



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
*House of Representatives*

Vol. 4

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

No. 82

## CALL TO ORDER

*At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Mylene J. Garcia-Albano called the session to order.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
The session is called to order.

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
Everybody will please rise to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

## PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
Everybody will please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer.

*Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

## ROLL CALL

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
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. 82, dated May 22, 2018. \**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The roll call shows that 208 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
With 208 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

## APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 81 dated May 21, 2018.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
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, Communications and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:*

## BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 7687, entitled:

“AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND TO FURTHER AMEND REPUBLIC ACT NO.

\* See ANNEX AH (printed separately)

6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE UNDER A REORGANIZED DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,’ AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 7688, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL LAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 7689, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE ADMINISTRATION OF REGULAR DRUG TESTS IN CORRECTIONAL PENAL INSTITUTIONS”

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 7690, entitled:

“AN ACT ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY IN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF INTELLIGENCE AND CONFIDENTIAL FUNDS GRANTED TO ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE A JOINT CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE TO STRENGTHEN THE OVERSIGHT POWERS OF CONGRESS TO MONITOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF ALL AGENCIES OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND TO OVERSEE HOW INTELLIGENCE AND CONFIDENTIAL FUNDS ARE EXPENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Bill No. 7691, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF THE PHILIPPINE FILM INDUSTRY, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE PHILIPPINE FILM COMMISSION, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 7692, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO SEAR TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8678 ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE SEAR TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE WIRE AND/OR WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS IN THE PHILIPPINES’ FOR TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT”

By Representative Garbin  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 7693, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE CONDUCT OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILLS IN FACILITIES HANDLING, STORING, AND TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 7694, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION TO CONSUMERS BY EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF BASIC NECESSITIES AND PRIME COMMODITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PRICE ACT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 7695, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM, REORGANIZING THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY SYSTEM, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aggabao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7696, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP

TO REVEREND FATHER LUCIANO ARIEL  
FELLONI”

By Representative Velarde  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7697, entitled:

“AN ACT INCORPORATING THE VALUE  
OF RESPONSIBLE, FAIR AND  
TRUTHFUL UTILIZATION OF SOCIAL  
MEDIA IN SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES,  
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES,  
NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION,  
PRIVATE CORPORATIONS, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Yap (V.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
INFORMATION

House Bill No. 7698, entitled:

“AN ACT PENALIZING UNCONSCIONABLE  
LENDING ACTIVITIES OF LOAN  
SHARKS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES  
THEREFOR”

By Representative Yap (V.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

#### RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1864, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND  
SAFETY AND COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE,  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF  
LEGISLATION, INTO THE ASSASSINATION  
OF DOJ PROSECUTORS”

By Representative Belaro  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1865, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND  
CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE  
OF THE HONORABLE EDGARDO  
J. ANGARA, FORMER SENATE  
PRESIDENT”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1866, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND  
CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES ON THE UNTIMELY  
DEMISE OF THE HONORABLE EUFRANIO  
C. ERIGUEL, FORMER REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE 2ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF  
LA UNION”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1867, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES RECOGNIZING  
THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HISTORIC  
INTER-KOREAN SUMMIT AT THE JOINT  
SECURITY AREA (JSA) OF PANMUNJOM  
IN THE KOREAN DEMILITARIZED ZONE  
(KDMZ) ON APRIL 27, 2018”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS

House Resolution No. 1868, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN  
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
INTO THE COLLAPSE OF A WOODEN  
FOOTBRIDGE IN THE RESETTLEMENT  
SITE FOR THE ZAMBOANGA SIEGE  
VICTIMS”

By Representative Dalipe  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1869, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND  
COMMENDING ATTY. MARK JOHN H.  
SIMONDO FOR OBTAINING THE HIGHEST  
RATING IN THE 2017 PHILIPPINE BAR  
EXAMINATION”

