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No. 68

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Rolando G. Andaya Jr. called the session to order.

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Please remain standing for a moment of prayer.

Everybody remained standing for the prayer.

Lord, as we draft laws, enlighten us with the wisdom:

To approach every problem with an open mind, and not with an open mouth;

To craft laws that will serve the generation after mine, and not the election that will come next;

To view things with a perfect vision, and not with 20/20 hindsight;

To express our opinion with an economy of words, and not with a surplus of empty bombast;

To argue using the strength of ideas, and not enforce it through a tyranny of numbers;

To debate in a manner that will generate light, not heat; one that leads to an informed choice, and not the result of an imposed dogma;

To measure our work with the sound policies we help create, and not the sound bites we make;

To resist solutions which provide temporary relief

to our people, because what they need is permanent release from their problems;

To be conscious of the cost of the promises we redeem, because rhetoric must be backed by cash;

To be always humble, never forgetting that we are glorified casuals with 1,000-day contracts which can be ended by our employers in the next election.

Dear Lord, heavenly Father, when our people come to us for help in their time of need or when they plead for more projects, may You teach us how to stage the budgetary equivalent of the miracle of feeding the multitude out of a single loaf of bread, and making tagay to many out of one jug of wine.

We implore you, dear Lord, to help us with these. Amen.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ROLL CALL

REP. GULLAS. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). 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. 68, dated February 27, 2018.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 214 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). With 214 Members in attendance, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 67, dated February 26, 2018.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

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

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

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

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

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 7215, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE DNA DATABASE SYSTEM”

By Representative Barbers
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 7216, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE LOON UPTHURST IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LOON, PROVINCE OF BOHOL, A TOURISM ENTERPRISE ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Relampagos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 7217, entitled:

“AN ACT POSTPONING THE MAY 2018 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS TO MAY 2020, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10632, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10952, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 7218, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE

ENHANCEMENT OF ALL GOVERNMENT OWNED OR FUNDED BASKETBALL COURTS TO SERVE AS AN ALTERNATIVE EVACUATION CENTERS DURING CALAMITY OR DISASTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Ortega (V.N.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 7219, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING TELECOMMUTING IN THE WORKPLACE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Almario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 7220, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LICENSING CENTER IN THE CITY OF KORONADAL, PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO INTO A REGULAR LICENSING CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS ‘LTO LICENSING CENTER OF KORONADAL CITY’ AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Hernandez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 7221, entitled:

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

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

House Bill No. 7222, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO SENIOR CITIZENS THROUGH THE EXPANSION OF THE COVERAGE OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S PENSION PROGRAM AND THE GRANT OF FUNERAL AND BURIAL ASSISTANCE, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010’, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT 9994, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Quimbo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND
FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 7223, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING INCENTIVES TO
QUALIFIED TAXPAYERS BY EXEMPTING
THEM FROM AUDIT AND INVESTIGATION
IF THEY PAY AT LEAST TWENTY PERCENT
MORE OF INCOME TAX, VAT, EXCISE
AND PERCENTAGE TAXES PAID DURING
THE PREVIOUS TAXABLE YEAR”

By Representatives Singson and Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND
MEANS

House Bill No. 7224, entitled:

“AN ACT RE-ESTABLISHING THE SAN
MARTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN
BARANGAY SAN MARTIN, MUNICIPALITY
OF CONCEPCION, PROVINCE OF
TARLAC AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Villanueva
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 7225, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE LOON UPTHURST
LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF
LOON AND MARIBOJOC, PROVINCE
OF BOHOL, AS ALIENABLE AND
DISPOSABLE LAND”

By Representative Relampagos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 7226, entitled:

“AN ACT LIMITING THE POWER TO ASSUME
JURISDICTION OVER LABOR DISPUTES
INVOLVING ESSENTIAL SERVICES BY
THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES,
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLE
263 (G) OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE
NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE
PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Mendoza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 7227, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE SOCIAL PENSION
OF SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING
FURTHER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS
AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘EXPANDED
SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010’ ”

By Representative Calixto-Rubiano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND
FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 7228, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION
OF OFW DEPENDENTS BY SETTING UP
FOR THEM A SPECIAL PENSION FUND IN
THE EVENT OF INCOME LOSS DUE TO
DEATH OR DISABILITY”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS
WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 7229, entitled:

