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House of Representatives

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No. 81

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Please remain standing for the Invocation to be led by the Hon. Evelina G. Escudero from the First District of Sorsogon.

Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

REP. ESCUDERO. Almighty God, we implore Your guidance as we open another week of legislative activities in the House of Representatives.

Grant us the wisdom and foresight necessary in crafting legislation that will have profound effects on our future.

We realize that the work that we do will change the course of our country. May we be able to discern Your divine guidance so that we will be able to produce the best possible legislation for the development of our nation.

As we tackle the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law, we implore Your divine love so that we may be able to see the faces of each and every Filipino that we have vowed to serve. Allow us to discern the will of the people so that the outcome of our discussions and debates will be reflective of the true desires of our citizens.

Almighty God, please shine Your light upon us. Provide us with a moral compass so that the laws we craft will not only be constitutionally sound, but more importantly, morally upright as well.

Help us to remain calm during deliberations so that intelligent debates will be able to expose the truth. May You inspire our hearts so that we can actively participate in our quest for bringing to life laws that will improve the lives of our citizens.

Almighty God, all of these we lift up to You.
Amen.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon, dear colleagues.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Good afternoon, Majority Leader.

ROLL CALL

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

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 81, dated May 21, 2018.**

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

* See ANNEX AG (printed separately)

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the guests of Congresswoman Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality. They are the 11 banker-participants from Sri Lanka and India to the “International Leadership Enhancement Course for Women Executive Cum Exposure Visit on Innovative Women Empowerment Programs,” being hosted by the Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association Center for Training and Research in Agricultural Banking (APRACACENTRAB). From Sri Lanka, Mr. Speaker, they are: Ms. Kanchana Nilmini Perera, Ms. Dantha Signhege Chamitri Lakshika Ariyasinghe, Ms. Bahirathy Mohanarasu, Ms. Thiriwana Ketiyage Sagarika Nilmini Perea, Ms. Thushari Shyama Anne Silva, Ms. Senadheerage Nadeera Nilanthi Peiris, Ms. Anusha Wathsala Kumari Wellage, Ms. Janitha Harshini Jayalath Arachchilage Dona Chandrasiri and Ms. Kalutharayalage Nilupa Nilmini. From India, Mr. Speaker, they are: Ms. Mini Thripekulath Marath and Ms. Harshita Poonja. From the APRACACENTRAB Secretariat, Mr. Speaker, we have: Ms. Lecira V. Juarez, Ms. Gigi D. Cuevas, Ms. Grace M. Ferrer and Mr. Rey R. Torres.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). To the guests of Bagong Henerasyon Party-List Representative, the Hon. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the guests of Rep. Henry C. Ong, from the Second District of Leyte, as well as those of COOP-NATCCO Party-List Reps. Sabiniano S. Canama and Anthony M. Bravo, PhD. They are Abdulrahim H. Mantil and Balina S. Amir, from the Mindanao Tulong Farmers Marketing Cooperative. From the Kangara Multipurpose Cooperative, we have: Ms. Elena M. Velasco, Ms. Lilibeth T. Lesigues, Ms. Maura J. Agunos and Ms. Herminia N. Carolino.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). To the guests of Congressman Ong and the Party-List Representatives of COOP-NATCCO, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNALS

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 79 dated May 15, 2018, as well as Journal No. 80 dated May 16, 2018.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; Journal No. 79 dated May 15, 2018, and Journal No. 80 dated May 16, 2018, are hereby approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 7653, entitled:

“AN ACT REVERSING REGRESSIVE AND ANTI-POOR TAXATION, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 10963 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS TAX REFORM FOR ACCELERATION AND INCLUSION ACT”

By Representatives Zarate, De Jesus and Brosas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 7654, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE TRADE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 7655, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING HARBOR PILOTAGE SERVICES AND THE CONDUCT OF HARBOR PILOTS IN ALL PORTS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 7656, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS IN THE PHILIPPINES THEREBY

CREATING A NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 7657, entitled:

“AN ACT PENALIZING FALSE OR FRAUDULENT ADVERTISING AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 7658, entitled:

“AN ACT TO GIVE JURIDICAL PERSONALITY TO THE PRESENT VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER (VMMC) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7659, entitled:

“AN ACT FINANCING THE □ EDUCATION FOR ALL INITIATIVES □ FROM THE ANNUAL VALUE-ADDED TAX COLLECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND
MEANS

House Bill No. 7660, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 9 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1586 BY INCREASING THE PENALTIES THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 7661, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE SALARIES OF EMPLOYEES OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 7662, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY DOMESTIC PROCESSING OF ALL MINERAL ORES BEFORE EXPORTATION AND CERTIFICATION SHOWING PRESENCE OR LACK OF RARE EARTH

ELEMENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7942, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE MINING ACT OF 1955 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 7663, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF VICTIMS”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7664, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IN BOTH BASIC AND HIGHER EDUCATION”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

House Bill No. 7665, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL SIGHT STRATEGY PLAN”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7666, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION TO PROMOTE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 7667, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7309 ENTITLED, “AN ACT CREATING A BOARD OF CLAIMS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF UNJUST IMPRISONMENT OR DETENTION AND VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIMES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7668, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES FOR BREAST

AND CERVICAL CANCER, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7669, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL CERVICAL CANCER DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT FUND”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7670, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS AND THE OFFICE OF AUTISM SERVICES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7671, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE CONFERMENT OF A DOCTORATE DEGREE AS EQUIVALENT TO ENTRY LEVEL CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE OFFICER ELIGIBILITY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE”

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

House Bill No. 7672, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER IN EVERY REGION OF THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 7673, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A NATIONAL FOLIC ACID EDUCATION PROGRAM TO PREVENT BIRTH DEFECTS”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7674, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROMOTE DONATIONS, IN GOOD FAITH, OF MEDICINES, FOOD PRODUCTS OR SUPPLIES BY ESTABLISHMENTS AND OTHER ENTITIES, INCLUDING INDIVIDUALS, BY EXEMPTING THEM FROM ANY

FORM OF LIABILITY ARISING THEREFROM”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 7675, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR THE MANUFACTURE, ASSEMBLY, CONVERSION AND IMPORTATION OF ELECTRONIC, HYBRID AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES, FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 7676, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR TAX EXEMPTIONS AND SUBSIDIES FOR THE LOCAL MUSIC INDUSTRY, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 7677, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING A MAGNA CARTA FOR PROBATION AND PAROLE WORKERS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7678, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING MANDATORY COMPUTER EDUCATION IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOLS AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 7679, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF PLUMBING ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 1378, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT TO REGULATE THE TRADE OF MASTER PLUMBER’, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 7680, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL POVERTY ALLEVIATION FUND TO BE USED TO FINANCE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING PROGRAMS AND RELATED POVERTY ALLEVIATION EFFORTS USING THE MINIMUM BASIC NEEDS (MBN) APPROACH IN THE POOREST OF THE POOR COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 7681, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A PRE-HOSPITAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE SYSTEM, PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, SUPERVISION AND REGULATION OF THE PRE-HOSPITAL EMERGENCY, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7682, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION ON PROSTATE CANCER”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7683, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING THE OFFENSE OF RECKLESS DRIVING AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE COMMISSION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7684, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION, SUPERVISION AND PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE PRACTICE, LICENSING, AND REGISTRATION OF SANITARIANS”

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

House Bill No. 7685, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROTECTION, SECURITY AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7686, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF MINING ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR (R.A. NO. 4274), AS AMENDED ENTITLED ‘MINING ENGINEERING LAW OF THE PHILIPPINES’, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1827, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDEMN AND INVESTIGATE THE DETENTION AND TORTURE OF MORO ACTIVIST JEROME SUCCOR ABA BY U.S. HOMELAND SECURITY AND CUSTOMS BORDER AND PROTECTION AGENTS”

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

House Resolution No. 1828, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE OF MRS. BARBARA PIERCE BUSH, FORMER FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1829, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS, TO CONDUCT A JOINT INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN THE PROTECTION OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (‘OFWs’) AND CLARIFY THE MANDATES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (‘DFA’) AND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (‘DOLE’) TO RESCUE THEM IN LIGHT OF THE DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS OF KUWAIT AGAINST THE PHILIPPINES, THE ARREST OF FILIPINO NATIONALS, AND THE DECLARATION OF THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR AS

PERSONA NON-GRATA ARISING FROM THE RESCUE OF DISTRESSED OFWs IN KUWAIT”

By Representative Manalo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1830, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CASE OF NUMEROUS ABUSE COMMITTED AGAINST THE HOUSEHOLD SERVICE WORKERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WITH THE VIEW OF PROTECTING THE WELFARE OF OUR FELLOW FILIPINOS WORKING ABROAD”

By Representatives De Jesus and Brosas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1831, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE(S) TO LOOK INTO THE STATUS OF THE P1.8 BILLION ALLOCATION IN THE 2017 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET RESERVED FOR POST RESETTLEMENT FUND”

By Representative Benitez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1832, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE(S) TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE QUALITY OF HOUSING UNITS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF UTILITY SERVICES ESTABLISHED UNDER SHELTER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR AREAS AFFECTED BY NATURAL AND MAN-MADE CALAMITIES”

By Representative Benitez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1833, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE VICTIMS OF THE DEADLY VAN ATTACK IN TORONTO, CANADA”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1834, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER

APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL CHARGES BEING IMPOSED BY GRAB TO ITS CUSTOMERS”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1835, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE DEMISE OF THE HONORABLE ROQUITO ABLAN, JR., FORMER REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FIRST DISTRICT OF ILOCOS NORTE”

By Representative Velarde
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1836, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING SAN MIGUEL ALAB PILIPINAS FOR WINNING THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE 2017-2018 ASEAN BASKETBALL LEAGUE 3-2 AGAINST THAILAND’S MONO VAMPIRE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2018 AT THE STA. ROSA MULTIPURPOSE COMPLEX, LAGUNA CITY, PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Sambar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 1837, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE CREEPING INVASION OF CHINA OF THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA (WPS)”

By Representative Erice
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1838, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10963, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE TAX REFORM FOR ACCELERATION AND INCLUSION (TRAIN) LAW, AND ITS IMPACT ON THE WAY OF LIFE OF FILIPINOS, SPECIFICALLY THE POOR, AMIDST THE CONTINUED INCREASE ON INFLATION, AND PRICES OF FUEL IN ORDER TO RECOMMEND FOR ITS CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OR SUSPENSION AS WELL AS TO COME UP

WITH POLICIES THAT WOULD CUSHION ITS NEGATIVE IMPACT AGAINST THE POOR”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1839, entitled:

“RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, TO CONDUCT A REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO UPDATE THE REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS OF THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND TO CALL ON THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS TO REVIEW AND PROPOSE COMPREHENSIVE REVISIONS IN ORDER TO ENHANCE RESILIENCE”

By Representative Gonzales (A.D.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1840, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO (CHURCH OF CHRIST) FOR MARKING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS CHILDREN’S WORSHIP SERVICE (CWS) IN A SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE FOR CHILDREN OFFICIATED BY THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER, BROTHER EDUARDO V. MANALO ON APRIL 28, 2018”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1841, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO FOR SETTING A NEW WORLD RECORD FOR THE LARGEST HUMAN SENTENCE WITH 23,235 PARTICIPANTS FORMING THE SENTENCE ‘PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF IGLESIA NI CRISTO’ ON MAY 6, 2018 AT THE QUIRINO GRANDSTAND”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1842, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION CONFIRMING THE VERACITY OF THE REPORTS OF THE INSTALLATION OF SURFACE-TO-AIR AND ANTI-SHIP CRUISE MISSILES ON KAGITINGAN REEF (FIERY CROSS),

ZAMORAREEF (SUBI), AND PANGANIBAN REEF (MISCHIEF) IN THE SPRATLY ISLANDS CHAIN IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND IF PROVEN TRUE CONDEMN IT IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1843, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE LATEST REPORT FROM THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY SHOWING THAT 145,000 MORE FILIPINOS ARE UNEMPLOYED IN 2017 WITH AN END GOAL OF CHARTING THE NECESSARY LEGISLATIONS AND STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE PERSISTENT PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1844, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE FINDING OF THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT REVEALING THE ANOMALOUS MULTI-MILLION TRANSACTION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND BITAG MEDIA UNLIMITED INC.”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1845, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO STRENGTHEN OUR CLAIM AND PRESENCE IN THE PHILIPPINE RISE THRU THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RESEARCH AND MONITORING FACILITY IN THE AREA”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Resolution No. 1846, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON LABOR AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT A JOINT INQUIRY AND ON-SITE PUBLIC HEARING, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACT OF THE GOVERNMENT’S CLOSING DOWN OF BORACAY ISLAND, THAT DISPLACED 36,000 WORKERS, AMID REPORTS OF THE

PAGCOR-APPROVED CONSTRUCTION OF CASINO RESORTS IN THE ISLAND”

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

House Resolution No. 1847, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION ON THE JANUARY 28, 2018 – EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLING OF RICKY B. OLADO IN ARAKAN TOWN, NORTH COTABATO, ALLEGEDLY BY ELEMENTS OF THE 84TH INFANTRY BATTALION OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY”

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

House Resolution No. 1848, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MARCH 20, 2018 – EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLING OF AGUDO QUILLIO, PEASANT LEADER, ANTI-MINING ACTIVIST AND CHAIRPERSON OF HUGPONG SA MGA MAG-UUMA SA PANTUKAN (HUMAPAN) IN BRGY. KINGKING, PANTUKAN TOWN, COMPOSTELA VALLEY”

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

House Resolution No. 1849, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MARCH 22, 2018 – EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLING OF GARITO MALIBATO, MEMBER OF THE LUMAD GROUP KARADYAWAN IN BRGY. GUPITAN, KAPALONG TOWN, DAVAO DEL NORTE BY SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF ALAMARA PARA-MILITARY GROUP UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE 73RD INFANTRY BATTALION OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY”

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

House Resolution No. 1850, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN

INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MARCH 24, 2018 - ABDUCTION OF ADELAIDA MACUSANG, PEASANT WOMAN ACTIVIST AND MEMBER OF MONTEVISTA FARMERS ASSOCIATION (MONTEFERMA) BY ELEMENTS OF THE 25TH INFANTRY BATTALION OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY IN BRGY. CAMANSI, MONTEVISTA TOWN, COMPOSTELA VALLEY PROVINCE”

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

House Resolution No. 1851, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE THREAT OF DISPLACEMENT OF FARMERS AND RESIDENTS FROM THE 1,265-HECTARE PUJALTE ESTATE IN TAYTAY TOWN, PALAWAN, COVERED BY THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM VIA COMPULSORY ACQUISITION, AS SET OFF BY THE ISSUANCES OF CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION FROM DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM REGION IV DIRECTORS AND INVOLVING THE PUJALTE LUMBER COMPANY, INC. AND GUEVENT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION”

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

House Resolution No. 1852, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CEBU II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. BLUE KNIGHTS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED PILIPINAS GOT TALENT 2018”

By Representative Uybarreta
TO THE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 1853, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING NEIL LEONARD DULA ETHERIDGE FOR BEING THE FIRST FILIPINO AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN TO PLAY IN THE ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE”

By Representative Sambar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 1854, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW BILIBID PRISON”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1855, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE NEED TO CONVENE THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL IN ORDER THAT A NATIONAL POLICY ON THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA MAY BE FORMULATED AND DEFINED”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

House Resolution No. 1856, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED DEPLOYMENT OF MISSILES IN THE SPRATLY ISLANDS BY CHINA”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1857, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS TO IGLESIA NI CRISTO FOR SETTING THE WORLD RECORD FOR THE LARGEST CHARITY WALK, THE LARGEST HUMAN SENTENCE, AND THE LARGEST PICTURE MOSAIC IN THEIR EVENT: WORLDWIDE WALK TO FIGHT POVERTY HELD LAST MAY 6, 2018”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1858, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 132ND BIRTHANNIVERSARY OF BROTHER FELIX Y. MANALO, THE MESSENGER OF GOD FROM THE FAR EAST AND THE FIRST EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF IGLESIA NI CRISTO”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1859, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REMOVAL OF THE COMFORT WOMAN STATUE ALONG ROXAS BLVD. IN MANILA AMID THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT’S STATEMENTS AGAINST THE STATUE”

By Representatives De Jesus and Brosas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1860, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES’ INDIGNATION OVER THE ARREST OF SR. PATRICIA ANN FOX, A MISSIONARY OF THE SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF SION, AND OVER THE ISSUANCE OF A DEPORTATION ORDER AGAINST HER WITHOUT DUE PROCESS AND URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE TO REVERSE THE DEPORTATION ORDER”

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

House Resolution No. 1861, entitled:

“RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING WARMEST FELICITATION, CONGRATULATION AND RECOGNITION TO MS. DARA MAE TUAZON AS THE FIRST-EVER ‘THE ONE PHILIPPINES’ (TOP) HUMANITARIAN AWARDEE”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1862, entitled:

“RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MS. CYNTHIA THOMALLA FOR BEING CROWNED AS ‘MISS ECO INTERNATIONAL 2018’ ”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1863, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DISMAL AND INHUMANE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYEES’ LOCKER ROOM AND RESTROOM IN LANDMARK DEPARTMENT STORE IN MAKATI CITY, WITH THE END VIEW OF CONDUCTING AN INSPECTION IN

