyong projects na magka-qualify sa exception na ito?

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Well, iyong pagbili ng mga equipment ng MMDA kung sakaling may mga aksidente para hindi mag-build-up ang traffic, this is one of those na magkaka-qualify; and then, the hiring of more traffic enforcers para makatulong ma-monitor iyong mga areas na may mga build-up, so those can be procured under negotiated procurement.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Honorable Tinio, please wind up.

REP. TINIO. Mme. Speaker, alam kong tapos na po ang oras. Yes, I will wind up.

Kung pakikikingan po natin ang Sponsor, iyong exception po sa Procurement Law under the emergency powers here ay para sa maliitang proyekto lang—iyong hiring daw ng mga additional enforcers at pagbili ng supplies and so on, pero alam po natin si Pangulong Duterte, kahit nga hindi pa naipapasa itong emergency powers bill, naglalabas na ng mga pahayag na ayaw na niya ng public bidding. Sa isang pagkakataon ay sinabi niya, “Swiss challenge na lang lahat. Ayaw ko ng bidding”. Tapos, sinabi niya, with respect to the Lumad lands, “Para walang corruption, ako na lang ang pipili kung sino ang investor na papasok diyan.” So, talaga pong allergic sa public bidding ang administrasyong ito at si Pangulong Duterte kaya po ang problema natin diyan, kapag ganyan ay lalong walang transparency at lalong bukas sa graft and corruption. Iyon po ang pangamba natin, Mme. Speaker, na kapag inaprubahan po ang panukalang batas, ito ay magbubukas ng daan para sa malakihan o big-time na corruption, lalo na sa mga multibillion-peso projects na pinaplano ng administrasyong ito sa ngalan ng trapiko at sa ilalim ng kanyang Build, Build, Build Program. Diyan ko na po tinatapos ang aking interpellation.

Maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Thank you.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6425

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 6425. I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

CHANGE OF REFERRAL TO COMMITTEES

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move for the

change of referral of the following measure: House Bill No. 7111, from the Committee on National Defense and Security, to the Committees on National Defense and Security, Public Order and Safety and Justice. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move for a few minutes suspension of the session.

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

It was 6:45 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:46 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until four o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, February 7, 2018. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

It was 6:46 p.m.