“AN ACT INTEGRATING AND ESTABLISHING
PERTINENT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS
TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF
THE PHILIPPINE TOURISM INDUSTRY,
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gomez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1709, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO
THE COLLAPSE OF A HOUSING UNIT FOR
THE ZAMBOANGA SIEGE VICTIMS”

By Representative Sarmiento (E.M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1710, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT
AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO
CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID
OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THE
POSSIBLE IRREGULARITIES IN THE
BIDDING FOR THE NEW BUILDING OF
THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1711, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN
INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION
BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
THE FILING OF PLUNDER AND DIRECT
BRIBERY CASES AGAINST INVOLVED

OFFICIALS IN THE JACK LAM BRIBERY SCANDAL INCLUDING FORMER BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION COMMISSIONERS AL ARGOSINO AND MICHAEL ROBLES AND RETIRED POLICE OFFICER WENCESLAO ‘WALLY’ SOMBERO JR.”

By Representatives Bravo (A.), Garbin and Bertiz
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1712, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SEVERE FLOODING AND LANDSLIDES IN PROVINCES IN THE CARAGA REGION FROM TROPICAL STORM BASYANG ATTRIBUTED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT DUE TO LARGE-SCALE MINING OPERATIONS”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1713, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) TO FULLY IMPLEMENT R.A. NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010’”

By Representative Almario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Resolution No. 1714, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGENTLY REQUESTING THE HON. RODRIGO R. ADUTERTE, PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, TO ORDER THE UP (UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES) RESILIENCE INSTITUTE - NATIONWIDE OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF HAZARDS (NOAH) CENTER TO ESTABLISH A NETWORK OF CITY, PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL FACILITIES SO THAT LGUs MAY HAVE ACCESS TO LOCAL DATABASES, METHODOLOGIES AND TOOLS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY AND DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT (CVDRA), NECESSARY FOR PLANNING AND TRANSFORMING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AS ENVISIONED IN THE PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (PDP) FOR 2017-2022”

By Representative Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Resolution No. 1715, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING REP. LEOPOLDO N. BATAOIL OF THE 2ND DISTRICT OF PANGASINAN FOR INITIATING THE PLANTING OF PHILIPPINE YU TREES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND URGING THE HOUSE LEADERSHIP TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THESE YU TREES”

By Representative Bravo (A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1716, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT A REVIEW ON THE SHARE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE PROCEEDS OF NATIONAL TAXES AS PROVIDED IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 OR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Benitez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1717, entitled:

“RESOLUTION FOR THE CALLING OF AN IMMEDIATE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE THE CULPABILITY OF MERCURY DRUG CORPORATION IN ITS OPEN AND WANTON DEFIANCE OF THE BENEFITS PROVIDED TO SENIOR CITIZENS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF R.A. NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Datol
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1718, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE CONTINUED AND SUSTAINED OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION (NSWMC) IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY MILLION PESOS (P20,000,000.00) AS INITIAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT AND THEREAFTER SUCH SUM AS MAY BE NEEDED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (GAA)”

By Representative Cojuangco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Resolution No. 1719, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE LEGALITY OF THE AGREEMENTS EXEMPTING THE UK-BASED PEARSON EDUCATION, LTD. AND AYALA FOUNDATION'S APEC SCHOOLS FROM THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING PRIVATE SCHOOLS”

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

House Resolution No. 1720, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES ON THE DEMISE OF THE PHILIPPINES' NATIONAL ARTIST FOR SCULPTURE NAPOLEON ABUEVA”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1721, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS TO CHERYL DIAZ MEYER FOR WINNING THE WHITE HOUSE NEWS PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION'S 2018 EYES OF HISTORY”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message dated February 22, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on February 21, 2018 the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No.1311, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9485 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-RED TAPE ACT OF 2007, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE BUSINESS ANTI-RED TAPE AND COMPETITIVENESS BUREAU, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

and House Bill No. 6579, entitled:

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

Facsimile letter dated February 8, 2018 of Democrito M. Diamante, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Tuburan, Province of Cebu, submitting their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Implementation of the Core Local Access Road Project under the 2017 Local Government Support Fund - Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities for the 4th Quarter of CY 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated February 10, 2018 of Minerva I. Morales, SUC President III, Catanduanes State University, submitting their Quarterly Financial Reports for the Quarter ending December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 627), re H.B. No. 7260, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY FOUR OF EVERY YEAR AS THE ‘PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL DAY’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2092