SUCH MALL AND OTHER SIMILAR COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN METRO MANILA”

By Representatives De Jesus, Brosas, Zarate and Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated May 16, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date adopted House Bill No. 7007 as an amendment to Senate Bill No. 1617, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE DAVAO ORIENTAL STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE CITY OF MATI AND ALL ITS SATELLITE CAMPUSES LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE DAVAO ORIENTAL STATE UNIVERSITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated May 16, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1527, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE BRITISH SCHOOL MANILA AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, GRANTING CERTAIN PREROGATIVES CONDUCIVE TO ITS DEVELOPMENT AS SUCH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Message dated May 16, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1532, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS TO STRENGTHEN, PROMOTE, AND DEVELOP THE PHILIPPINE STARTUP ECOSYSTEM”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated April 3, 2018 of Rochelle Brigitte Lim Imboy, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Loay, Province of Bohol, transmitting a copy of the 1st Quarter

2018 Status Report of the Implementation of the 2017 Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities Program of said municipality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated April 3, 2018 of Antonino M. Jumawid, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Batuan, Province of Bohol, submitting the Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter ended April 5, 2018 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund of said municipality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated April 4, 2018 of Fortunato R. Abrenilla, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Jagna, Province of Bohol, submitting the Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation on the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund as of March 31, 2018 of the said municipality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the 1st Quarter 2018 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund of the Municipality of Calape, Province of Bohol, attested by Sulpicio N. Yu Jr., Acting Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the 1st Quarter 2018 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund of the Municipality of Getafe, Province of Bohol, attested by Casey Shaun M. Camacho, Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation as of April 3, 2018 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund of the Municipality of Sagbayan, Province of Bohol, attested by Ricardo L. Suarez, Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter ended April 3, 2018 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund of the Municipality of Loboc, Province of Bohol, attested by Pablo D. Sumampog, Vice Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 5 April 2018 of Jose Jobel V. Belarmino,

OIC, Deputy Administrator for Administrative, Finance and AFCSD, Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA), submitting the Report of Utilization of Operating Subsidy to the LRTA for the 1st Quarter of CY 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated April 6, 2018 of Maria Katrina Lim-Yee, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Valencia, Province of Bohol, submitting the Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the 1st Quarter 2018 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund of said municipality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated April 10, 2018 of Lynn Iven P. Lim, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Cortes, Province of Bohol, submitting the Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter ended March 31, 2018 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund of said municipality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated April 10, 2018 of Restituto B. Auxtero, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Talibon, Province of Bohol, furnishing the House of Representatives their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter ended April 4, 2018 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Memorandum of Benecio R. Uy, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Baclayon, Province of Bohol, submitting their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter ended March 31, 2018 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter ended March 31, 2018 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund of the Municipality of Pilar, Province of Bohol, attested by Eugenio B. Datahan II, Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter ended March 2018

of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund of the Municipality of Sevilla, Province of Bohol, attested by Juliet B. Dano, Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 11 April 2018 of Virgilio L. Lurot, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Catigbian, Province of Bohol, submitting their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund for the 1st Quarter of 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 13 April 2018 of Alex V. Buenaventura, President and CEO, Land Bank of the Philippines, submitting their Report on the Utilization of Funds for the Unconditional Cash Transfer Program for the 1st Quarter of CY 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter ended March 2018 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund of the Municipality of Panglao, Province of Bohol, attested by Pedro E. Fuertes, Acting Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated April 17, 2018 of Benjamin E. Diokno, Secretary, Department of Budget and Management, submitting the Department's CY 2017 Annual Report.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 17 April 2018 of Angelo Emilio G. Aguinaldo, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Kawit, Province of Cavite, submitting their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter ended March 2018 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 18 April 2018 of Nestor A. Espenilla Jr., Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), submitting their Report to Congress on Public Sector Foreign Loans approved by the BSP in the First Quarter of 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated April 19, 2018 of Minerva I. Morales, SUC President III, Catanduanes State University,

submitting the University's Budget Accountability Report (BAR-1) as of March 31, 2018.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated April 20, 2018 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting two (2) original copies of Republic Act No. 11015, which were signed on even date by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, entitled: "AN ACT RENAMING THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (RMTU) AS THE PRESIDENT RAMON MAGSAYSAY STATE UNIVERSITY (PRMSU), EXPANDING ITS CURRICULAR OFFERINGS AND STRENGTHENING ITS GOVERNING BOARD, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8498, ENTITLED: 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OUT OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IBA, THE WESTERN LUZON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN MARCELINO AND THE CANDELARIA SCHOOL OF FISHERIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CANDELARIA, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR'"

TO THE ARCHIVES

Letter dated 24 April 2018 of Enrico L. Español, Legal and Regulatory, Smart Communications, Inc., submitting their 2017 Annual Report, in compliance with Republic Act No. 10926.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Letter dated 24 April 2018 of Roy Cecil D. Ibay, Legal and Regulatory, Digitel Mobile Phils., Inc., submitting their 2017 Annual Report, in compliance with Republic Act No. 9180.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Letter dated 25 April 2018 of Enrico L. Español, Legal Counsel, Connectivity Unlimited Resource Enterprise, Inc., submitting their 2017 Annual Report, in compliance with Republic Act No. 9130.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Letter dated 26 April 2018 of Enrico L. Español, Legal Counsel, Smart Broadband, Inc., submitting their

2017 Annual Report, in compliance with Republic Act No. 8337.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Letter dated 26 April 2018 of Enrico L. Español, Legal Counsel, Primeworld Digital System, Inc., submitting their 2017 Annual Report, in compliance with Republic Act No. 8992.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Letters dated 2 May 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. 1000 dated 23 April 2018;
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2018-029 dated 18 April 2018; and
3. Circular Letter No. CL-2018-030 dated 25 April 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated May 8, 2018 of Atty. Concepcion Zeny E. Ferrolino-Enad, Director IV, Malacañang Records Office, transmitting a certified true copy of Memorandum Order No. 23 dated May 8, 2018.
TO THE ARCHIVES

Letter dated May 9, 2018 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting two (2) original copies of Joint Resolution No. 02, which were signed on even date by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, entitled: "JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY TO AWARD TO OTHER QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES THE UNAWARDED HOUSING UNITS, AWARDED HOUSING UNITS THAT ARE NOT YET OCCUPIED AND WHOSE OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION ARE SURRENDERED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE AWARDEES, AND HOUSING UNITS WHOSE RESPECTIVE AWARDS WERE CANCELLED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP)/ PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP)/ BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP)/ BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP)/ BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS (BUCOR) HOUSING PROJECTS"

TO THE ARCHIVES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 733), re H.B. No. 7713, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF INOYONAN HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY INOYONAN, MUNICIPALITY OF BULA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR TO FELIPE P. PANTON HIGH SCHOOL”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 7117

Sponsors: Representatives Durano and Fortuno
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 734), re H.B. No. 7714, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF TAWANTAWAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TAWANTAWAN, BAGUIO DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY TO ROSALIA □AGLAY□AYAGELEMENTARY SCHOOL”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6998

Sponsors: Representatives Durano and Ungab
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Trade and Industry (Committee Report No. 735), re H.R. No. 1885, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROMOTE HARM REDUCTION MEASURES, AS PART OF ITS NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL STRATEGY, PARTICULARLY THE USE OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES AS AN ALTERNATIVE FOR SMOKERS”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 973

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Biron and Bravo (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 736), re H.B. No. 7717, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF TONDO MEDICAL CENTER IN THE CITY OF MANILA FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO THREE HUNDRED (300) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5370

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Lopez (M.L.) and Nograles (K.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 737), re H.B. No. 7733, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE DR. EMILIO B. ESPINOSA, SR. MEMORIAL STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEBESMSCAT) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANDAON, PROVINCE OF MASBATE, INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE DR. EMILIO B. ESPINOSA, SR. – MASBATE STATE UNIVERSITY (DEBESMSU), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 2275 and 3916

Sponsors: Representatives Hofer, Nograles (K.A.), Cua, Kho and Bravo (M.V.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 738), re H.B. No. 7734, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAMPUS OF THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (PUP) IN QUEZON CITY, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, TO BE KNOWN AS THE PUP-QUEZON CITY CAMPUS, MANDATING THE PUP TO OFFER GRADUATE, UNDERGRADUATE AND SHORT-TERM VOCATIONAL COURSES THEREAT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6387

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Agriculture and Food, the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 739), re H.B. No. 7735, entitled:

“AN ACT REPLACING THE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON RICE WITH TARIFFS AND CREATING THE RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND”

recommending its approval in substitution of House

Bills Numbered 4018, 4904, 5023, 5326, 5433, 5443 and 6190

Sponsors: Representatives Panganiban, Macapagal-Arroyo, Yap (A.), Garin (S.), Cua and Nograles (K.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Natural Resources (Committee Report No. 740), re H.B. No. 7736, entitled:

“AN ACT RECLASSIFYING THE KALAYAAN ISLAND GROUP LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALAYAAN, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AS ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LAND”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5614

Sponsors: Representatives Ty, Alvarez (P.) and Fariñas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the honorable Cong. Arthur C. Yap from the Third District of Bohol: the first is Mr. Winifredo Maguindang, the Filipino cab driver who saved six people during the Las Vegas massacre which was considered to be the deadliest mass shooting in US history, who hails from the province of Bohol; the second is former Kapitan Francisco “Iko” Varquez and third is Mr. Jojo Balili of Loboc, Bohol.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, today, being a Monday and pursuant to our Rules, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Gentleman from the Third District of Negros Oriental, the honorable Rep. Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr., be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Rep. Arnolfo A. Teves Jr. from the Third District of Negros Oriental is recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. TEVES

REP. TEVES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good afternoon, and good afternoon everybody.

I rise here again today to speak on this very important matter which is also very timely.

Kailan lang, nagkaroon tayo ng barangay election. Doon ko nakita ang kamalian ng anti-dynasty provision. Why? Unang-una, what is our description of a dynasty? Pag sinabi mong “dynasty,” handed-down hindi ba? Ibinigay sa iyo iyong posisyon. Wala namang posisyon na ibinigay sa atin o sa kahit kaninuman. Ang ibinigay sa atin is the willingness to serve which we learned in our house or we learned from our elders and the willingness to serve. Our position was given to us by the mandate of the people, ibinoto tayo ng tao. Wala namang nakaupo na sinabi, “O, siya na iyong uupong kapalit ko, makakaupo siya.” Hindi ganoon eh, nakakaupo iyong tao dahil pinili siya ng tao.

Isa pa, why are we trying to curtail freedom? Ang dami-dami diyan na ang tagal na, sinasabi nating dynasty na, natatalo din eh. Ibig sabihin, kung ayaw ka na ng tao, ayaw ka na ng tao. Ang nakita kong pinaka-stupid, sorry for the term, is iyong bawal tumakbo iyong anak kung kapitan iyong tatay, and I realized last election, mayroong tumakbong kapitan, tumakbo din iyong anak. Sabi ko, “puwede ba iyon?” Ang sabi niya, “sabi ng COMELEC, puwede daw dahil pareho kaming hindi incumbent.” So, kung hindi kayo incumbent, pwede kayong tumakbong sabay. What if you both win, what happens in the next election? Who will step down? Mali, mali talaga. At isa pa, kung magkapatid kayo, hindi kayo papayagang sabay tumakbo. Sino iyong hindi puwedeng tumakbo, pareho kayong incumbent? Are we going to race to the COMELEC kung sino iyong mauuna? Are we going to toss a coin? To me, it is really a curtailment of freedom.

Para sa akin, kung gusto tayo ng tao, gusto tayo ng tao. Dapat nga wala nang term limit eh. Kung ginusto ka ng tao ng 100 years, then you sit for 100 years. It is just an exaggeration of the number of years, but actually, mali, mali talaga. Kahit pa anong sabihin ng kahit sino diyan, mali dahil, again, we never inherit positions because positions are always elected.

Isa pa, kung pinili na natin iyong sino iyong puwedeng tumakbo, kung sino iyong hindi, then we are curtailing the freedom of the people to choose, hindi ba? Saan na iyong democracy dito? Sana lang, itong maiksi kong speech, it will bring a message to everybody to seriously consider taking out this topic, more so in the coming new Constitution.

Ngayon pa lang, nakita ko na iyong kamalian ng barangay election, mali as in mali. Huwag na natin itong ipagpatuloy at huwag na natin dagdagan iyong gulo at kamaliang nangyayari sa ating bansa.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon again.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Abu relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Eric D. Singson

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

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize Cong. Vincent “Bingbong” P. Crisologo for his interpellation.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Crisologo is recognized to interpellate the Honorable Teves.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Will the Gentleman agree to answer some questions and some observations?

REP. TEVES. Yes, Sir, anytime.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I agree completely with the Gentleman from Negros Oriental, the Honorable Teves, but I would also like to ask him if he was able to observe the election for the SK Chairman and the SK Kagawad. Because in my district, Mr. Speaker, the SK candidates, SK Chairman and SK Kagawad, had a hard time campaigning because they had to look for those who were below 30 years old in order for them to vote. It made a lot of confusion in the voting. So, I was wondering because, although we are above 30 years old, I think we should have a right to vote for the SK Chairman and the SK Kagawad because we also have children. We have grandchildren and we have a right to vote for whoever will represent our grandchildren.

So, I would also suggest that the investigation in aid of legislation, when this is referred—that in the next election for the SK Chairman and the SK Kagawad, everyone should be able to vote because we also have a right to vote for the SK Chairman and the SK Kagawad, if the Gentleman was able to observe that during the last election.

REP. TEVES. Exactly. Tama iyon. Mali na dalawang balota pa. Dapat kung mayroon tayong ilalagay na position—hindi lang naman nagse-serve iyong SK sa youth, di ba?

REP. CRISOLOGO. Correct.

REP. TEVES. Definitely, kasama din iyon sa lahat. So, sa tingin ko, dapat isang balota na lang at lahat na puwedeng bumoto. Hindi na natin i-specialize na pambata dahil nagdadagdag lang ng gulo. Iyong dalawang balota lang ang gulo na, dalawang beses ka boboto.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Although, I would agree with the qualifications, Mr. Speaker, of the SK Chairman and the SK Kagawad, they should be 18 up to 24, I think, or 25, but those who vote for them should be everyone because mayroon naman tayong mga anak. May karapatan naman tayong mamili kung sino ang magiging kinatawan ng ating mga anak.

So, iyon lang po, Mr. Speaker, Gentleman from Negros Occidental.

REP. TEVES. Thank you.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Thank you.

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

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, may we refer the speech of the Hon. Arnolfo Teves to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The speech of the Honorable Teves is referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, may we now recognize the Deputy Speaker from Batangas, Rep. Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu, to avail of the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Deputy Speaker, Representative Abu, is recognized to deliver his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ABU

REP. ABU. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Majority Leader.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, I am here to bring to your attention the gross practices of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation, more commonly known as Shell, which has been going on for 13 years. The Philippines has lost over P100 billion in revenue due to the tactics employed by Shell to circumvent paying taxes.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte before has said, “I will be harsh. Basta corruption, I will be harsh.” This

is a testament to his campaign promise that there will be no corruption during his entire six-year term. He repeated this in early 2017, reminding tax cheats and oligarchs to pay their taxes accurately and on time, or they will face legal consequences.

Despite all these, Shell has not and still refuses to pay their taxes to the Bureau of Customs. Shell has ignored jurisprudence, and expressed provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, and the National Internal Revenue Code.

In 2001, Shell was importing gasoline, declaring them as Catalytic Cracked Gasoline or CCG, Light Catalytic Cracked Gasoline or LCCG, “unleaded gasoline” and “exclusively for sale,” they paid their taxes on import. However, in March of 2004, they changed their declaration to “tetrapropylene” or “for blending component.” In 2010, this was again misdeclared as “alkalyte for blending component” and “other fuel oil.” This then resulted in Shell not paying their due taxes for their gasoline shipments.

In 2009, a newly appointed Customs collector demanded a P7.348-billion payment in taxes from Shell’s shipments of CCG and LCCG from 2004 to 2009. Then BIR Commissioner Joel Tan-Torres issued a letter in December 2009 declaring that the exemption of CCG and LCCG has no factual and legal basis.

Shell then filed a petition for review with the Court of Tax Appeals, without filing a protest with, and payment of the tax to the Customs collector, claiming that CCG and LCCG are raw materials, thus, exempting them from excise tax. This was also backed by then BIR Deputy Commissioner Jose Mario Bunag, citing the Department of Energy’s position that CCG is not intended for public use. The CTA initially denied Shell’s Motion for Issuance of a Suspension Order against the Collection of Tax. Surprisingly and without authority, the CTA reconsidered its earlier denial and restrained the Bureau of Customs from collecting taxes and withholding the delivery of Shell’s shipments.

Because of the Tan-Torres memorandum demanding the payment of taxes on CCG and LCCG, Shell changed their shipment declaration to “alkalyte for blending component” in 2010, despite having an octane rating of 94.3. Chevron gasoline runs on a lower octane rating, yet Shell insisted that their shipments were still not for public use, therefore, not subject to excise tax. They even went as far as declaring it under a different tariff classification so that the BOC computer system would not detect the shipment as subject to tax.