By Representative Gasataya  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1870, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE  
IGLESIA NI CRISTO FOR HOSTING  
THE HISTORICAL WORLDWIDE WALK  
TO FIGHT POVERTY ON MAY 6, 2018,  
WHICH WAS THE CHURCH’S 2ND  
SIMULTANEOUS CHARITABLE WALK”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1871, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE  
COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN  
AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE  
DATA BREACH OF 1.2 MILLION  
FILIPINO FACEBOOK USERS”

By Representative Yap (V.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1872, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT EDGARDO J. ANGARA, SENATOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE 8TH, 9TH, 10TH, 12TH, 13TH, 14TH AND 15TH CONGRESSES”

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

House Resolution No. 1873, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE EUFRANIO ERIGUEL, MEMBER OF THE 15TH AND 16TH CONGRESS”

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

House Resolution No. 1874, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES ON THE DEMISE OF FORMER SENATOR EDGARDO JAVIER ANGARA”

By Representative Nieto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1875, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO FILE A DIPLOMATIC PROTEST AGAINST THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE INSTALLATION OF MISSILE SYSTEMS IN THREE OF OUR ISLANDS IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA”

By Representatives Alejano, Banal, Belmonte (J.C.), Billones, Bordado, Daza, Del Mar, Erice, Lagman, Mariño, Quimbo, Relampagos, Sarmiento (E.M.) and Ramirez-Sato  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Letters dated 4 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 Letter No. CL-2018-031 dated 25 April 2018;

2. Circular Letter No. CL-2018-032 dated 26 April 2018;
3. Circular No. 1001 dated 30 April 2018; and
4. Circular Letter No. CL-2018-033 dated 30 April 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Report of Atty. Cesar Strait Pareja, Secretary General, House of Representatives, on enrolled bills, submitted to the Office of the President, for His Excellency’s consideration and signature, pursuant to the provision of Rule VI, Section 18, Par. (h) of the Rules of the House of Representatives:

1. House Bill No. 4927, entitled:  
“AN ACT CREATING BARANGAY UPPER PUGAAN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DITSAAN-RAMAIN, PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL SUR”;
2. House Bill No. 5578, entitled:  
“AN ACT SEPARATING MAGTOMA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – DUPLIGAN ANNEX IN BARANGAY DUPLIGAN, MUNICIPALITY OF TANUDAN, PROVINCE OF KALINGA FROM THE MAGTOMA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BIGA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
3. House Bill No. 6102, entitled:  
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY LINGUNAN, VALENZUELA CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS LINGUNAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
4. House Bill No. 6104, entitled:  
“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LICOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN SITIO LICOP, BARANGAY SAINZ, MATI CITY, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS LICOP INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
5. House Bill No. 6186, entitled:  
“AN ACT INTEGRATING THE DR. EMILIO B. ESPINOSA, SR. MEMORIAL STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS LEARNING SITE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAWAYAN, PROVINCE OF MASBATE, AS A REGULAR CAMPUS OF THE DR. EMILIO B. ESPINOSA, SR. MEMORIAL STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY TO BE KNOWN AS THE