Sponsors: Representatives Durano, Nograles (K.A.) and Tinio

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 628), re H.B. No. 7264, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CORDILLERA STATE POLYTECHNIC SKILLS INSTITUTE, INTEGRATING THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING CENTERS AND TESDA-SUPERVISED STATE-RUN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (TVIs) IN THE CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2141

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery. In the gallery are the guests of the Hon. Antonio R. Floirendo Jr. of the Second District of Davao del Norte and they are local government officials from the Municipality of Santo Tomas, Province of Davao del Norte, headed by Mayor Daniel Batosalem Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Your presence is noted. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. GULLAS. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, we have the guests of the Hon. Victor A. Yap from the Second District of Tarlac, the students and teachers from the Tarlac Christian College, headed by Ms. May Viuya, Ms. Rosalie Balcon, Ms. Leila Terrado and Ms. Edcel May Martinez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Your presence is noted. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. GULLAS. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, we also have the guests of the Hon. Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso, the Vice Mayors from the Province of Cagayan: Hon. Randy Cambe and Hon. Azarelle Bilas.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Your presence is noted. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7134
ON THIRD READING

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7134 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. Andaya). 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 21, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7134, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING POLICIES AND PRESCRIBING PROCEDURES ON SURVEILLANCE

AND RESPONSE TO NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, EPIDEMICS, AND HEALTH EVENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 3573, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LAW ON REPORTING OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES."

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. 68, dated February 27, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7134
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). With 192 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7134 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7120
ON THIRD READING

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7120 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. Andaya). 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 22, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7120, entitled: AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO MR. PHILLIP LEACH.

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. 68, dated February 27, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7120
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). With 197

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7120 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7185
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7185, contained in Committee Report No. 610, as reported out by the Committee on Population and Family Relations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). 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. 7185, entitled: AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE FOREIGN DECREE OF TERMINATION OF MARRIAGE AND ALLOWING ITS SUBSEQUENT REGISTRATION WITH THE PHILIPPINE CIVIL REGISTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

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

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

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Sponsor, the Hon. Pia S. Cayetano, for her sponsorship speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The Honorable Cayetano is hereby recognized. Please proceed.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. CAYETANO

REP. CAYETANO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker and honorable colleagues, I stand before you today to sponsor House Bill No. 7185 under Committee Report No. 610, entitled: AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE FOREIGN DECREE OF TERMINATION OF MARRIAGE AND ALLOWING ITS SUBSEQUENT REGISTRATION WITH THE PHILIPPINE CIVIL REGISTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

As a background, this Bill was approved unanimously by the Committee on Population and Family Relations last January 31, following a series of consultations held by the Committee with Filipino communities in Hong Kong, Japan and Malaysia, and our public hearings here in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, our Family Code recognizes the right of a Filipino married to a foreign spouse to start over if their marriage fails, but our consultations in Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Kuala Lumpur revealed that the current process has not made this possible for many of our fellow Filipinos

Imagine this scenario: you are married to him but he is not married to you. Imagine that. There is so much difficulty in filing a case when one is working abroad and that makes it next to impossible. I am talking about a scenario where a Filipina is already divorced by her foreign spouse. The law currently allows this Filipina to file a case for judicial recognition back home, but it is extremely difficult. Not only are there major cost implications, but the entire process of hiring the services of a local lawyer, preparing the documents, attending the hearing— all of these make it extremely hard for Filipinos living abroad to undertake. We also discovered that it is just as difficult for many Filipinos living here, married to someone but, as I have said, who does not consider himself or herself married to the other. This measure seeks to make simpler the process of having foreign divorce decrees recognized in our Civil Registry.

Under our Family Code, the divorced Filipino spouse needs to petition a Philippine court to acquire judicial recognition of his or her foreign divorce decree and have the same entered in the Philippine Civil Registry. Only at this point can the Philippine Statistics Authority issue a Certificate of No Marriage for the said person. This Certificate of No Marriage is a basic requirement before he could be capacitated to remarry under the Philippine law.