We cannot say that the government has done nothing regarding this matter. In June 2012, former BIR Commissioner Kim Henares declared that the alkalyte shipments are indeed subject to excise tax. This then prompted Customs collector Benavides to issue a demand letter, ordering Shell to pay P1.99 billion for their alkalyte shipments from May 2010 to June 2011.

A decision in July 2015 saw Petron Corporation lose to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue in a similar case involving the taxation of alkalyte shipments. Petron paid its due taxes and has been paying ever since. We can see other players complying with the rule of law, and yet, Shell still refuses to back down, and still plays by its own rules.

In September 2015, the CTA *en banc* ruled that CCG and LCCG are subject to taxes, and ordered Shell to pay only P5.7 billion, as they are no longer liable for the 2004 and 2005 shipments due to the BIR’s tax amnesty program they availed of in 2008. This was contested by the Bureau of Customs as Shell’s liability was with them and not the BIR. Shell also availed of this amnesty program by paying only P3 million, 5 percent of their misdeclared P60-million net worth, a far cry from the P3 billion pesos they owe the government.

My dear colleagues, Mr. Speaker, do we believe that Shell’s national net worth is only P60 million? This could be true if we are talking of only one gasoline station in the city. Instead of paying, Shell once again filed a petition, this time with the Supreme Court, who then issued a TRO against both the BIR and the BOC, thus again preventing both from taxing Shell’s incoming alkalyte importations. This TRO also effectively prevented the Bureau of Customs from collecting P55 million in monthly taxes on its unleaded gasoline importations and from collecting the P7.348 billion on CCG and LCCG shipments due in 2009, and the P1.99 billion on alkalyte shipments due in 2011.

So, what are we saying here? The point is simple: Shell’s importations of CCG, LCCG, and alkalyte are indeed gasoline, subject to taxes. In fact, Shell never denied these to be gasoline, either. Despite this, they have employed measures to make sure that they do not pay the necessary taxes. From misdeclaring their shipments, changing tariff codes, to involving the legal justice system, it seems apparent that Shell will exhaust all possible avenues to simply avoid paying their due taxes. Shell executives have even gone as far as dangling the guilt of the loss of over 800 jobs should their refineries close due to the detainment of their shipments.

The current collector of Batangas has assured us that Shell has stopped their illegal importation of CCG and LCCG in 2010. However, the BIR was still able to assess a P1.99-billion tax deficit in importations from May 2010 to June 2011; and today, we can still see Shell providing fuel to its consumers. Have they really stopped importation? Is the collector not aware that Shell did not stop importation, or is the Bureau of Customs in Batangas protecting Shell?

Shell is currently enjoying their benefits at the expense of the Philippine government. We are losing P55 million every month on alkalyte shipments, on top

of the P7 billion they owe us in taxes for their CCG and LCCG shipments from 2004 to 2009, exclusive of penalties.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, as of January 2018, Shell owes us around P113.7 billion in taxes, and we cannot allow this to continue. We cannot simply stand as Shell continues to evade paying the proper taxes, as they maneuver around the legal justice system. How many roads could we have built for our people to use? How many 4Ps families could have benefited from the tax we are owed? How many school buildings could have been built with this amount? Shell should be held accountable for its years of technical smuggling; they should be made an example of it. It is high time that we show them that they are not, and will never be above the law. It is our job as lawmakers and representatives of the people to uphold the interest of the country and the people, and not those of corporations.

With this, Mr. Speaker, I would like to refer the matter to the appropriate committee, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on Shell's grossly disadvantageous tax evasion practices, and to give light to our questions and inquiries.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my dear colleagues.

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

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the honorable Deputy Speaker Raneo Abu to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, next to avail of the Privilege Hour is the honorable Rep. Gary C. Alejano of the Party-List MAGDALO. May we recognize him, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The honorable Rep. Gary Alejano is recognized to deliver his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ALEJANO

REP. ALEJANO. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, and to all those present here in this wonderful day. Magandang hapon po.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Singson relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu.

If we are to describe the true essence of China's Belt and Road Initiative o iyong tinatawag po natin in another term as "One Belt, One Road of China," we can say that it is a wolf in sheep's clothing. While China's generosity might, at first glance, seem to be an act of benevolence towards its relatively disadvantaged neighbors, there is strong evidence that it is nothing but a strategy to extend its political, economic and even military power beyond its borders and above international rules, norms and conventions.

The Belt and Road Initiative, the focal point of China's debt-trap diplomacy, takes inspiration from the ancient silk roads. It aims to connect China over land and water to the economic circles in Asia, Europe and Africa through a trade and infrastructure network. There are about 68 countries envisioned to be part of the Belt and Road Initiative, with an announced investment of \$8 trillion for a vast network of transportation, energy and telecommunications.

It is admittedly an ambitious and immensely profitable undertaking for both China and its participants, if only it is conducted through fair, honest and conventional means. China, however, has apparently adopted a strategy to trap poor nations and enrich itself by causing debtor countries to default due to massive debt and subsequently seize the country's natural resources, strategic assets, and even territories as collateral. All these, just to prop themselves as the new leader.

Talo pa ang mga gahaman at walang awang loan sharks at mga nagpapautang ng five-six. Chinese debt trap diplomacy works by first providing a large amount of loans at extremely high commercial rates for infrastructure projects that could not break-even the investments or have low returns. Then, the debtor, already encumbered by such large loans and high interest rates, would fail to pay. China then forces debtors to swap debt to equity.

The last straw would be in exchange for financing and building these infrastructures, China demanding favorable access to the debtor-country's natural assets, ranging from mineral resources to strategic ports. With these, the debtor country is finally under debt servitude to China, their indebtedness causing them to bend to China's will.

According to a study by the Center for Global Development, it is a global think tank for international development, in its Policy Paper 121 that was issued only this March of 2018, ito po ay nag-aaral ng experiences ng ibang mga bansa sa loob ng limang taon from when the Belt and Road Initiative was first announced. There are already 23 countries identified as at risk of debt distress due to additional BRI-related financing. Eight out of these 23 have the highest risk to plunge further into debt.

Lucky enough, we are not yet among these countries, but the rate which the administration is expected to borrow from China to fund its mega infrastructure projects under its Build, Build, Build Program calls for greater vigilance from all of us and the Filipino people. We must be cautious not to fall for the same tricks that tore China's victims asunder.

In the case of Tajikistan, which is just northwest of China, China wrote off an unknown amount of debt in exchange for 1,158 square kilometers of disputed territory. Again, ang kapalit ng utang mula sa China ay ang pinag-aagawang teritoryo, which has an area of 1,158 square kilometers.

In Turkmenistan, China uses loans to the poor country to acquire natural gas largely on its terms. Sri Lanka, the widely talked about case of China's debt trap, had to give up control of its Hambantota Airport—Hambantota Seaport and Mattala Airport to China for 99 years. Similar situations happened to countries such as Djibouti, Pakistan and Kenya, with China demanding favorable access to their strategic assets in exchange for financing and building the infrastructure these poor countries need. In the case of Venezuela, Sudan, Angola, Kazakhstan and Iraq, all of these countries contracted billions of loans from China and oil is being used as collateral for their debts.

What makes Chinese loans especially attractive is its unconditionality, which unlike the loans provided by other international banking institutions of multilateral development banks at loans acquired through bilateral aid demand that borrowing countries respect rights among other conditions. Hindi po ito required kapag ikaw ay nangungutang sa China. This unconditionality, however, is coupled with ridiculously high interest rates which can go as high as seven percent. This is exceedingly higher than the 0.25 to 3.0 percent interest rates of the IMF and the World Bank.

Considering this, what could be other incentives of acquiring Chinese loans other than its unconditionality? Are we not better off adhering to conditions as simple and basic as respecting human rights rather than imposing on ourselves unsustainable interest rates simply for the sake of contracting loans that would demand from us this moral responsibility?

May I inform this collegial Body and our people that debt settlement with the Chinese government is provided in an ad hoc case-by-case manner. China does not engage in multilateral mechanism for debt relief, unlike other major official creditors. Their usual targets are poor nations with an unstable financial record. Knowing that debt settlement with China is done bilaterally in an ad hoc case-by-case basis and considering our current dispute with China over our territories that we claim in the West Philippine Sea, dapat tayong magduda sa tunay na intensiyon ng China sa kanilang pagpapautang sa atin.

The illegal and grossly invalid reclamation of China in the West Philippine Sea is a vital part of its debt-trap diplomacy in the Philippines. Once we fully allow ourselves the convenience of acquiring these Chinese loans, then and there, we too are effectively eroding our chances of staking our rightful claims in the West Philippine Sea.

On the contrary, we will give in to the demands of China like the joint exploration that is being floated right now. So, instead na tayo po ay tumayo sa ating sariling paa ay mas gusto pa natin ang idine-demand sa atin ng China.

Again, I urge you most humbly, my esteemed colleagues, to be wary of all dealings with China. Yes, we want economic development in our country, but again, mag-ingat po tayo. Siguraduhin nating ni isang pulgada ng ating pambansang teritoryo ay hindi maipagpapalit para lamang sa tulong pinansiyal na tayu-tayo rin naman ang magbabayad sa kahulihan. Debts can be repaid but the territories we are set to lose, if we are not careful with such dealings, can never be recovered.

The transparency of Chinese loans and projects is also highly questionable and indicative of the dangers lurking in such undertakings. The lack of transparency, the absence of a defined framework and the ambiguity of the projects are all valid and reasonable causes to distrust China's intentions and the BRI as a whole. China does not report on its cross-border project lending in a systematic or transparent manner and while public announcements about project investments are sometimes made, this is not done consistently. Financing agreements are also rarely published. Even debtor countries usually do not fully and completely disclose loan information. Such is the case in the Philippines for loan agreements that the government plans to enter into with China which were envisioned to fund the Build, Build, Build infrastructure projects of the Duterte administration.

Nito lang mga nakaraang buwan, isang Chinese expert ang nagmungkahi na maaaring gamitin ng Pilipinas ang likas na yaman nito bilang collateral para sa mga pondong ipapautang ng China, na kaagad namang pinabulaanan. Sabi ng Duterte administration at ng China, itong pautang na ito raw ay "no strings attached." But I would like to inform you, my dear colleagues, there is no such thing as "free lunch." Lahat po, kahit sa ibang bansa, even the United States, lahat po iyan ay may strings attached, depende na po sa atin iyan. But given the lack of transparency in the loan agreements with China, hindi tayo nakasisiguro na talagang wala ang mga probisyong ito in our loan agreements with Beijing. In fact, it could be part of the demand later in the renegotiation should we default in our loans. Lubos itong nakababahala. Hindi na lingid sa kaalaman natin at ng maraming Pilipino na gusto

talagang kamkamin ng China ang ating mga likas na kayamanan sa West Philippine Sea at maging sa Philippine Rise, na kung saan ay palagi na po silang nagka-conduct ng surveys. In fact, since 2012, it has been reported that Chinese mining firms have been setting up and operating illegally near Scarborough Shoal in Masinloc and in the province of Zambales. They have been exporting metals and other precious minerals which they have extracted from our lands, by exploiting our porous borders. Time and again, China has proven, through its actions, that they have other intentions more than friendship. These actions give us the benefit of hindsight as to what extent China's deceptions and schemes would go for the advancement of its interest. Walang kaibigan na pagsasamantalahan ang kahinaan ng isa. Walang kaibigan ang maglalagay sa iyo sa kapahamakan.

Considering these realities, Congress then, being a distinct, separate and equally powerful branch of the Philippine government, must assert its powers of congressional oversight and look into the specific conditions of the Chinese loans to be contracted by the Philippine government. Sa katunayan, dapat tingnan din natin ang overall foreign policy direction ng ating bansa dahil tayo po ay nagugulat at nako-confuse kung ano ba talaga ang ating relasyon sa mga bansa, especially with China. We, being the lawful Representatives of the people, must have an active interest in shedding light in the obscure spaces that these Chinese loans wish to be contracted. Having been vested this power, we must exercise it in such manner that would promote honesty, integrity and transparency. Malaysia's newly elected Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, has already expressed the same skepticism that many Filipinos, including some Members of this honorable Chamber, have about the implications of these loans. He plans for the Malaysian government to study whether to renegotiate or completely halt the contracting of Chinese loans for their respective projects.

Knowing this, it is clear that my and a few of our colleagues' apprehension against the Chinese debt-trap diplomacy is not some political propaganda meant to discredit the present administration but a legitimate concern that all nations who have had significant dealings with China must and should continue to raise. Dahil po, alam ho natin na kapag mayroon ho tayong kritisismo sa ginagawa ng administrasyon ay laging sinasabi po na ito ay propaganda o pagsisira lamang sa present administration. Hindi na po tayo pupunta sa pagsisira. We should learn from the lessons of the other countries para hindi ho tayo pumasok sa ganoong arrangement. I speak here today not to lambast those who support this administration's preference for Chinese loans, but to convince them to err on the side of caution; that there are dangers in this undertaking that, if we cannot fully avoid, then at least we must prepare for.

As early as now, we can already see the repercussions of Chinese loans on this administration's foreign policy, particularly on the West Philippine Sea. The loans are definitely being utilized by China as a leverage to control the words and actions of the Duterte administration with regard to our territorial claims in the West Philippine Sea, notwithstanding those of other claimant states, lalung-lalo na ang maliwanag na incremental militarization of the Chinese in the West Philippine Sea. Kahit na po sila ay nangako na hindi po i-militarize ang West Philippine Sea, kita naman ho natin na tuloy na tuloy ang ginagawa po nila and the Philippines is actually allowing it by justifying the actions of China.

What is worse is that this preference for contracting more loans from China belies the earlier pronouncements of this administration that the TRAIN Law or Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Law will secure the infrastructure build-up from the steady revenues that it will provide. As discussed in the previous hearings, around 17 percent of the funding for the program would actually be sourced from TRAIN revenues. It is also a disgrace that, should infrastructure projects under Chinese loans commence in the Philippines, China would require Chinese contractors, Chinese companies and workers and not Filipinos to work in these endeavors. Ito po ay titingnan ho natin dahil hindi pa naman nangyari sa atin pero nangyari na po sa ibang bansa dahil naghahanap po sila ng transaksyon o negosyo para sa kanilang mga kompanya at naghahanap din po sila ng trabaho para sa kanilang tao.

We are taking all these uncalculated and ultimately unnecessary risks when we have trusted and reliable allies from whom we can borrow our funding. Japan, for example, offers much lower interest rates than China. We have long fostered a special relationship with the United States. The EU, likewise, has supported us during our most trying times. To think that the primary reason this administration coddles up to China for loans is because the aforementioned are critical of the government's war on drugs and human rights violations is preposterous. This government must put aside its personal prejudices for the sake of the greater public good and Congress must be the collective conscience that must influence this change of heart. It can be done.

The Philippines is a rapidly developing country. I can see with ardent hope a brighter future ahead of us, if only we are more mindful of the steps we are taking and the changes we should embody. We have stood tall for the years without fussing over Chinese loans and I am strongly convinced that we can continue to fare just fine without it. If such dealings are unavoidable or if they ever become necessary, then we must allow them, but with the condition that they should be fair, honest, transparent, and most importantly, sustainable.

Otherwise, I strongly urge this government to be more creative in their financing schemes, to tap more trusted and reliable sources, to address the government's absorptive capacity dahil alam ho nating taun-taon, mayroon po tayong sobrang pondo. Actually, in 2016 we had P596 billion of unused appropriation. And also, we can improve tax collection efficiency, all of which are better alternatives to increasing government funds for development projects, rather than acquiring loans that may potentially undermine everything that we, as a people, have worked so hard for. Caveat emptor, let the buyer beware, or in this case, let the borrower beware. Kung tayo po ang nangungutang, alam ho natin ang implikasyon at consequences ng mga ito.

Here is to hoping you have faithfully understood my concerns, my dear colleagues. To all my colleagues, let us exercise the powers vested upon us to deliver to our people a full and honest accounting of the debts that this government had and will have contracted in the near future.

Alam ho natin na ang ating mga henerasyon, ang susunod na mga henerasyon ay nagbabayad pa rin ng mga utang na inutang ng mga nakaraang administrasyon.

With that, I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity. Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, ...

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. ... I move that we refer the speech of ...

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. ... the Honorable Alejano to the Committee on Rules.

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to withdraw that motion because it appears that we have an interpellation.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. May we recognize the Gentleman from AKBAYAN, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman from AKBAYAN Party-List, the Honorable Villarín, is recognized.

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What is the pleasure of the Honorable Villarín?

REP. VILLARIN. Would the good Gentleman, Sponsor of the privilege speech, be open to an interpellation?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from MAGDALO Party-List?

REP. ALEJANO. It would be my honor to accept questions from the Honorable Villarín, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). You may proceed, Honorable Villarín.

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

Well, first, I would like to commend the consistent stand of Cong. Gary Alejano with regard to our sovereignty in the West Philippine Sea, and for that, I would like to call the good Gentleman as the only or the sole representative to the West Philippine Sea for his representation of MAGDALO Party-List. So, would that be okay with the good Gentleman, Mr. West Philippine Sea?

REP. ALEJANO. Mr. Speaker, I believe that our concern with the West Philippine Sea and even the Benham Rise is the responsibility and should be the concern of every Filipino.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, thank you for that humble point of the good Speaker.