- DR. EMILIO B. ESPINOSA, SR. MEMORIAL STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY—CAWAYAN CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
6. House Bill No. 6522, entitled:  
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BAGUMBAYAN, BALANGA CITY, PROVINCE OF BATAAN TO BE KNOWN AS BALANGA CITY NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
  7. House Bill No. 6528, entitled:  
“AN ACT SEPARATING THE LILOY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – PATAWAG EXTENSION IN BARANGAY PATAWAG, MUNICIPALITY OF LILOY, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE FROM THE LILOY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS PATAWAG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
  8. House Bill No. 6529, entitled:  
“AN ACT SEPARATING THE KALAWIT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – PIANON ANNEX IN BARANGAY PIANON, MUNICIPALITY OF KALAWIT, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE FROM THE KALAWIT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS PIANON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
  9. House Bill No. 6530, entitled:  
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CATIGAN, TORIL DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY TO BE KNOWN AS CATIGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
  10. House Bill No. 6531, entitled:  
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SIBULAN, TORIL DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY TO BE KNOWN AS MT. APO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
  11. House Bill No. 6532, entitled:  
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TALISAY, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ISIDRO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS TALISAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
  12. House Bill No. 6533, entitled:  
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CORPORACION, MUNICIPALITY OF LUPON, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS CORPORACION NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
  13. House Bill No. 6534, entitled:  
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MAGDUG, MUNICIPALITY OF GOVERNOR GENEROSO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS MAGDUG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
  14. House Bill No. 6535, entitled:  
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY DIGON, MUNICIPALITY OF MARGOSATUBIG, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS DIGON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;
  15. House Bill No. 6607, entitled:  
“AN ACT SEPARATING THE LAWAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY LAPUAN, MUNICIPALITY OF DON MARCELINO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL FROM THE LAWAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS LUISA JOYCE MALLARI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”; and
  16. House Bill No. 6608, entitled:  
“AN ACT SEPARATING THE FISHING VILLAGE COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY MANA, MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL FROM THE FISHING VILLAGE COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BENJAMIN VELASCO BAUTISTA SR. NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”.
- TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
- COMMITTEE REPORTS
- Report by the Committee on Youth and Sports Development (Committee Report No. 742), re H.B. No. 7749, entitled:  
“AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 12 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL YOUTH DAY”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 7145

Sponsors: Representatives Estrella and Elago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 743), re H.B. No. 7750, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SAGRADA FAMILIA CAVES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STA. CRUZ, PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2010

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez, Nograles (K.A.) and Deloso-Montalla

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 744), re H.B. No. 7752, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO INSULAR BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7964, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE INSULAR BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. A FRANCHISE TO INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 7300

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F.) and Romualdo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 745), re H.B. No. 7753, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO (CHURCH OF CHRIST), UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4339, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7225”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 7173 and 7398

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F.), Robes and Dalipe

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 746), re H.B. No. 7754, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER

TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO FIRST LOVE BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8100, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE FIRST LOVE BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL FM AND AM RADIO STATIONS AND TELEVISION STATIONS IN THE VISAYAS AND MINDANAO’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6347

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F.) and Jalosjos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, before we proceed to the next item in our agenda, may we be allowed to acknowledge the presence of the guests of AKO BICOL Party-List Reps. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr., Rodel M. Batocabe and Christopher S. Co in the gallery. They are the AKO BICOL Party-List Regional Headquarters Staff and the municipal and provincial coordinators headed by the Chairperson Ning Alcazar. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7191 ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7191 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on May 17, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7191, entitled: AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF THE CRIMINOLOGY PROFESSION IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROPRIATING

FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6506, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT CREATING THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR CRIMINOLOGISTS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 82, dated May 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7191  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). With 192 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7191 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7295  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7295 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on May 17, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7295, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES OF CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES AND DEFINING AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR THIS PURPOSE, AMENDING SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, ENTITLED, “AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of*

*the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 82, dated May 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7295  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). With 188 affirmative votes, six negative votes and no abstention, House Bill No. 7295 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, before we proceed to the next item, may we acknowledge first the presence of the guests of Rep. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy in the gallery: Mr. Teen International Philippines, Joshua Helito; Ms. Teen International Philippines, Alyssa Esponilla; Designer Circle Philippines, Edwin Uy and Dave Ocampo; and Prowess Supremacy Production, Inc. organizers headed by Mr. Boyet Santos.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). To the guests of Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7429  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7429 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on May 17, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7429, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE MALUBAL FALLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROSELLER T. LIM, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY AN ECOTOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of*

\* See ANNEX AH (printed separately)

*the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 82, dated May 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7429  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). With 197 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7429 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7430  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7430 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on May 17, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7430, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE UNDERGROUND TIPAN CAVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAGA, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY AN ECOTOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 82, dated May 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7430  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). With 197 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7430 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7433  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we

vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7433 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on May 17, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7433, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING AS AGRICULTURAL LAND PORTIONS OF FORESTLAND LOCATED IN BARANGAY MANOC-MANOC, MUNICIPALITY OF MALAY, PROVINCE OF AKLAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PROCLAMATION NO. 1064, ENTITLED "CLASSIFYING BORACAY ISLAND SITUATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MALAY, PROVINCE OF AKLAN INTO FORESTLAND (PROTECTION PURPOSES) AND INTO AGRICULTURAL LAND (ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE) PURSUANT TO PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 705 (REVISED FORESTRY REFORM CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES)."