Under House Bill No. 7185, the Filipino spouse, upon obtaining the Decree of Termination of Marriage,

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

shall submit for authentication the document to the nearest Philippine Embassy or consular office in the country where the decree was issued. The Philippine Embassy or consular office will then send the authenticated document to the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Office of Consular Affairs, and the Consular Records Division for transmittal to the Philippine Statistics Authority. Finally, the Philippine Statistics Authority will process the annotation of the marriage certificate and issue an advisory on the annotation. In short, the Bill does away with the current lengthy, tedious and financially burdensome process of judicial recognition, replacing it with a faster, easier and cheaper administrative process.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with the Members of this Chamber that this Bill is truly a product of the numerous consultations we had with our kababayans. Their insight and stories that they openly shared with the Committee, helped us to craft the provisions of this measure that we are presenting to you today. I urge my honorable colleagues to listen to the voice of our people who count on us to pass laws that apply to them, that are meaningful to them, and that would protect their interests and rights.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honorable colleagues. I am ready for interpellation.

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7185

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 7185.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 4:43 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:48 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. RPT. ON H.B. NO. 6579 AND S.B. NO. 1311

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Bicameral Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 6579 and Senate Bill No. 1311, establishing a National Policy on Ease of Doing Business.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6579, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL POLICY ON EASE OF DOING BUSINESS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; AND SENATE BILL NO. 1311, ENTITLED: AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9485 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-RED TAPE ACT OF 2007, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE BUSINESS ANTI RED TAPE AND COMPETITIVENESS BUREAU, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our rules, I move that we ratify the said Bicameral Conference Committee Report.

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

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE CONF. CTTEE. ON H.B. NO. 7054 AND S.B. NO. 1461

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 7054 and Senate Bill No. 1461,

institutionalizing the Electric Cooperative, Emergency and Resiliency Fund: Reps. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Rogelio Neil P. Roque, Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta, Rodel M. Batocabe, Michael L. Romero PhD, and Orestes T. Salon.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Members nominated are so designated.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we include as additional coauthors of House Bills No. 6446, 7180, 7185, 7191, 7193 and 7199, those contained in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the bills on Third Reading that had been passed earlier be transmitted to the Senate.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Before we proceed, I think we have the guests of the Hon. Robert Ace S. Barbers here whom we would want to welcome to the House.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Robert Ace S. Barbers. They are from the Municipality of San Francisco, Surigao del Norte, namely: Vice Mayor Val Pinat, Maria Lua Pinat, Jelly Po, Rogen Orillo, Genaro Jacob, Jaime Cortes, Escabal Jerry, Jeneper Bernadez, Felix Jubgan, Roderick Bacol, Nestor Magtangale, Jamar Gavino, and Amado Sajol.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Your presence is noted. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

Ang suwerte ho ninyo, suwerte kayo at si Ace ang Congressman ninyo, guwapo na, galante pa. Papakainin ho kayo mamaya niya.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7016 ON THIRD READING

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 7016 on Third Reading, 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. Andaya). 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 22, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7016, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR, EMPHASIZING THE PROHIBITION ON ILLEGAL GAMBLING, AND ESTABLISHING THE CITY REGISTRY OF DEEDS OFFICE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 7, 10, 36, 51 AND 52 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8983, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BAYAWAN.

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. 68, dated February 27, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7016 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). With 202 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7016 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7166 ON THIRD READING

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7166 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. Andaya). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on February 22, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7166, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING THE KABASALAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KABASALAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY INTO THE ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE (ZSPI) 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. 68, dated February 27, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7166
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). With 203 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7166 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7175
ON THIRD READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7175 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). 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 22, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7175, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE IGBARAS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – ALAMEDA EXTENSION IN BARANGAY ALAMEDA, MUNICIPALITY OF IGBARAS, PROVINCE OF ILOILO FROM THE IGBARAS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN

INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS ALAMEDA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, 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. 68, dated February 27, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7175
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). With 203 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7175 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7177
ON THIRD READING

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7177 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. Andaya). 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 22, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7177, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE POLO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – MALANDAY ANNEX IN BARANGAY MALANDAY, VALENZUELA CITY FROM THE POLO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MALANDAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, 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. 68, dated February 27, 2018.*

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7177
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya).
With 203 affirmative votes, no negative vote and
no abstention, House Bill No. 7177 is approved on
Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we
transmit to the Senate all bills approved on Third
Reading.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Is there

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we
adjourn the session until tomorrow, February 28, at four
o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The
session is adjourned until tomorrow, February 28, at
four o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 5:08 p.m.