Now, on this policy issue that you have raised about China's debt-trap diplomacy, well, would you rather look at this debt-trap policy from a perspective

that this being enamored of China, although inchoate, because right now there are still no loan agreements signed, China promised us \$26 billion in potential loans; but until now, I think only five MOUs have been signed.

With that, while there are still no clear-cut loan agreements being signed, do you believe that these so-called China loans would be forthcoming in the next few months, two years, or these potential loans are just being used as a leverage against the Philippine government for our acquiescence to their assertiveness over the West Philippine Sea and, in fact, occupation of our islands in the West Philippine Sea?

REP. ALEJANO. Thank you for that question, Honorable Villarín.

Tama po iyon. China pledged to the Philippines to lend us around \$24/\$26 billion in October of 2016, pero hanggang ngayon po ay hindi pa iyon lumalapag sa atin. But according to the NEDA, isang loan agreement pa lang ang napipirmahan and that we should verify the loan agreement to rehabilitate the Chico Dam. Iyon pa lang ang sinabi ng NEDA so dapat tingnan ho natin iyan dahil we are interested in the interest rate ng paghiram ng pondo na iyan. We are also interested in the terms of payment. We should get the copy of that loan agreement.

Now, gusto ko lang i-emphasize, Mr. Speaker, hindi po independent ang Belt and Road Initiative ng China from its strategic objectives, magkadikit po ito. Actually, ang Belt and Road Initiative ay weapon po ng China in order to control the target nations. So, itong mga mahihirap na bansa, ito ang target nila, and the arrangement is bilateral. Ibig sabihin, hindi po ito ino-open sa multilateral arrangement dahil mayroong ibang titingin sa arrangement. So, kapag bilateral ay hindi natin malalaman kung ano ang pinag-usapan.

Precisely what is happening in the Philippines when it comes to our foreign policy direction with China? Kasi, sinasabi po, may ginagawa ang Duterte administration sa mga nangyayari ngayon. Hindi lang natin alam kung ano ang ginagawang iyan and they are asking us to trust them. The problem is, we really do not know what is happening. So, kaya nga puwede din naman na hanggang ngayon ay wala pang lumalapag na yuan as part of the loans that were pledged to us in order for us to keep on hoping na darating po ito, and in the meantime, our actions, our words are kept away from the public in spite of what the Chinese are doing right now.

I want to inform you, my dear colleagues, na hindi po titigil ang China sa kanilang objective of assertively controlling the South China Sea. It is an incremental militarization, dahan-dahan po iyan, hanggang masanay po tayo, hanggang ma-condition po tayo, then gagawin po nila. Example, ang unang ginawa po ay claims in

the form of the historical basis na nine-dash line para mayroon lang silang basis na ipinaglalaman. Pangalawa, nag-reclaim po sila ng isla sa West Philippine Sea, itong isla pong ito para mayroon silang base of operation. Mayroon nga silang base of operation pero kailangan po nilang malaman ang lahat ng gumagalaw diyan sa West Philippine Sea or South China Sea. They have installed radar and communication facilities so that they can monitor what is moving in the South China Sea, and third, nag-install po sila ng jamming devices in order to dominate communications in that area.

Kahit ano pa ang pagsaway, ang threat sa mga dumadaan diyan o pag-challenge kung wala naman silang gamit that they can make good on their threats, wala din po ito. So, ang ginawa po nila, they again installed a missile defense system and this time around, kapag nag-threat o nag-challenge sila, it is with the certainty that you are within the combat radius of their missile system. Then ngayon po, naglapag po sila ng strategic bomber in the woody island of the Paracel group of islands contested by Vietnam and China, at ang long-range bomber na pong iyan can cover 3,500 kilometers. In fact, aabot po iyan from Paracel hanggang territory ng United States sa Guam. Practically, the entire archipelago of the Philippines is covered by the combat radius of that bomber.

So, ngayon po, nagsimula iyan sa promise ng China na hindi po nila i-militarize ang South China Sea, and we accepted that. The Duterte administration accepted that, and look at what is happening right now. Nangyari na iyan lahat with the Philippines even justifying the actions of China. We are reduced to being the spokesperson of China in this part of the region, pero iyong hinhihintay po natin na mga loans na ito ay hindi pa po lumalapag sa Pilipinas.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, if that is the case that these loans are not forthcoming and what has been forthcoming and really happening now is an invasion of our territories, an invasion against the Philippines, and our official policy response is just jetski publicity stance, do you think that it is high time that Congress, the House, should look into these policy responses? I think it should call for an oversight, an all-party caucus should be called to discuss this issue of infringement of our sovereignty, of our territorial rights and call on the DFA and our DND-AFP on what should be the response to this invasion.

Well, it is clear that in our Constitution when there is an invasion, the President could declare martial law. But can he declare martial law against this invasion of China? That would be some policy issues that we can discuss. So, do you think that it is high time that the House leadership should call for this policy oversight discussion?

REP. ALEJANO. Yes, Mr. Speaker. I believe that we should, as the Representatives of the people, demand the Duterte administration to tell us, precisely, ano ba talaga ang relationship natin sa China? Dahil as we engage with other nations, ang bitbit po natin lagi is our national interest. That is the primordial interest of this country. Lagi pong national interest ang ating bitbit. The moment it will clash with the national interest of other countries, then dapat maliwanag ang ating foreign policy direction. Ano ba talaga ang ating relationship sa kanila? Dahil habang ginigipit ho tayo sa West Philippine Sea, siya naman tayong pumapasok sa bitag dito sa kabila, because they are employing what you call hard and soft strategy. Hard, using military, pushing us to the wall, frustrating us and painting a picture or a scenario wherein we cannot go to war with them. Yes, we cannot go to war with them. On the other hand, they are offering friendly relations. Aside from that makapag-loan pa tayo, mayroon pang investment, mayroon pang mga turistang darating sa Pilipinas. So, kung tayo ay hindi tumitingin sa ating national interest, which is the primary national interest of sovereignty and territorial integrity, ay talagang mas madali hong ma-attract dito sa kabila dahil hindi ito mahirap, walang away, may investment pa, masaya pa tayo dito. But what are we trading as a result? We are actually surrendering our sovereignty and territorial integrity on the other hand.

So, dapat lamang na ang Kongreso ay magpatawag po ng caucus or even an investigation with our Department of Foreign Affairs and even the Department of National Defense. Ano ba talaga ang sitwasyon, not only on our foreign relationship with China but also our defense relationship with China? Dahil kung papakingan ho natin ang sinasabi ng Pangulo, nakakalungkot po. If we will assert our sovereignty, there will be trouble. You can only assert our sovereignty if other nations are trampling on our sovereignty. That is the time you assert it. Kasi kung wala namang umaapak sa atin, hindi ho natin ia-assert iyan. The fact na tayo ay in-oppress, nagkakaroon po ng aggressive action sa ating mga teritoryo, kailangan ho nating i-assert ang ating sovereignty. Certainly, it spells trouble. Hindi naman ho puwedeng dahil wala tayong kakayanan ay hindi na ho tayo tatayo sa sariling paa natin.

Remember, noong unang panahon sa ating mga ninuno, itak lamang at sibat laban sa kanyon at baril. Tumayo po tayo because we, as a sovereign nation, ay hindi po dapat papagapi sa mga dayuhan. If we follow the line of the President that there will be trouble if we will assert our sovereignty, what is the use of defending this country?

So, I agree with the Hon. Tomasito “Tom” S. Villarín that this Congress should assert its mandate to ask and demand the Executive Department to give us clear answers on our relationship with China.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, thank you for that, honorable Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

Now going further, just recently, it was decided that a third telco player coming from China will be entertained and this third telco player would ride on the backbone of our national grid; meaning, in the NGCP which is presently being run and controlled by a joint venture company that is also associated with China, with technicians also coming from China, holding on to this very important backbone—our telecommunications.

Do you think that with the entry of this third telco player now controlling the national grid and controlling the government’s telecommunication facilities, would that be, again, part of this creeping invasion and occupation by China and will this have national security implications on our part? Do you think that this should also be looked into with regard to this Philippines-China relations, again, invoking national security and national interest?

REP. ALEJANO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Villarín, definitely. Itong mga tinatawag ho nating critical infrastructure that have national security implications should be guarded by our national government. Hindi po basta-basta ito pinababayaan kahit iyong mga dams ho natin. Kaya nga ho binanggit ko kanina that there is this lone agreement that was signed between the Philippines and China to rehabilitate Chico Dam.

Kung itong critical infrastructure na ito ay masira o malason, national grid na kung saan kontrolado ang daloy ng komunikasyon at energy, itong telecommunication na balak nating ibigay sa China, practically we are being controlled, invaded, without firing a shot kasi parang ino-open ho natin ang ating kaloob-looban at wala na ho tayong itatago pa sa China.

Kaya nga ho, ito po iyong gusto ko lang iparating sa aking mga kasamahan. Dalawa ang isyu po dito. Ang isang isyu po ay economy at ang isang isyu po ay security. Ang nakikita ko ho ngayon ay nananaig ang pag-iisip ng mga opisyaes ng gobyerno kung paano makakuha ng negosyo and investment at the expense ng ating security. Hindi ho natin alam na in the long run, tayo po ang talo diyan because they can demand from us something which we do not want but we cannot do it already dahil tali na po tayo, wala na ho tayong itatago. Kaya ang security po is very important because it defines us as a nation, it provides the pillar of being a sovereign nation. Pag sinabi ho nating sovereign ho tayo, hindi ho tayo nadidiktahan, nagagawa po natin ang mga bagay in pursuit of our national interest.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, thank you for that enlightenment, honorable Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

Now, again, on the issue of investments, you were discussing what has been coming into the Philippines and, well, I believe that there are Chinese money coming in. But most of these are hot money, meaning, these

come and go when the stocks are okay. There are also investments mainly on casinos, on gambling particularly on online gambling which have proliferated in our economy, and of course, not to mention also drugs, again, consistently, the supply of which still mainly comes from Mainland China. So, from casinos, from hot money to drugs coming in, mainly, from China, do you think that in terms of balance of trade, are we benefiting from this trade relations between China and the Philippines when it comes to investments?

REP. ALEJANO. Mr. Speaker, Honorable Villarin, even on the issue of trade, eh, talaga hong imbalanced, nasa deficit balance. Ang balance of trade is, we have a deficit balance of trade right now. Ibig sabihin, napakarami po ng dumarating na kargamentong gamit dito sa ating Pilipinas, as compared to our exports to China.

Now, I agree with you, Honorable Villarin, when it comes to the proliferation of casinos and even online gaming and gambling. In fact, iyong nangyari po sa Angeles, around 1,200 Chinese aliens na wala pong mga papel ay nagulat ho tayo, mayroon pala doon. Kaya, isyu po iyan ng Bureau of Immigration. Kaya, nagkaroon po ng suhulan para ho sila ay isalba. Ngayon, nangyayari po iyan sa Pilipinas. Itong pag-proliferate ng casinos also happened in Cambodia and even in other countries and this could be a best laundry machine for other illegal activities such as drugs. Ngayon po, as always mentioned in the past and even at the present, China has employed this so-called “unrestricted warfare.” When we say “unrestricted” because this is not announced, ito iyong pagbigay, pag-import ng ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). With due respect to the two Gentlemen, the time allotted for the Privilege Hour had expired.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we extend the Privilege Hour for another 40 minutes.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the interpellation.

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

The two Gentlemen can continue their engagement.

REP. ALEJANO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for that consideration.

Gaya nga po ng sinabi ko kanina, this so-called “unrestricted warfare” na kung saan ang mga droga ay inilalabas sa target na mga bansa, this is also called “a reverse opium war” because China has suffered from these opium drugs before and they want to get back to the world. Ang tawag ho nila ay century of humiliation. Kaya iyong mga droga na dumarating sa Pilipinas, tama po iyan, bulk po niyan ay nanggaling sa China. This is a multi-billion dollar industry. Kaya ho hindi tayo magtataka na in spite of all the killings of the drug suspects in the Philippines, in which thousands have already been killed, eh, bakit tuluy-tuloy po ang droga sa Pilipinas? Dahil tuluy-tuloy din po ang supply ng droga mula sa China. Sa reports during our hearing dito sa House, two-thirds ng mga nahuhuling foreign nationals involved sa illegal drugs are Chinese. Now, we have this tendency of opening the country to Chinese tourists. Eh, dapat tingnan ho natin dahil marami po akong report and I believe, nakarating din po sa inyo na marami pong Chinese nationals right now all over the country, at nagtatanong po sila, “nai-invade na ba ho tayo ng China? I believe in our Open-Door Policy to China. Hindi natin maiiwasan na talagang dadagsain ho tayo. Without considering national security, then, this is good for our economy. But, again, huwag nating kalimutan ang aspeto ng national security dahil iyong mga pumapasok ho sa ating bansa ay marami din po diyan ang nagdadala ng mga illegal activities just like illegal drugs.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, again, for that, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

Now, let me go to another specific issue. In the context of the smuggling issue, right now, we have this ASEAN Free Trade, we have this China zero-tariff policy. So, the influx of goods with zero or reduced tariffs coming from Mainland, China has really gone up.

Right now, I think even the procurement of security papers, meaning, those being used for our bank notes, used for documentary stamp tax, even those used on LTO licenses, these security papers also come from China. When God made the world, everything else is made in China, parang ganoon ang nangyari. Ngayon sa Pilipinas, practically we are very dependent on China, to the extent of even these basic—our security notes, our security papers, are also being sub-contracted to China. I think we also have to look into this matter because, again, this is not just a national security concern, it could be a financial nightmare if China would practically be also controlling even the printing of our bank notes.

Going back to the issue on smuggling. Do you think that right now these tariffication policies, these free-trade agreements, these China-Philippines trade

agreements, these bilateral trade agreements, do you think that these need to be reviewed and the specifics looked into? Right now, as you have also mentioned, it has national security implications. Even for that matter, it is not just the issue of China undermining our territorial sovereignty, but practically undermining our national security. Do you think that it is high time that all trade relations, trade matters, including the aspect of tariffs have to be reviewed?

REP. ALEJANO. Thank you, Honorable Villarín, Mr. Speaker.

Yes. Iyon naman po talaga ang trabaho ng Kongreso na tingnan ang ginagawa ng ibang ahensya ng gobyerno, especially the Executive Department. Bakit po kailangang tingnan ito? Dahil ang over-dependence po natin sa China when it comes to trade, maiiwan tayo na kaunti ang options pagdating ng araw. Kung tinatali po natin ang ating sarili sa trade sa China, paluluhurin tayo pagdating ng araw sa trade pa lang. Pagdating pa lamang sa saging at pinya na galing Davao ay malaking isyu na po sa ekonomiya natin. Pero lagi kong sinasabi na ang ating national interest ay hindi katumbas ng saging at pinya lamang. There are so many markets available. We should diversify the markets in the Philippines considering the fact na mayroon tayong conflicting claims in the West Philippine Sea. The more you are dependent on China, the less you will have the chance to assert your rights; the less you are dependent on China, the more we can demand them to respect our rights. Iyon po nakita ang trade natin. Ang ginagawa po kasi natin, all the more na itinatali natin ang ating sarili sa China, it leaves us with a few options.

REP. VILLARIN. Again, thank you for that enlightening discussion. Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, I do believe that we really need to look into this Philippine-China relations from a much, much broader perspective and, ultimately, I think it is for the interest of the Filipino people that, as what you have mentioned, in the long run, because in an administration, you only have six years, and now we are towards the mid-term, and even if loans will be signed by next year, the gestation period for said loans would go up to 30, 40 months. Within that interregnum, we have lost a lot of goodwill because of our extra dalliances with China. We have lost the goodwill of the European Union, we have lost the goodwill of even Australia, our neighboring countries and also those in the north—US and Canada—and other global partners. For the past two years, we have been too focused on this dalliance with China which, at the moment, has not really resulted in our benefit.

With that note, Mr. Speaker, good Sponsor, I join you in your continuing stand with regard to really raising this issue as a national concern, and even for

this august Chamber to really look into. We can have a Question Hour, to ask our DFA, our DND, our trade officials in plenary session to discuss with us what has happened to this Philippine-China relations so that all House Members can also question the policies.

With that, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader, thank you for this opportunity, and I also thank the good Sponsor.

REP. ALEJANO. Thank you, Honorable Villarín, for that interpellation. I appreciate that. I just would like to state to our dear colleagues that I have nothing against China. We should, by all means, talk to China. But the point is, as we engage with China, we should not forget our national interest. We should see clearly the implications on the South China Sea—West Philippine Sea to our country. Hindi ibig sabihin na may investment, may loans po ito, iyan po ay free. No, there is no such thing as free. Lahat po ng investment ng China ay may kalakip na in pursuit of their strategic objectives. May I remind our colleagues that we should be very careful with this because there are a lot of Members of Congress—in the House of Representatives and even in the Senate—who were entertained in China, by the Communist Party of China.

In fact, without offense to PDP-Laban, the PDP-Laban has struck a memorandum of understanding with the Communist Party of China and I believe that the reason behind is for them to control the policy directions of the Philippines. I believe that is the reason, and that we should be very careful with that because there is a hidden agenda, there are implications on our national security and national interests in the long run. Hindi lang po ngayon kung hindi in the long run—beyond the term of the President and even beyond our life, dahil ang objective po ng China ay napakalawak. They should be the world power by 2049 in the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party of China, so tuluy-tuloy po ito. If we will not set our policy direction clearly, masasagasaan po tayo along the way.