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 82, dated May 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7433  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). With 198 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7433 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7435  
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7435 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).



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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on May 17, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7435, entitled: AN ACT RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THE STRIP OF LAND FIVE (5) KILOMETERS FROM EITHER SIDE OF THE ASPIRAS HIGHWAY, FORMERLY KNOWN AS MARCOS HIGHWAY, FROM AGOO, PROVINCE OF LA UNION TO TUBA, PROVINCE OF BENGUET COVERED BY PROCLAMATION NO. 1754 AS ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LANDS.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 82, dated May 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7435  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). With 198 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7435 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Christopher “Toff” Vera Perez De Venecia; Mr. Dane Wicker, who is the Chief of Staff of Hawaii State Senator Donovan Dela Cruz; and Councilor Aldrin Soriano of the Municipality of Mangaldan, Province of Pangasinan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The guests of Representative De Venecia are welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of Deputy Speaker Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu, the members of the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Tingloy: Hon. Danny Datingaling, Hon. Tessa Marie De Torres, Hon. Adoracion Atienza, Hon. Virgilio Manalo, Hon. Edhel Binay, Hon. Evelyn Candava and Hon. Gavino Abante, as well as Ms. Zenaida Melo.

\* See ANNEX AH (printed separately)

\*\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The guests of the Honorable Abu are welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up items in the Calendar and these are bills on Second Reading. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

Kindly proceed.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7402  
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7402, contained in Committee Report No. 668, as reported out by the Committee on Labor and Employment.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7402, entitled: AN ACT PROMOTING TELECOMMUTING AS AN ALTERNATIVE WORK ARRANGEMENT FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, to sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Labor and Employment, the Hon. Randolph S. Ting.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Randy Ting is hereby recognized.

REP. TING. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, may I please request that we consider the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 6322 as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider the Explanatory Note of the measure as its sponsorship speech.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Since there are no interpellations, and no Member registered to speak against the measure, Mme. Speaker, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

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

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

The period of amendments is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no amendment, Mme. Speaker, whether individual or coming from the Committee, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 7402 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).

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

As many as are in favor of the House bill, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7402 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 7402 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7506 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7506, contained in Committee Report No. 717, as reported out by the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources and the Committee on Appropriations.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7506, entitled AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL MARICULTURE PROGRAM AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. To sponsor the measure, Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources, the Hon. Luis “Jon-Jon” A. Ferrer IV.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Luis Ferrer is hereby recognized.

REP. FERRER (L.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, we join the motion of the Gentleman that we consider the Explanatory Note as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, there being no interpellation, and no Member registered to speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

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

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

The period of amendments is hereby opened.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, there being no amendment, whether individual or coming from the Committee, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 7506 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

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

As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 7506, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). As many as are against, please say *no*. *(Silence)*

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7506 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 7506 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7510 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7510, contained in Committee Report No. 721, as reported out by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7510, entitled AN ACT REQUIRING THE PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORPORATION TO PRINT POSTAGE STAMPS DEPICTING PHILIPPINE TOURIST

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

ATTRACTIONS AND DESTINATIONS AND TO AFFIX THESE STAMPS ON OUTGOING MAIL MATTERS TO ATTRACT FOREIGN TOURISTS.

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

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. To sponsor the measure, Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the distinguished Chairperson of the Committee on Tourism, the Hon. Lucy T. Gomez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Lucy Torres-Gomez is hereby recognized. Kindly proceed.