Iyon lang po ang gusto kong iparating sa ating mga kasamahan, and with this opportunity, maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. To our colleagues, magandang hapon po.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Alejano, together with the interpellation, to the Committee on Rules.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Next to speak, Mr. Speaker, is the Gentleman from the First District of Parañaque. I move that we recognize Rep. Eric L. Olivarez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman from the First District of Parañaque City, Rep. Eric L. Olivarez, is recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. OLIVAREZ

REP. OLIVAREZ. Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat. Tumatayo po ako ngayon upang ipahayag ang aking damdamin at isipan tungkol sa mga kaganapan sa lungsod na aking kinakatawan sa Kapulungang ito, kasama si Cong. Gus Tambunting ng Ikalawang Distrito ng Parañaque, kasama ang butihing alkalde ng aming bayan na si Mayor Edwin Olivarez.

Nais ko pong ipahayag sa Kapulungang ito ang mga kaganapan sa aming lungsod tungo sa isang bagong Parañaque. Nitong nakaraang Pebrero 15, 2018, ipinagdiwang ng lungsod ng Parañaque ang kanyang ika-20 anibersaryo sa pagkakatatag bilang isang lungsod, at ito rin ang ika-438 na taong pagkakatatag nito bilang isang munisipyo. Apat na raan at tatlumpu't walong taong punung-puno ng kasaysayan, dalawampung taon ng pag-unlad bilang isang lungsod, lubhang malayo na rin po ang narating ng aking minamahal na lungsod, pag-unlad dulot ng sama-samang pagtutulungan ng mamamayan at gobyerno ng Parañaque.

Mula sa isang simpleng munisipyo na nabubuhay sa paglalayag, asinan at palayan, ngayon ay isang moderno at BAGONG Parañaque na ito—mga pagbabagong naganap nitong nakaraang anim na taon sa administrasyon ni Mayor Edwin Olivarez. Simula nang manungkulan ang kasalukuyang administrasyon ni Mayor Olivarez, pinasinayaan na niya ang mga repormang kinakailangan para higit na isulong ang pag-unlad ng aming lungsod, pitong taong pagsisikhay sa matinong pamamahala, wastong pamumuhunan at tapat na paglilingkod sa bayan.

Lubhang malayo na po ang narating ng aming lungsod na kinakatawan ng mga titik na BAGONG: B for business environment friendliness; A for academic and cultural excellence; G for good governance and public order; O for opportunities for livelihood and housing; N for nutrition, health and social services; and G for God-centered leadership.

Isa-isahin po natin ang mga ito:

Ang una, business environment friendliness. Pinasimulan po sa lungsod ang tinatawag naming BOSS o Business One-Stop Shop ng Business Permit and Licensing Office o BPLO, kung saan ay pinabilis natin ang proseso ng pagkuha ng business permit.

Simula po ngayong 2018, ipinatupad na natin ang barcode scanning. Ibig sabihin, kapag ang dokumento po ay renewal at ito po ay dumadaan sa barcode scanning, lahat ng data sa inyong dokumento ay lalabas hanggang sa matapos po ninyo ang renewal ng inyong business permit. Mas napapabilis ang transaksyon ng ating taxpayers. Para sa mas mabilis na transaksyon ng ating taxpayers, sinimulan na rin ngayong taon ang online business permit application. Online na po para kahit na sa bahay o opisina, puwede nang mag-apply ng business permit.

Noong 2016, umabot sa bilang na 19,640 na mga kumpanya at iba pang negosyo ang nagparehistro sa BPLO sa lungsod ng Parañaque, samantalang nitong 2017, umabot sa 23,000 ang bilang ng nagparehistro sa ating lungsod. Dahil sa pagdami ng mga bagong negosyo at pagsasaayos ng sistema, tumaas po ang ating koleksyon mula sa P1.9 billion noong 2016, tumaas ito sa P2.1 billion o may pagtaas ng P267 million or 14.02 percent. Sa kasalukuyan, ang budget ng lungsod ng Parañaque sa taong 2018 ay P7 bilyon o P7 billion.

Kabilang sa malalaking kumpanya sa lungsod ng Parañaque ay ang mga sumusunod, particularly po sa Macapagal Boulevard, makikita ang mga naglalakihang gusali katulad ng Solaire Resort Casino, City of Dreams Manila, Aseana, Okada Manila Resort Hotel, ang ginagawang Resorts World Manila sa Parañaque, ang ginagawang pinakamalaking Ayala Mall sa buong Pilipinas, at ang iba't iba pang mga gusali sa iba't ibang lugar sa Parañaque katulad ng Arista Condominium, DMCI Condominium, Azure Condominium, at iba't ibang mga SM Condominium at SM establisimiyento katulad ng SM Sucat, SM BF, SM Bicutan at SM Hypermarket. Sa imprastruktura, nariyan ang Skyway na nagkokonekta sa Terminal Airports 1, 2 and 3, SLEX at NLEX papunta sa Entertainment City. Dahil dito, ang Parañaque ay pinarangalang “Most Business Friendly LGU” ng Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Ayon naman sa Civil Service Commission, ang Parañaque po ay binigyan ng gradong “Very Satisfactory” bilang pagsunod sa ARTA o Anti-Red Tape Act.

Ang pangalawang bisyon, academic excellence for education and culture—sa kasalukuyan, ang aming alkalde na si Mayor Edwin Olivarez ay nagpapagawa ng isang malaking gusali para sa Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Parañaque. Ito po ay matatagpuan sa panulukan ng Kabihasan Road at Coastal Road. Ito ay may taas na limang palapag at mayroong multi-purpose roof deck na may bleachers at 40 silid-aralan. Ito po ang unang yugto ng konstraksyon at sa ikalawang yugto magpapatayo po ang ating lokal na pamahalaan ng isa pang gusali at isa pang Parañaque Astrodome sa nabanggit na lugar.

Sa kasalukuyan ay mayroon na ang Parañaque na Polytechnic University of the Philippines–Parañaque campus at ang Parañaque City College. Ang mga ito ay ire-relocate sa bagong campus na ginagawa po sa pangkasalukuyan.

Kasama po sa programa ng ating pamahalaan ay ang pagbibigay ng College Educational Financial Assistance sa mag-aaral na may angking husay at talino, at karapat-dapat na mga mag-aaral ng ating lungsod sa ilalim ng tanggapan ng Special Service Office. Sa kasalukuyan ay mayroong tayong 6,223 na scholars sa iba't ibang kolehiyo at unibersidad sa kalakhang Maynila. At sa taong 2018, mayroon tayong 2,476 na scholars. Sa kasalukuyan, ang lungsod ng Parañaque ay may 16 public high school campuses at 32 public grade school campuses.

Sa nagdaang limang taon, sa panunungkulan ng ating butihing Mayor Edwin Olivarez, at sa tulong ng abang lingkod at ng DepEd at ng DPWH, nakapagtayo ng mahigit 700 na additional silid-aralan para sa mga batang publiko. Atin din pong pinasinayaan ang makabagong limang palapag na City Public Library na halos kumpleto na ng mga kagamitan, computer units, reference books, mini-theatre, seksyon para sa mga senior citizen at garden library sa roof deck.

Ang pagpapalakas at muling pagbuhay sa mga nakagisnang tradisyon at kultura ng ating lungsod katulad ng Sunduan, Senakulo, Lambat Festival, Sayaw ng Pagbati, Komedyang Mamita, Binibining Parañaque at natatanging Parañaqueños ay binigyang diin at importansya ng lokal na pamahalaan upang pagyamanin ang kultura at tradisyon sa lungsod ng Parañaque.

Ang pangatlong bisyon, ang good governance and public order—ang pagpapanatili ng maayos na pamahalaan ang siyang naging daan para maihatid po natin ang mga programa at proyekto sa ating mga kababayan, gayundin ang pagpapanatiling malinis ng ating mga pangunahing lansangan, pagpapaganda ng ating center, pagdaragdag at pagkukumpuni ng mga street lights sa lahat ng iskinita at kalsada ng ating lungsod katulad ng Ninoy Aquino Road, Quirino Avenue, Sucat Road, East and West Service Road sa SLEX, Doña Soledad at iba pa.

Tiniyak din po natin na may kabuluhan at sadyang kailangan ang mga programa at proyekto, ang ating mga naisagawa at pinagkakagastusan na magdudulot ng buti at ginhawa sa ating mga kababayan sa lungsod. Isa po rito ang kasalukuyang pagpapagawa ng multi-level parking sa tabi ng city hall ng lungsod ng Parañaque. Ito po ay may tatlong palapag na may roof deck at 165 cars parking slot at 54 motorbike parking slots. Ito ay may mezzanine para po sa city storage area upang ganap nang maging malinis ang ating city hall sa quadrangle at hallway. At bilang pagtupad sa kautusan ng ating mahal na Pangulo Rodrigo Roa Duterte, natapos na

po ang pagpapagawa ng gusali ng Parañaque Anti-Drugs Abuse Council upang matulungan po ang ating mga kababayang naligaw ng landas at makabalik sa ating lipunan. Sa pagpapatayo ng Bahay Pag-Asa para sa ating mga menor de edad na nagkasala sa batas, minarapat po na ihiwalay ang mga batang ito at huwag isama sa city jail upang sila ay mabigyan ng pag-asa. Kasama rin pong ipinatutupad dito ang Alternative Learning System, Moral Ascendancy Program at may livelihood component din po.

Natapos na din po ang gusali ng Bahay Aruga at ito ay may tatlong palapag. Sa unang palapag, ito po ang Home for the Aged; sa ikalawang palapag, dito po ay mayroong Bahay Aruga. Ito ang magiging shelter ng mga street at abandoned children; at ang ikatlong palapag po ay para sa Women's Wellness Center, at iyon ang mga kababaihang biktima ng pang-aabuso at human trafficking.

Nakatugon sa pagbalangkas ng pondo ng ating lungsod upang ipatupad ang mga proyektong aking nabanggit, ganoon din ang pagbibigay ng RPT share sa aming 16 na barangay ng aming lungsod sa takdang oras upang magamit po nila sa pagbibigay ng tulong at serbisyo sa ating mga kabarangay. Ang paglago ng ekonomiya ay bunga ng maayos na pamamahala. Ito ay nagdudulot ng maraming kabutihan sa ating lungsod. Kapansin-pansin ang ibinaba ng bilang ng kriminalidad sa aming lungsod.

Hindi rin po matatawaran ang sipag at maagap na pagtugon ng Kagawaran ng Pamatay Sunog o Bureau of Fire Protection. Idagdag pa rito ang sama-sama at patuloy na pagsasanay at kahandaan ng tanggapan ng Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office o LDRRMO.

Ang aming lokal na pamahalaan ay may ipinatupad na mga Public-Private Partnership Program na kung saan ay wala pong gagastusing pera ang aming pamahalaan kahit isang sentimo. Ito ay ang mga sumusunod:

1. Karagdagang reclamation sa area ng Entertainment City o Bay City sa Macapagal area along Roxas Boulevard na may laking 300 hectares—ito po ay magdudulot ng ibayong sigla sa ating lokal na ekonomiya, karagdagang hanapbuhay sa ating mga kababayan at pagtaas ng lokal na kita ng ating lungsod.

2. Sa unang bahagi ng taong ito, ipatutupad ang upgrading ng online processing system ng mga business permit sa pamamagitan ng public-private partnerships.

3. Maliit at masikip na po ang aming public cemetery o Himlayang Palanyag. Sa nakalipas na taong 2017, ang tanggapan ng SSO ay nakapagbigay-tulong ng 1,143 sa mahihirap na pamilya na namamatayan at nabibigyan ng libreng palibing ng aming alkalde. Sa kadahilanang ito, napansin po natin ang pagsikip

ng ating Himlayang Palanyag kaya't minabuti pong magpagawa ng crematorium chapel at columbarium ang pamahalaang lungsod ng Parañaque na may kabuuang bilang na 7,000 slots upang sa ganoon ay maging maayos, malinis at maginhawa ang magiging kalagayan ng aming Himlayang Palanyag.

4. Opportunities for livelihood and housing—ang tanggapan ng Public Employment Service Office ay tuluy-tuloy po ang mga programang pangkabuhayan at pagbibigay oportunidad na magkaroon ng hanapbuhay ang ating mga kababayan sa Parañaque. Mahigpit pong ipinatutupad ang ordinansa na nagtatakda sa bawat kompanya na dapat 40 percent ng kanilang mga empleyado ay mamamayan ng Lungsod ng Parañaque. Sa ganitong paraan ay masisiguro natin na mabibigyan ng prayoridad na magkatrabaho ang aming mga kababayan.

Narito po ang datos na nabigyan natin ng hanapbuhay at pangkabuhayan sa taong 2017 ayon sa sumusunod:

Ayon sa datos ng Parañaque Livelihood Resource Management Office, nakapagpatapos ng 1,769 na mga iskolar sa iba't ibang mga TESDA courses.

Kasama rin po sa Priority Program ng kasalukuyang administrasyon ng lungsod ay ang pagsasaayos ng mga waterway system sa lungsod ng Parañaque, kung saan po ay may kinakaharap na suliranin tungkol po sa mga pamilyang naninirahan sa mga mapanganib na lugar katulad po ng creek, esteros at sa Parañaque river. Naalis na din ang mga informal settlers na naninirahan sa mga tabing-ilog sa lungsod at sila po ay nabigyan ng in-house and outside of Parañaque relocation. Dahil dito, nabawasan ang baha sa aming lungsod.

Makikita rin sa larawan ang malinis na Parañaque river, nagkaroon ng maraming pagsasagawa sa sheet filing, dredging, riprapping, cleaning program at ang aming diversion river kaya nabawasan po ang baha sa lungsod ng Parañaque.

Sa pakikipagtulungan ng iba't ibang kagawaran ng pamahalaang lungsod, ng mga ahensya ng pamahalaang nasyonal, at non-government agencies, nagawa po ang mga pamilyang naninirahan sa danger zone na mailikas at mabigyan ng permanenteng matitirhan, maging ito man ay off-city o in-city relocation. Sa off-city relocation, mahigit 3,000 po ang na-relocate sa Trece Martires, Naic at General Trias, Cavite. Sa mga in-city permanent relocation, mahigit 500 families ang na-relocate sa In-City Socialized Housing Project sa C-5 sa Barangay La Huerta. Mahigit 3,848 families na po ang nabigyan ng pabahay ng lungsod ng Parañaque.

5. Nutrition, Health, Senior Citizen's Welfare and Social Services—binibigyan po ng mataas na prayoridad ang pangangalaga sa kalusugan ng ating mga kababayan. Kung ang ating mga mamamayan ay malusog, malakas at maganda ang kalagayan ng kanilang kalusugan, ito ay sumisimbolo ng maunlad na pamayanan.

Noong February 13 ng taong kasalukuyan, pinasinayaan ang pagtatapos ng konstruksyon ng Ospital ng Parañaque sa Unang Distrito. Ang Phase 1 nito ay four-storey building, ang Phase 2 ay six-storey building, at ang Phase 3 naman ay seven-storey building na magkakaroon ng kabuuang 1,124 o 120-bed capacity na mayroong blood bank, CT-scan, X-ray, physical therapy center, intensive care unit at karagdagang patients' beds.

Nais ko rin pong ipabalita sa inyo na magkakaroon ng groundbreaking ceremony bilang pagbibigay daan sa pagpapatayo ng panibagong Ospital ng Parañaque sa Ikalawang Distrito ng aming lungsod. Ito po ay matatagpuan sa kahabaan ng Doña Soledad Extension.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Abu relinquished the Chair to Rep. Arthur R. Defensor Jr.

Ito ay magkakaroon ng apat na palapag at mayroong basement parking na mayroong 200-bed capacities. Malaki po ang maitutulong nito sa aming mga kababayan na nangangailangan ng tulong medikal.

Tuluy-tuloy din po ang pagsasagawa ng serbisyo-medikal karaban, dental at mga programang nutrisyon sa 16 na barangay at kasama po ang mag-aaral sa day care centers at may bilang na 9,560 mga kababayan natin ang napagserbisuhan na ng programang ito.

Ang ating Pamahalaang Lungsod ay nagpagawa na rin po ng Animal Bite Center, ng City Dog Pound, at ito po ay ipinatutupad ang ordinansa sa lungsod na pag-uutos sa paghuli sa mga galang aso at pusa, at pagpapatupad ng pataw na parusa sa mga lumalabag dito.

Maayos at sinisiguro po natin ang pagpapatupad ng OSCA o iyon pong Office of Senior Citizen Office ng mga programang naglalayon para sa ating mga senior citizens, ang pagbibigay ng cash gifts tuwing sasapit ang kanilang kaarawan at karagdagang cash benefits tuwing sasapit ang Kapaskuhan, kung saan, 42,299 registered senior citizens ang nasa ilalim ng OSCA Cares Card. Libre rin ang pagpapanood ng sinehan kapag Lunes at Martes sa lahat ng sinehan sa lungsod ng Parañaque. Tumutulong at nangangasiwa rin ang pamahalaang lokal sa pamamahagi ng social pension sa 6,670 senior citizens at pinangasiwaan po ang pag-enroll sa mga 67,000 senior citizens sa PhilHealth.

6. Ang panghuli ay ang God-centered leadership—sa kabuuan, ang lahat ng pagbabago at pag-unlad sa aming lungsod ay hindi magaganap kung wala ang tiwala at masiglang pakikipagtulungan ng mamamayan ng Parañaque. Naniniwala rin kami, mga Parañaqueño, na ang lahat ng ito ay

biyayang kaloob at gabay ng ating Poong Maykapal at sa turo ng ating Panginoong Hesukristo. Dito sa Parañaque, matatagpuan ang dalawang pinakasikat at pinakamalaking simbahan sa buong Pilipinas. Ito ang National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help o Baclaran Church at ang Saint Andrew's Cathedral. Naniniwala kami sa Parañaque na ang tunay na sukatan ng anumang pag-unlad ay ang kalagayan ng bawat tao sa isip, pisikal at ispiritwal na buhay. Naniniwala rin kami na ang bawat tao ay nahuhubog sa bawat pamilya kaya patuloy ang programa ng lungsod sa pagpapatibay ng institusyon ng pamilya kaya tuluy-tuloy rin po ang aming libreng kasalang-bayan na ginagawa four times in a year.

Sa pagtatapos, ang lahat ng kawani ng lungsod ng Parañaque ay nagkakasama sa pag-unlad ng aming lungsod.

At this juncture, Rep. Defensor relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu.

Sa larawan, makikita ang bumubuo ng City Council ng Parañaque: Vice Mayor Rico Golez at 16 na Konsehal at ABC President, ang inyong lingkod at Cong. Gus S. Tambunting, at ang aming masipag at butihing alkalde, Mayor Edwin Olivarez.

Salamat po at mabuhay ang BAGONG Parañaque!

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Happy 20th Anniversary, Congressman Olivarez. *(Applause)*

REP. OLIVAREZ. Salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Kaano-ano po ninyo iyong mayor doon?

REP. OLIVAREZ. Kapatid ko po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Ah, kapatid po ninyo, kaya pala ho magaling.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

This Representation joins the Speaker in congratulating Parañaque City on its 20th anniversary as a city.

With that, Mr. Speaker, we respectfully move to refer the speech of the honorable Rep. Eric Olivarez to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, next to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Representative from Party-List ACT TEACHERS, Rep. France L. Castro. May we respectfully move that she be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Ang kagalang-galang pong Kinatawan mula sa Party-List ng ACT TEACHERS, Kinatawan France L. Castro, ay nire-recognize ng Kapulungang ito para i-avail ang Privilege Hour.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CASTRO (F.L.)

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker. Magandang hapon po sa ating lahat.

G. Ispiker, ang Representasyon pong ito, sampu ng aking mga kasamahan sa ACT TEACHERS Party-List at ni Congressman Tinio, ay nagbibigay-pugay sa mga guro na nagsibli noong nakaraang May 14 barangay and SK elections.

Hindi matatawaran ang dedikasyon ng mga nagsilbi bilang miyembro ng Boards of Election Inspectors at ang kanilang mga support staff. Hinarap nila ang mabibigat na tungkulin at perpetwal na hirap ng kalagayan ng ating eleksyon na dumodoble sa isang manual elections gaya ng nakaraang barangay and SK elections.

Pinagpupugayan natin ang mga guro, iba pang mga DepEd personnel, at maging ang ibang mamamayang kinuha ang oportunidad na magbigay ng election service na maglaan hindi lang ng iisa, dalawa o tatlong araw dahil naghanda sila ng election paraphernalia at nag-training o nag-orient with the COMELEC, days before May 14. Sila ay gumising nang maaga noong eleksyon dahil 5:00 a.m. pa lang po ay dapat nasa presinto na. Sila ay halos bente kwatro oras na gising. Ang iba pa nga ay lagpas sa bente kwatro oras dahil ang voting ay hanggang counting and canvassing of votes. Inabutan na sila ng sikat ng araw sa presinto nang sumunod na araw para mabilang ang boto.

Ang ating mga poll workers na karamihan ay mga public school teachers pa rin ay tumayong frontline delegate officers ng COMELEC. Sa kanila nabubunton ang mga galit kapag may botanteng nawala sa listahan ng COMELEC o may nagpipilit na bumoto kahit wala sa voters' list. Exposed rin sila sa risks, harassment, and threats ng mga kandidatong nagbabanggaan sa eleksyon, at puyat, pagod, gutom, at mahaba pang listahan ng hirap at sakripisyo. Ang iba, ipinagpaliban ang sariling karapatang bumoto dahil sa umaapaw na mga botante sa mga presintong binabantayan nila.

With such hardship and sacrifice of our poll workers in mind, ipinasá noong nakaraang Sixteenth Congress ng ACT TEACHERS Party-List, sa pangunguna ng aking kasamhang Kinatawan, Representative Tinio, ang Election Service Reform Act o Republic Act No. 10756. Buhat sa matinding hirap at high risks na kadikit ng

pagbabantay ng boto, ginawa ang RA No. 10756 na voluntary na at hindi mandatory sa mga public school teachers ang election service, at maaari nang mag-volunteer ang mga private school teachers, iba pang mga government employees, at ibang kwalipikadong mamamayan na magbigay ng election service. Binigyan ng laya ang mga guro na tumanggi na maging BEI o BET. At bilang pagkilala na rin sa mataas na katapatan at sense of service ng mga guro at kababayan nating sumusuong sa ganitong gawain, tinaasan ng RA No. 10756 ang honorarium, allowances, at iba pang mga compensation package kabilang na dito ang legal assistance, medical benefits, insurance, at iba pa.

Pero sa nakaraang 2018 barangay and SK elections, na unang implementasyon ng ESRA, marami kaming puna bilang author ng batas. Pangunahin dito ang pagiging boluntaryo ng election service. Hindi nasiguro ng COMELEC at DepEd na tunay ngang boluntaryo ang pagkaka-appoint sa mga guro at DepEd personnel, sa kabila ng pinaabot sa kanila ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). With due respect to the Lady, the ...

REP. DEFENSOR. With the indulgence of the Lady, Mr. Speaker, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Yes, Majority Leader.

REP. DEFENSOR. ... I am sorry for interrupting, but our 40 minutes extension has just expired. With that, I move for another extension of 45 minutes, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. I move that we again recognize the Honorable Castro for her speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Hon. France Castro is recognized to continue her privilege speech.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

Sa nakaraang 2018 barangay and SK elections, na unang implementasyon ng ESRA, marami kaming mga puna bilang author ng batas. Pangunahin dito ang pagiging boluntaryo ng election service. Hindi nasiguro ng COMELEC at ng DepEd na tunay ngang boluntaryo ang pagkaka-appoint sa mga guro at DepEd

personnel, sa kabila ng ipinaabot sa kanila na sa ground, dating gawi ang nangyayari. Ibig sabihin ay kung ano ang listahan ng teachers na ipinasa ng mga principal, iyon na ang in-appoint na Election Officers ng COMELEC. Pinayuhan natin ang COMELEC at DepEd na: una, maglunsad ng masinsing information campaign ukol sa pagiging voluntary ng election service at; ikalawa, magpapirma ng consent form sa mga ia-appoint na Board of Election Tellers. Sa kasamaang palad, hindi ito lubusang nagawa ayon sa mga reports sa field.

Ikalawa, Mr. Speaker, ay ang tungkol sa delay ng pagbibigay ng kompensasyon. Sa kabila ng mga hirap at sakripisyo ng ating mga Board of Election Tellers, hindi naibigay sa kanila ang minamandato ng batas na karapat-dapat at maagap na honorarium at travel allowance. Kahit naging bangungot ang karanasan ng BEIs sa sistemang cash card noong mga unang ipinatupad ito noong election 2016, inulit na naman ito ng COMELEC. Talamak tuloy ang mga reports sa buong bansa na walang nakuhang cash cards ang BETs bago ang araw ng halalan hanggang Linggo matapos ang halalan. Para sa iba, mistulang insulto ang pagbibigay sa kanila ng cash cards na, kahit na anong pindot ang gawin nila sa ATM, wala naman palang laman. Ipinangako ng COMELEC na maibibigay ang honorarium pagpatak ng alas singko uno ng hapon sa araw ng eleksyon. Pero para sa maraming BEI, lalung-lalo na po nasa malalaking siyudad gaya ng NCR, Cebu at Davao, at malalayo sa kabihasan, walang nangyari sa pangakong ito dahil sa walang laman ang card, laging offline ang bangko. Ang BEIs natin sa Lapu-Lapu City, wala pang natanggap na honorarium hanggang ngayon sa dahilang ang COMELEC daw ay “understaffed.” Sa Cavite, itinatayang 40 percent lang ang nakakatanggap mula kahapon.

Ang panawagan po ng maraming guro at iba pang nagsilbi sa eleksyon ay huwag na muling gamitin ng COMELEC ang sistemang cash card dahil ito ay nagpapatagal sa pagbibigay ng honorarium at nagbibigay lamang ng dagdag na pahirap. Pinapaalalahanan natin ang COMELEC na ayon sa Section 10 ng ESRA, ang honorarium at travel allowance ay dapat maibigay sa ating mga BEI or BET sa loob ng 15 araw matapos ang araw ng eleksyon; otherwise, election offense ang aabutin ng opisyal na responsable sa delay. Para sa mga matagal nang nagtaguyod ng kampanya para sa adequate and election service compensation, bawat araw na hindi matatanggap ang honorarium at transportation allowance, at bawat rason o excuse for such delay ay isang disservice sa mga nagbantay sa karapatang bumoto.

Panawagan natin sa COMELEC na huwag nang paabutin ng May 29 ang delay at ibigay na sa lahat ng mga BET ang kanilang mga honorarium at transportation allowance.

Ikatlo, G. Ispiker, ay ang pagkaltas ng 5-percent withholding income tax ng BIR sa election honorarium at travel allowance. Bilang isa sa mga author ng RA No. 10756, naninindigan ang ACT TEACHERS Party-List na walang basehan ang imbentong buwis na ito ng BIR. Saang probisyon ng RA No. 10756 hinugot ng BIR ang awtoridad niyang bawasan ang mga honorarium at transportation allowance ng ating mga BEI? Wala itong buwis dati sa ilalim ng Omnibus Election Code at mga amyenda nito. Wala ring basehan ang income tax na ito dahil, in the first place, ang honorarium at transportation allowance ay hindi income. Ito ang nakasaad sa ilalim ng National Internal Revenue Code at mga amyenda nito, kasama ang pertinent BIR rulings at revenue regulations ng BIR. Hindi nakukuha ang honorarium at transportation allowance ng mga BEI at iba pang mga persons rendering election service buhat ng practice of profession o conduct of trade or business na siya lamang puwedeng magresulta sa tinatawag na “income.” Kaya ang singil natin ngayon sa BIR, i-refund agad ang iligal na ipinataw na 5-percent income tax sa election honorarium at transportation allowance at ibigay ang buong halaga ng mga ito ayon sa minamandato ng ESRA.

Ang panghuli, Mr. Speaker, ay ang kakulangan ng mga medical benefits, legal assistance at indemnifications na minamandato ng Sections 6, 7 at 8 ng ESRA. May ipinaabot sa aming reports na may mga BEI na nangailangan ng agarang tulong medikal at ligal sa araw ng eleksyon at pagkatapos, may mga inabutan sa presinto ng mataas na fatigue at BP, at iba pang sakit o nabiktima ng election-related harassment, ngunit ang mga benepisyong ito ay hindi naibigay. Walang ipinaabot sa atin ang COMELEC o isinapublikong MOA sa pagitan nito at ng Integrated Bar of the Philippines na sinabi nila doon sa aming dialogue at iba pang mga legal groups for free legal assistance gaya ng madalas ng ginagawa tuwing elections, at gaya ng ipinangako ulit nito noong bago mag-eleksyon noong May 14. Panawagan namin na gawing awtomatiko ito ng COMELEC for the 2019 elections at gawing institusyunal ito sa mga darating na halalan. Panawagan din ng mga guro at iba pang nagsilbi ng eleksyon na taasan ang monetary benefits gaya ng honorarium at transportation allowance, death benefits, medical assistance at legal indemnification.

Gaya ng unang nasabi, ang puno’t dulo ng Election Service Reform Act ay ang makatarungang pagbibigay ng sapat na pagkilala sa matinding hirap at mataas na risks na sinusuong ng ating mga guro at iba pang mga nagsisilbi sa eleksyon, at bilang pagpupugay din sa kanilang mataas na katapatan at sense of service, ngunit nawawalan ng saysay ang batas kung hindi ito ipinatutupad nang wasto ng mga ahensya gaya ng COMELEC, DepEd, at BIR.

Maraming salamat po, G. Ispiker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Maraming salamat po.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Lady to the Committee on Rules.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Next to speak is the Lady from KABATAAN. I move that we recognize the Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Lady from Party-List KABATAAN, the Hon. Sarah Jane Elago, is recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ELAGO

REP. ELAGO. Maraming Salamat, G. Ispiker. Sa darating na May 23, mag-iisang taon na matapos ang deklarasyon ng martial law sa Mindanao. Nais kong magbahagi hinggil sa aking nadaluhan na forum nitong nakaraang Sabado tungkol dito. Dito ay tinalakay ang mga epekto at nararanasan ng iba’t ibang marhinalisado at bulnerableng sektor isang taon matapos ang deklarasyon ng batas militar sa Mindanao.

Bilang Kinatawan ng KABATAAN, G. Ispiker, ngayon, nais ko namang maibahagi ang hinggil sa ilang kaso ng mga atake sa mga karapatan ng mga kabataan at sa isang bagay na mahalaga sa kanila—ang karapatan sa edukasyon.

Sa panahon ng Duterte administration at sa panahon ng martial law sa Mindanao, hindi pinalagpas ang mga kabataan. G. Ispiker. Ang pinakahuling kaso ay ang pamamaslang sa batang si Jhun Mark Acto nito lamang April 21. Si Jhun Mark, 15 taong gulang, Mr. Speaker, ay isang Grade 8 student sa Ipong National High School sa Davao del Sur. Siya ay sinuotan ng itim na long sleeves na may markang nakalagay na NPA sa gitna at natamnan pa ng isang baril. Pagkatapos niyang ma-picture-ran, ibinalandra siya bilang isang batang rebelde.

Mr. Speaker, kahit pa ang kaniyang mga kaanak, ang principal ng kaniyang high school, mga guro at barangay kapitan ay makakapagtestigo na siya ay isang estudyanteng Lumad at hindi miyembro ng New People’s Army. Siya ay napatatangang rebelde ng mga militar upang sila ay makatakas sa kanilang pananagutan at bigyang-katwiran ang kanilang pagpatay kay Jhun Mark. Hindi po ito katanggap-tanggap, G. Ispiker, at sinasamahan natin ang pamilya ni Jhun Mark sa panawagan ng hustisya.

Mayroon ding naitalang torture case noong Disyembre lamang. May tinangkang patayin ang mga sundalo mula sa 71st IB na mga dalawang mga kabataan mula Compostela Valley. Sila ay sina Janry, 22 years old; at Jerry, 17 years old. Inilagay sila sa hukay at ginustong sunugin nang buhay, pero bago sila sinunog, mabuti po at sila ay nakatakas. Ngunit bago sila nakatakas, sila ay nakaranas ng torture sa loob ng walong araw. Nakaranas ng mga pagpalo, ng suntok at kung anu-ano pa.

Mr. Speaker, sila ay nakapagsampa na ng complaint sa harap ng Commission on Human Rights sa kasong abduction, illegal detention, torture at frustrated murder. This complaint filed on March 20, 2018 is the first documented case of torture implicating the military since the declaration of martial law in Mindanao last year.

G. Ispiker, ganoon din na kabi-kabila ang mga atake sa mga eskwelahan lalo na sa mga Lumadong paaralan. Ang isa sa mga pinakatumpok sa akin na sinabi ng isang kabataan na Lumad sa naturang forum ay ito ay: “Kung ang karamihan sa inyong mga anak ay nag-graduate, nagsipagtapos nitong Marso at Abril, halos 2,000 katulad kong Lumad na mga estudyante ang hindi nakapagtapos sa taong ito dahil sa pag-atake at puwersahang pagpapasara sa aming mga paaralan. Walang habas po kaming inatake dahil ang paaralan namin ay ekspresyon ng aming paglaban para aming madepensahan ang aming lupang ninuno. Gusto nilang sirain ang aming paaralan dahil kami po ay tinuturuan ng aming mga guro hinggil sa aming mga karapatan bilang mga katutubo.”

Sa katunayan, G. Ispiker, umabot na sa 56 na mga Lumad schools ang naipasara ng mga militar kasama ng kanilang LGUs. Labing-siyam sa mga ito ang isinira. Mayroon ding mga sinunog.

Lalo ring lumala ang atake sa mga paaralan ng mga Lumad matapos na ang Presidente na mismo ang nagutos na bombahin ang kanilang mga paaralan noong July 2017. Pagkatapos iyon sabihin ng Pangulo, makalipas lamang ang isang buwan ay pinaslang si Obello Bay-ao. Siya po ay isang Grade 6 student mula sa Talaingod, Davao del Norte. Ang kanyang mga magulang na si Tatay Benjo at Nanay Eugenia, at ang kanyang kapatid na si Jayross ay nakasama ng Representasyon na ito at kasama ng ibang mga estudyante ng mga paaralang Lumad at kanilang mga magulang sa iba't ibang mga pagkilos para sa panawagan ng hustisya at dagliang may mapanagot sa pagpatay kay Obello Bay-ao.

Sang-ayon sa Save Our Schools Network o SOS, hindi lamang sa mga atake sa paaralan at sa kapwa nila estudyante natatapos ang mga atake. Patuloy pa rin na nilalabag ang kanilang mga karapatan, ang karapatan sa disente at mapayapang pamumuhay, karapatan sa edukasyon, at lalong-lalo na sa karapatan sa sariling pagpapasya sa napakaraming mga naghahangad sa yaman ng kanilang mga lupang ninuno.

Sa katunayan, naitala rin ng SOS ang 16 na mga insidente o lampas sa 2,300 na mga Lumad kasama ang mga magulang, mga guro at ilang estudyante na puwersahan na pinaamin na sila raw ay mga NPA surrenderees. Ngunit, G. Ispiker, sila po ay naninindigan na sila ay mga sibilyan at tinakot lamang upang sila ay mapaamin.

Nakapagtala rin ang SOS network ng apat na insidente ng pambobomba sa mga pamayanan na nakaapekto sa mahigit 1,200 na mga residente.

Sa dalawang taon lamang ng Duterte administration, may 29 ng insidente ng puwersahang paglikas o forced evacuation na nakaapekto sa 11,000 mga Lumad at magsasaka.

Nakasama namin sa ilang lobbying efforts, hindi lang dito sa Kongreso, kundi ganoon din sa mga diyalogo sa iba't ibang ahensiya ng gobyerno ang mga nagbakwit na nang ilang beses simula pa noong Hulyo at Nobyembre noong nakaraang taon hanggang sa Pebrero nitong taon lamang.

G. Ispiker, ang mga ito ay iyon lamang mga naidokumento ng Save Our Schools Network. Marami pa po ang hindi pa naidodokumento dahil tinatakot, hinuhuli, at ikinukulong maski ang mga naghahanap ng katotohanan at nagnanais na maging kabilang sa iba't ibang mga solidarity at fact-finding missions. Gayundin ang ginagawa sa mga human rights defenders o kaya naman kundi threat, harassment o intimidation ay pinapalayas sa bansa na kagaya ng ginagawang panggigipit at nakaambang na deportation kay Sister Pat.

Sa kabuuan, G. Ispiker, may 534 na mga kaso ng mga pag-atake sa mga paaralan sa loob lamang ng dalawang taon mula sa panunungkulan ni Pangulong Duterte. Ang 385 o 72 percent sa mga kasong ito ay nangyari pagkatapos na maideklara ang martial law sa Mindanao. Sa mga kaso pa ng naitalang mga fake surrenderees, pagpapalipad ng mga drones lalo na sa dis-oras ng gabi, ang mga ito ay ibayong nagdudulot ng malawakang takot sa mga kabataan at kanilang mga pamilya at komunidad.

Nais po natin na katulad noong mga deliberasyon dito hinggil sa pagpataw ng batas militar sa Mindanao, at gayundin ang pagpayag ng Kongresong ito sa isa pang taon na ekstensyon ng martial law sa Mindanao, ay maiulat sa atin kung ano na nga ba ang kalagayan ng ating mga kababayan sa Mindanao.

Nakababahala na ang batas militar ay hindi lamang nagbigay daan sa hindi na mabilang na paglabag sa mga karapatang pantao. Ito rin ay ginagawang dahilan upang pahintulutan ang panghihimasok ng mga dayuhang kapangyarihan sa ating bansa para gapiin diumano ang terorismo. Ang Presidente na mismo ang nagpasalamat sa gampanin ng Estados Unidos at Tsina sa labanan sa Marawi. Lalo ring pinaigting ng US

ang kanilang military intervention sa operasyon laban sa terorismo sa kanilang binansagan na “Operation Pacific Eagle.”

Ang ating bayan ay hindi na dapat muling magpakatihulog sa malalim na patibong ng mga dayuhang kapangyarihan na nagpapalaganap ng takot at lagim ng terorismo para lalong lumaki ang mga biyak, mga dibisyon, at hatiin ang hanay ng mamamayan para lang mas madulas na maipasok ang kanilang mga interes sa ating ekonomiya, pulitika at militar, tulad na lang ng nangyari sa Syria, sa Venezuela, at iba pang mga bansa kung saan ang taumbayan ay nagsusulong ng kalayaan at mga demokratikong karapatan.

Matuto na tayo sa mga naging karanasan ng mga bansang ito na nagpapakita lamang na walang mabuting maidudulot ang mga mapanghimasok na giyera hindi lamang ng Estados Unidos kung hindi ang mga iba’t iba pang mga bayan o mga bansa na nais manghimasok sa ating sariling bayan. Dapat tutulan ng taumbayan ang pagpapahintulot ng Pangulo na mangyari sa ating bayan ang nangyaring pagwasak, mga pamamaslang sa Syria, Libya, at sa iba pang bahagi ng daigdig.

Kaya naman, G. Ispiker, ang mga kabataan ay nananawagan na wakasan na ang batas militar sa Mindanao, dagliang pull out ng mga tropang Amerikano sa buong bansa, pagbabasura ng mga hindi pantay na kasunduan ng ating bansa sa iba pang mga bayan, at gayundin ang pagtutol sa panghihimasok at pinaigting na militarization ng China sa ating teritoryo.

Mr. Speaker, higit pa nating pupuspusin ang mga pagsisikap para sa pag-abot ng kapayapaan na nakabatay sa katarungan at hustisya. Ang all-out war at militaristang patakaran ay hindi solusyon sa mga malalim nang nakaugat na suliranin ng bayan. Dulot nito ay ibayong panganib kaysa makabuti pa.

Tayo ay dapat na tumindig at magkaisa para sa nakakatindig sa sarili na patakarang panlabas, itakwil ang dikta ng Estados Unidos, Tsina, at iba pang mga imperyalistang bansa at ipagtanggol, tumindig para sa pambansang soberanya para sa pambansang interes ng ating bayan.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear to us, young people, that the pursuit of all-out peace entails an all-out fight. Kung ang kapayapaan at tunay na kalayaan ng ating bansa ang nakasaalang-alang, hindi po tayo mangingimi na magkaisa at lumaban.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Lady to the Committee on Rules.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Next to speak, Mr. Speaker, is the Hon. Tom Villarin, but may we know first if the Gentleman is around for his speech?

It appears, Mr. Speaker, that the Hon. Tom Villarin is not here. So, may we proceed to recognize the Gentleman from BAYAN MUNA, the Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, for his privilege speech.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Ang Kinatawan mula sa BAYAN MUNA, ang Kagalang-galang Carlos Isagani Zarate, ay nire-recognize ng Kapulungang ito para sa kanyang pribilehiyo.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ZARATE

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

G. Ispiker, sa Miyerkoles po, gaya ng naturan ng ating kasama kanina sa KABATAAN Party-List, sa Miyerkoles po, Mayo a-bente-tres, ay ang unang taon ng delubyong dumaluyong sa ating mga kababayan sa Mindanao, ang pagpataw ng martial law or batas militar noong May 23, 2017. Ang pagpataw na ito ay nagdulot ng di masukat na pighati sa mamamayang Moro, Lumad, at settlers dahil sa pagkawala ng mga buhay, ng mga ari-arian, at paglapastangan sa karapatan ng napakarami nating mga kababayan.

Noon, ngayon, ang batas militar ay nagpapakawala ng mabangis na pasismo sa ating mamamayan. Kaya naman, G. Ispiker, tulad ng panawagan ng Kinatawag ito noong isang taon, noong ating pinagdedebatehan ang batas militar, ang ating tuluy-tuloy na panawagan: Wakasan ang batas militar sa Mindanao!

Noong isinangguni sa Kongreso upang basbasan nito ang batas militar na idineklara ni Pangulong Duterte, ang Kinatawag ito, kasama ng iba pang Mambabatas mula sa Makabayan bloc, ay nagrehistro ng mariing pagtutol. Sa loob ng Kongreso, sa Korte Suprema, sa mga bulwagan, at maging sa mga kalsada, paulit-ulit naming ipinananawagan, G. Ispiker, ang pagbawi na at pagbibigay-wakas sa batas militar sa Mindanao at lalo pa nating tinutunggali ang pagpapalawig nito hanggang sa katapusan ng kasalukuyang taon. Ang mariin naming pagsalungat sa batas militar ay pinabibigat ng mga daing at paghihirap ng mamamayang sumalo ng mga airstrike, hamletting, pandarahas, pagpatay, pagkawala ng tirahan, pagnanakaw ng mga ari-arian, ang kahabag-habag na kalagayan sa evacuation centers ng mga bakwit at ang samu’t saring paglabag sa karapatang pantao.

G. Ispiker, dating makasaysayan, hitik sa kultura at sentro ng ekonomiya at edukasyon ng Lanao ang siyudad

ng Marawi or the Islamic City of Marawi. Ngunit, pagkatapos paulanan ng bomba, gawing lunsaran ng giyerang walang puknat, ang dating maringal na Islamic City of Marawi ay tila naging abo, at higit sa lahat, ang mga mamamayang Moro na dati ay namuhay nang payapa at matiwasay ay nahaharap ngayon sa matinding humanitarian crisis dulot ng walang habas na pambobomba sa kanilang kabahayan at sakahan. Nasa 11,000 bahay ang nasira, 27,000 pamilya ang nawalan ng tirahan, at malawakan ang krisis sa pisikal at mental na kalusugan dulot ng giyera at sa karima-rimarim na kalagayan sa mga evacuation center.

Mabigat, G. Ispiker, ang kasalanan ng pamahalaang Duterte sa mamamayang Moro sa Marawi. Ang abang kalagayan ng mga bakwit ay pinalala pa nang itigil ang pamamahagi ng relief at cash assistance. Malayo pa ang hustisya, G. Ispiker, para sa kanila para sa kalagayang: (1) walang anumang sinasabi ang gobyerno upang matumbasan o ma-indemnify ang mga buhay ng mga sibilyan na nakitil sa Marawi siege; (2) tahimik din ang pamahalaan sa compensation para sa mga ari-ariang winasak nang walang habas na pambobomba ng kabuuang siyudad; at (3) walang inaangking kasalanan ang pamahalaan sa tinatawag nilang failure of intelligence sa pagpasok ng mga grupong naghasik ng gawaing terorismo sa Marawi. Walang malinaw na plano ang gobyerno sa mga internally displaced persons or IDPs or ang ating tinatawag na mga “bakwit.” Wala ring pagkilala sa mga paglabag sa karapatang pantao na ginawa ng mga militar at lahat ng mga ahente ng Estado. Ang pagkawasak ng 20 mosques at 30 madrasah na napakahalaga sa mga mamamayang Moro ay walang kilos upang maipanumbalik ito sa kasalukuyan. Wala rin sa prayoridad ng ating pamahalaan ang pagsasabatas ng Reparation Law upang tugunan ang kalagayan ng mga kababayan natin sa Marawi. Higit sa lahat, G. Ispiker, walang paramdam ang gobyerno kung kailan nito ititigil ang batas militar sa Mindanao.

Kaya, G. Ispiker, malinaw po ang panawagan ng ating mga kababayan. Nais ng mga mamamayang Moro na ma-rehabilitate ang Marawi sa pamamaraang sensitibo sa kanilang kultura at relihiyon. Nais nilang maipanumbalik ang Marawi para sa mamamayan nito at hindi para pagkakitaan ito mula sa pagkawasak.

G. Ispiker, kapwa ko Mambabatas, ang batas militar sa buong Mindanao ay tila isang bangungot para sa mga mamamayan, hindi lamang sa Marawi kundi sa iba't ibang bahagi ng Mindanao. Bago pa man idineklara ang batas militar, kaliwa't kanan ang ginagawang pagpatay at panunupil sa mga mamamayan sa Mindanao partikular sa mga komunidad ng Lumad at ng mga magbubukid. Paano pa kaya ngayong naghari-harian na ang mga berdugong hukbo na binubuyo ng tirano nitong Commander-in-Chief?

Halimbawa, sa kasalukuyan, G. Ispiker, maaaring arestuhin ang sinuman sa ilalim ng batas militar lalo na

kung ang mga ito ay mahihirap na magsasaka o maliliit na mga minero. Dadalhin ka ng mga sundalo sa police station sa gawa-gawang kaso ng pagnanakaw habang walang imik na nakamasid lang ang mga kumander at iba pang nakakataas sa kanila. Pagdating sa police station, itatali ka, bubugbugin, at pagkatapos ay ilalagay ka sa loob ng sirang ambulansiya sa loob ng siyam na araw. Pakakainin ka lamang nang anim na beses sa loob ng panahong ito. Ngayon, batbat ng torture ang isip at katawan, at kailangan ka nang iligpit ng mga berdugo. Pasusuotin ka ng mga uniporme ng mga militar. Marahil para sabihing sundalo kang pinaslang ng mga rebeldeng kathang-isip. At, karay-karay ng 20 sundalo, isasakay ka sa 6x6 patungo sa isang magubat na lugar. Doon pahuhukayin ka ng sarili mong libingan. At dahil hindi pa ubos ang kahayupan nila sa katawan, muli kang bubugbugin. Pagkatapos ay sasakalin ka, hanggang sa tingin nila ay malalagutan ka na ng hininga. Ihuhulog ka sa butas na mismong hinuhukay mo, bubuhusan ka ng langis, lalagyan ng mga panggatong, saka paliliyabin ang iyong katawan.

Ganito, G. Ispiker, ang nangyari kay Janry, 22 taong gulang, at kay Jerry, 16 taong gulang, subalit sila ay nabuhay. Ginapang nila palabas ang lumiliyab na hukay at binagtas ang mga kabundukan ng ilang araw hanggang makarating sa kanilang mga tahanan. Nabuhay sila, sugatan ang katawan at isip, upang ilahad ang paglapastangan sa kanilang pagkatao sa ilalim ng batas militar. Sina Janry at Jerry ay dalawa lamang sa 22 biktima ng torture sa Mindanao na naitala ng grupong Karapatan sa isang taong pananalasa ng batas militar.

Nakakasuklam, G. Ispiker, na ang mga karumaldumal na pangyayaring ito ay sinapit ng ating mga ordinaryong mamamayan hindi sa kamay ng mga teroristang kinatatakutan kundi sa kamay ng mga militar at pulis na dapat sana ay nangangalaga sa kanila. Mapait para sa mamamayan na ang armadong puwersa ng Estado ay siya pang kumikitil sa buhay, nagnanakaw ng kabuhayan, at lumalabag sa karapatan.

Kaya, G. Ispiker, gaya ng mga aral na dapat nating matutunan sa batas militar na idineklara ng diktador na si Ferdinand Marcos, ang batas militar ni Pangulong Duterte, na kamay ng isang hukbong sandatahan na may mahabang record ng paglabag sa karapatang pantao, ang batas militar sa kasalukuyan ay tulad rin ng hatol na bitay sa karapatan ng mamamayan.

G. Ispiker, mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, isang taon na po ang batas militar. Ano ba ang nararating nito para sa atin? Naabot ba natin ang kasiguruhan o ang tinatawag nilang public safety? Natapos na ba ang rebelyon sa ka-Mindanaoan? Naging mas mabuti ba ito sa kalagayan ng mamamayan sa Islamic City of Marawi at sa ibang lugar pa ng Mindanao?

Malinaw, G. Ispiker, na hindi solusyon ang batas militar sa ugat ng armadong sigalutan. Malulutas ba ng batas militar ang kawalan ng lupa ng mayoryang

magsasaka? Malulutas ba ang pang-aapi sa Moro at Lumad? Malulutas ba ng batas militar ang kawalan ng trabaho at industriyalisasyon? Malinaw po ang sagot, G. Ispiker. Hindi. Malulutas ba ng batas militar ang panlalamang at pambubusabos sa atin ng mga imperyalistang bansa katulad ng Estados Unidos at Tsina, at ang grabeng militarisasyon ngayon sa ating teritoryo sa West Philippine Sea? Malinaw rin ang sagot na hindi, G. Ispiker.

Kaya kapwa ko Mambabatas, G. Ispiker, tayo po ay may tanging pagkakataon upang ibsan ang paghihirap ng ating mamamayan sa ilalim ng isang taong gulang nang batas militar sa Mindanao. Hinihimok ko ang bawat isa na manindigan para sa karapatan, para sa katarungan, at para sa tunay na kapayapaang nakabatay sa panlipunang hustisya. Tapusin na ang batas militar sa Mindanao. Demokrasya, hindi diktadura.

Maraming salamat po, G. Ispiker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Maraming salamat po, Kagalang-galang na Zarate.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Zarate to the Committee on Rules.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Next to speak, Mr. Speaker, is the Gentleman from the Lone District of Baguio City. I move that we recognize the Hon. Mark Go.

REP. GO (M.). Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman from the Lone District of Baguio City, the Hon. Mark Go, my party-mate in Nacionalista Party, is recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. GO (M.)

REP. GO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen:

In 2013, Congress broached a new genre of curriculum into the Philippine educational system. Essentially, it was about the additional two years to the status quo of 10 years of basic education. Thus, the Senior High School curriculum came into being, delineating a template of basic education from Kindergarten until Grade 12.

The Department of Education stated that it is committed to provide quality basic education that is equitably accessible to all and lays the foundation for life-long learning and service for the common good. It is an organization that is currently undergoing major reforms to meet the needs of Filipino learners in the 21st century. A number of policy reforms are being initiated by the Department to improve the delivery of basic education and student-learning outcomes. One of these policy reforms is the adoption and implementation of the Enhanced Basic Education or known as the K to 12 Program. As a result of the implementation of such novel policy reform, this year, 1.2 million public Senior High School students would constitute as the pioneering graduates of the K to 12 curriculum. Sixty-one percent of 1.2 million or 765,000 completed the academic track and close to 480,000 finished under the technical-vocational-livelihood track.

The urgent and candid question is: Have our first K to 12 graduates now come out as the desired result of the mold of the new educational policy? We must understand that this is a question which must be reckoned with what the Department of Education has envisioned in implementing the K to 12 curriculum as a way of revolutionizing the educational landscape of the Philippines. The K to 12 curriculum is skills-oriented. It aims to develop students imbued with the 21st century skills such as information, media and technology, learning and innovation, communications, life and career.

A study conducted by the Philippine Business for Education said that only about 20 percent of 70 of the country's leading companies across all sectors were inclined to hire Senior High School graduates. Accordingly, companies accept only job applicants with at least two years of college education, which potentially excludes Senior High School graduates. The hesitance to hire fresh graduates is due to the absence of the necessary skills and training that industries need but not yet provided by the current Senior High School Program.

Alberto Fenix, President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Human Resources Development Foundation, Inc. is skeptical about the success of the delivery of the objectives of the Senior High School Program. He said, "At the moment, we really have no confidence that they, the SHS graduates, do have it." He said that "the 80 hours that Senior High School students were required to log at work were not enough for them to learn the rigors of the industry that they want to get into."

We might as well consider this radical remark. If this could be true, then the expected vision of the K to 12 curriculum to produce graduates possessed with 21st century skills who are ready for work is a failure. Therefore, the only legal or logical move is to abandon the implementation of the K to 12 Program.

Perhaps, the best rebuttal to this assessment is: What advantage will the requirement of “at least two years of college education” set over the enhanced two years of Senior High School education as a criterion for employment? Will those two years of college education guarantee the possession of skills which companies look for in job applicants and which are rather found insufficient or non-existent in the Senior High School curriculum as they claim? The question of fact begins. Have skills been developed or not in the Senior High School graduates? Or, would the 56 leading companies be declared as right in saying there is nothing to expect from Senior High School graduates?

The other issue here is: Why does our government tend to cater to the needs of the 70 of the country’s leading companies? It is definitely leaning to a polarization issue—a functional citizen in the work place versus a good citizen in a nationalistic paradigm.

We take another observation which is relevant: We noticed that our education today has become industry-based. That is, our education has been subservient to the demand of the industry. The value of education is measured in terms of its practical application, of its employability and monetary gain. The pragmatic view of education is evident in the K to 12 curriculum.

It would appear that even with the noblest intentions of the K to 12 Program to secure employment among graduates after completing Senior High School, the program remains treated as falling short in giving holistic formation of the person of each graduate as a citizen of our country. Will education in general be geared towards utilitarianism or towards humanism? This question shall bring us to consider the philosophy behind the K to 12 Program.

The Department of Education has envisioned the Senior High School Program to produce graduates prepared for higher education and capable of starting their own businesses or land a job even without a college degree.

Again, this has already been met with skepticism. Interestingly, at the other end of this issue, Senator Grace Poe has urged the private sector to hire K to 12 Program graduates to experience actual work. Filing Senate Resolution No. 700, she said:

The successful implementation of the reforms under Republic Act No. 10533 or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 requires the cooperation of the private sector, as they comprise a major part of the demand-side of the job market, and can thus allow or prevent K to 12 graduates from finding decent and fulfilling employment.

Will the private sector take heed of such Resolution or will it remain autonomous as to assert its prerogative to select workers or employees?

Has the Department of Education been able to address the shortage in classrooms, teachers and

instructional materials in lieu of the implementation of the K to 12 Program? This is also one of the issues that this Representation needs to find out. On the other hand, has the government preempted the workforce that should find its corresponding private or public working stations in the world?

Assistant Education Secretary Nepomuceno Malaluan said:

The failure to find employment was not always due to the graduate being unprepared for work but may be attributed to the realities in the labor front that both the government and the industries needed to address.

It was ‘not a certainty’ that SHS students who opt not to go to college could find suitable jobs just because they had acquired the skills and competencies for particular types of work.

Right now, we have to take into consideration that it is not just a matter of preparedness of our students for work. It is also about the preparedness of our economy to accommodate work.

According to the 2017 Socioeconomic Report of the National Economic and Development Authority or NEDA, the national unemployment rate last year reached 5.7 percent, up from 5.5 percent in 2016. It also noted that youth unemployment also rose to 14.4 percent and the present administration planned to cut it down to 11 percent.

“Employment creation remains a challenge as there were around 663,243 net employment losses in 2017,” as reported by NEDA.

My dear colleagues, the challenge at hand is to gather impartial assessment from the initial implementation of the K to 12 Program. This Representation has marked three areas of concern. First, has the K to 12 curriculum been tailored indeed to develop 21st century skills? If so, then why the skepticism of the hiring sector? Second, has the K to 12 curriculum been designed to be industry-driven forgetting that education does not only serve utilitarian purposes? Third, has the economy in general been prepared to meet the influx ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). With due respect to the Gentleman on the floor, the time allotted has expired.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. With the indulgence of the Gentleman, Mr. Speaker, our 45 minutes extension has just expired. We are constrained to move for another extension of 15 minutes considering that we have another speaker after the Honorable Go. With that, I move that we extend the Privilege Hour for another 15 minutes.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, again, I move that we recognize the Honorable Go for the continuation of his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Hon. Mark O. Go from the Lone District of Baguio City is recognized to continue his privilege speech.

REP. GO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Third, has the economy in general been prepared to meet the influx of K to 12 graduates?

The K to 12 Program must be assessed at both its practical implications, procedural viabilities as well as its philosophical leanings. Personally, I must think that the K to 12 Program has started off with the best of intentions to produce globally competitive graduates, and in fact, I would remain its advocate. Against the fair observation from the other stakeholders that the K to 12 Program may have failed in some areas, I remain positive that those are curable, and can be remedied with appropriate workable solutions.

We must remember that this K to 12 Program, this policy reform in education has been taken freshly from the oven, so to speak, and perhaps on that fact, we might as well give it a benefit of stout belief that it will work eventually as planned.

My dear colleagues in this august Chamber, if indeed education pays the best interest, then we may as well revisit the purpose to which the K to 12 Program has been directed. Against some fledgling criticisms against it, it is too early to terminate or suspend its continuous implementation. Against some future inutility of it, however, it is urgent to subject it under strict scrutiny and evaluation.

The moment is now: a critical look at the K to 12 Program after its initial implementation is the proper attitude. What is at stake is our national mind for we believe that an informed citizenry is a guarantee of preserving our identity as Filipinos. If the K to 12 Program is truly an investment, then we must as well guarantee its triumphant dividends.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and good evening to everybody.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Thank you, Representative Go.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully move to refer the speech of the Hon. Mark Go to the Committee on Rules.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully move to recognize Rep. Arlene D. Brosas from the Party-List GABRIELA, who will avail of the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). From the Party-List GABRIELA, the Hon. Arlene Brosas is recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BROSAS

REP. BROSAS. Yes, maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, isang araw mula ngayon ay ang unang taon simula nang ibaba ang martial law sa Mindanao. May 23, 2017, unang ibinaba ang 60 days na martial law sa buong Mindanao at sa Miyerkoles ay mag-iisang taon na itong nagpapahirap at patuloy na magpaparami ng human rights violations sa Mindanao.

Ang martial law ay idinulot ng digmaan sa pagitan ng gobyerno at ng pamilyang Maute na umano ay may dikta ng ISIS.

Ang nakasaad sa Konstitusyon na dapat ay 60 days na pagpapasailalim sa batas militar ay pinalawig lalo ng Kapulungang ito at ng Senado noong Hulyo 2017. Ang dapat ay mabilisang pagbangon ng Marawi at Mindanao mula sa kasuklam-suklam na digmaan ay binusalan ng ekstensiyon ng martial law hanggang Disyembre ng taong ito sa kadahilanang “total eradication” ng tinaguriang Islamic state terror groups ng pamahalaan. Ngunit malinaw na ang pagpapasailalim at pagpapalawig ng batas militar, hindi lamang sa Marawi kundi sa buong Mindanao, ay malinaw at kongkretong hakbang sa balangkas ng counter-insurgency program ng administrasyon.

Bago pa man ang pagpataw ng martial law ay laganap na ang militarisasyon sa Mindanao. Sunud-sunod ang mga resolusyon na ipinasá ng progresibong grupo sa pagnanais na maimbestigahan ang mga pang-aabuso ng state forces sa mamamayan sa rehiyon. Dinala rin ang mga isyung ito ng Lakbayan ng Pambansang Minorya noong Agosto 31, 2017.

Sinubukan din ng mga kapatid nating Maranaw na dalhin ang hinaing ng rehiyon noong Special Session para sa panukalang pag-extend ng martial law noong Hulyo 2017, ngunit sila mismo ay hindi pinakinggan ng Kapulungan. Nais nilang ipanawagan ang pagtigil sa militarisasyon sa buong Mindanao at ang pagbaklas sa batas militar.

Ang martial law sa Mindanao ay lumagas na sa 76 na inosenteng buhay dahil sa extrajudicial killings.

Nariryan sina Abol Amatonding, Sohaib Batalao at Ramos Malik. Sila ay iilan lamang sa mga biktima ng pandarahas ng Estado. Ang pagpataw ng batas militar din ang nagpalikas sa mahigit 400,000 Maranaw.

Ang martial law na sinasabing para sa “public safety” ang naglunsad sa mga sumusunod na paglabag sa karapatang pantao:

March 23, 2017 – araw ng pagdeklara ng martial law sa Mindanao, binomba ang Marawi; apektado ang 96 barangays, 325,294 residents, 65,198 families. Sa araw ding iyon pinatay ng anim na suspected state agents ng 71st IBPA si Pedro Pandagay sa Sitio Biao, Barangay Anitapan, Mabili, Compostela Valley;

May 24, 2017 – Ramos Malik was gunned down by the AFP in Barangay Cameri, Lanao del Sur;

March 26, 2017 – Virgilio Balungag was gunned down by three suspected state agents in Purok 8-A, North Poblacion, Don Carlos, Bukidnon;

April 2, 2017 – Danilo Nadal was killed by two unnamed soldiers from the 46th IBPA in Purok 2, Barangay Tibagun, Pantukan, Compostela Valley;

April 6, 2017 – soldiers from the 60th IBPA killed Elias Pureza in Purok Palmera, Barangay Mamangan, San Isidro, Davao Oriental;

April 8, 2017 – Bernardo Ripdos was gunned down by five unnamed soldiers of the 46th and 71st IBPA in Purok 1, Barangay Sangab, Maco, Compostela Valley;

April 23, 2017 – San Fernando bombing of the Philippine Air Force, 30 soldiers of the 60th IBPA—apektado ang 19 families sa Sitio Salumpikit, Barangay Bunacao, San Fernando, Bukidnon;

May 3, 2017 – Federico Plaza was killed by two unnamed agents of the 66th IBPA in Barangay Poblacion, Maragusan, Compostela Valley;

May 9, 2017 – soldiers of the 3rd IB Task Force Harribon under the 7th Infantry Division bombed Barangay Dominga, Calinan District, Davao City, affecting 251 families or 1,014 residents; on the same day, Rodolfo Dagahuya Jr. was killed by the same state agents;

May 27, 2017 – suspected elements of the 67th IBPA killed Ana Marie Aumada in Barangay Lucod, Bagana, Davao Oriental;

May 31, 2017 – soldiers of the 46th IBPA killed Jessie Cabeza in Barangay Mascareg, Mabini, Compostela Valley;

June 1, 2017 – napilitang magbakwit ang 105 residente ng Sitio Salumpikit, Barangay Bunacao, San Fernando, Bukidnon, dahil sa pagkakampo ng 60th IBPA;

June 9, 2017 - 1,014 residents of Barangay Dominga, Calinan District, Davao City forcibly evacuated due to the presence of the 3rd IB Task Force Harribon under the 7th ID;

June 10, 2017 – forced evacuation of 1,820 residents of Sitios Nges, Luyong, Kubo, Sakugan, Tinagdanan due to militarization brought by 12 soldiers

of Marine Battalion Landing Team 2 and 50 DMCI Consunji Guards;

June 23, 2017 – forced evacuation of 1,000 residents of the municipality of President Roxas, North Cotabato and Damulog, Bukidnon due to the presence of 240 soldiers of the 39th IBPA;

June 25, 2017 – bombing of the municipality of President Roxas, North Cotabato;

June 25, 2017 – forced evacuation of more than 1,000 residents of Sitio Datalfitao, Barangay Colonsabac, Matano, Davao del Sur, due to the presence of the 73rd IB and 39th IBPA;

July 1, 2017 – Purok 4, Tagbawi and Sitio Inuburan, Barangay Rial, Monkayo, Compostela Valley was bombed by the 25th IBPA, Philippine Air Force, affecting 40 families, and many others;

September 20, 2017 – Magpet bombing, bombing of Purok 1, Sitio Kimampang, Sitio Ranzo, Purok 2, Barangay Balite, Magpet, North Cotabato, affecting forced evacuation of four families;

September 28, 2017 – Reneboy Magayano was gunned down by two military agents of the 66th IBPA in Maragusan Public Market, Maragusan, Compostela Valley;

October 28, 2017 – Arnel Otacan was an EJK victim in Barangay Cabasagan, Boston, Davao Oriental—perpetrator: 67th IBPA;

November 16, 2017 – Binaril ng mga elemento ng 29th IB ng Philippine Army si Perfecto “Boy” Hoyle, sa Purok 4, Barangay Canaway, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte;

Ang mga latest po ay September 5, 2017 – a CAFGU named Ben Salangani of Sitio Barobo killed Obello Bay-ao, Grade 6 Lumad student, in Sitio Dulyan, Talaingod, Davao del Norte;

August 28, 2017, nang dinakip, na-torture, at tinangkang sunugin pa ng 86th IBP si alias-Jerry, 16, sa Tagum City; at Jhun Mark Ato, 15 years old, pinaslang ng AFP.

Hindi lamang tuwing May 23 natin gugunitain ang martial law. Dahil hanggang hindi ibinabasura at inaalis ang batas militar sa Mindanao ay tiyak na patuloy na madaragdagan ang mahabang listahan ng mga biktima. Araw-araw lumalala ang pasismo at tiraniya na lalong pinalalala ng martial law. Sa paglaganap ng karahasan at pambubusabos sa mamamayan, isang responsibilidad ang makialam, tumindig, at lumaban. Kasaysayan ang nagturo sa atin. Ang pandarahas sa mamamayan ay nagpapaighting at nagpapatingkad sa pag-aaklas.

Patuloy ang panawagan ng Representasyong ito at ng GABRIELA Women’s Party, “Never Again,” “Lift Martial Law in Mindanao,” at imbestigahan ang lahat ng kaso ng pang-aabuso sa karapatang pantao.

Hustisya para sa mga Maranaw at kapatid nating Moro! Hustisya para sa mga biktima ng paglabag sa karapatang pantao!

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

RATIFICATION OF CONF. COMM. RPT.
ON H.B. NO. 6915 AND S.B. NO. 1103

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Conference Committee Report reconciling the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 6915 and Senate Bill No. 1103.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the 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. 6915, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BRANCH OF THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SABLAYAN, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (PUP)-SABLAYAN BRANCH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and Senate Bill No. 1103, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF

THE PHILIPPINES-SABLAYAN CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SABLAYAN, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO TO BE KNOWN AS “PUP-SABLAYAN CAMPUS” APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we ratify the said Conference Committee Report.

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

The Conference Committee Report is approved.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE
CONF. CTTEE.

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 5367, Reapportioning the Sixth and Seventh Legislative Districts of the Province of Cavite to Create an Additional Legislative District to be Known as the Eighth Legislative District of the Province of Cavite: Reps. Pedro B. Acharon Jr., Rene L. Relampagos, Luis “Jon-Jon” A. Ferrer IV and Arlene B. Arcillas.

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

The Members nominated are so designated.

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 5160, Converting the Municipality of Sto. Tomas in the Province of Batangas Into a Component City to be Known as the City of Sto. Tomas: Reps. Pedro B. Acharon Jr., Luis “Jon-Jon” A. Ferrer IV, Ma. Theresa V. Collantes and Arlene B. Arcillas.

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

The Members nominated are so designated.

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

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

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report by the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries (Committee Report No. 741), re H.B. No. 7742, entitled:

“AN ACT REINFORCING THE CORPORATE VIABILITY OF THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, STRENGTHENING ITS MONETARY AND FINANCIAL STABILITY FUNCTIONS AND ENHANCING ITS REGULATORY POWERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7653,

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE NEW CENTRAL BANK ACT’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 7296 earlier submitted under Committee Report No. 637

Sponsors: Representatives Evardone, Oaminal and Collantes

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. SALO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, May 22, 2018, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The session is adjourned until May 22, 2018, Tuesday, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 7:18 p.m.