REP. GOMEZ. Mme. Speaker, may I request that the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 7510 be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider the Explanatory Note of the measure as the sponsorship speech. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, since there are no interpellations, and no Member registered to speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

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

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

The period of amendments is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, since there are no amendments, whether individual or coming from the Committee, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 7510 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 7510. As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7510 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved. House Bill No. 7510 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7388 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7388, contained in Committee Report No. 666, as reported out by the Committee on Justice.

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

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

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

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without*

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

*prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7388, entitled: AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO BRUCE DONALD MCTAVISH.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move to open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, to sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize the Hon. Carmelo "Jon" B. Lazatin II, and this is with authority from the Chairman of the Committee.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Honorable Lazatin is hereby recognized. Kindly proceed.

REP. LAZATIN. Mme. Speaker, dear colleagues, I move that the Explanatory Note of my Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure, Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, we join the motion of the Gentleman to have his Explanatory Note be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no interpellations, Mme. Speaker, and no Member registered to speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

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

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

The period of amendments is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, since there are no amendments, whether individual or those coming from the Committee, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 7388 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 7388. As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7388 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 7388 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7522 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7522, contained in Committee Report No. 725, as reported out by the Committee on Local Government.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is granted. The Secretary General is so directed.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7522, entitled: AN ACT REAPPORTIONING THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN INTO TWO (2) LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move to open the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is granted.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, to sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Local Government, the Hon. Pedro. B. Acharon Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
The Hon. Jun Acharon is hereby recognized.

REP. ACHARON. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

This House Bill No. 7522 is asking for the approval of the creation of a new district. I would like to request, Mme. Speaker, that the Explanatory Note be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider the Explanatory Note as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, since there are no interpellations, and no Member registered to speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

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

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

The period of amendments is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, since there are no amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 7522 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
There is a motion to approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 7522. As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7522 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 7522 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

REP. ACHARON. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7455 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7455, contained in Committee Report No. 684, as reported out by the Committee on Natural Resources.

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

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

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

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

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7455, entitled: AN ACT GRANTING ANOTHER PERIOD TO FILE MANIFESTATION OF INTENTION TO VALIDATE TITLES ISSUED UNDER CIVIL RESERVATION CASE NO. 1, GLRO RECORD NO. 211, PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT 931, AS AMENDED, AND AS PROVIDED UNDER PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1271, AS AMENDED.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is granted.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, to sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, the Hon. Arnel U. Ty.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Arnel Ty is hereby recognized. (*Gavel*)

REP. TY. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. I move that the Explanatory Note be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

REP. DEFENSOR. We join the motion of the Gentleman, Mme. Speaker, to consider the Explanatory Note as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Since there are no interpellations, Mme. Speaker, and no Member registered to speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).

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

The period of amendments is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. Since there are no amendments, Mme. Speaker, whether individual or coming from the Committee, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 7455 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 7455 on Second Reading. As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7455 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 7455 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7496 ON SECOND READING

##### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7496, contained in Committee Report No. 707, as reported out by the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations.

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

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

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

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7496, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DELINEATION OF THE SPECIFIC FOREST LIMITS OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is granted.

REP. DEFENSOR. To sponsor the measure, Mme. Speaker, I move that we again recognize the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, the Hon. Arnel Ty.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Arnel Ty is hereby recognized.

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection?

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, we join the ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Please proceed.

REP. DEFENSOR. ... the motion of the Gentleman to have the Explanatory Note as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, since there are no interpellations, and no Member registered to speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

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

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

The period of amendments is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. Since there is no Committee or individual amendment, Mme. Speaker, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 7496 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 7496 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7496 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 7496 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up bills for Thursday and Friday—local bills, Mme. Speaker.

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

#### OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move for the omnibus consideration of the following local bills:



1. House Bill No. 7479, contained in Committee Report No. 690;
2. House Bill No. 7484, contained in Committee Report No. 695;
3. House Bill No. 7485, contained in Committee Report No. 696;
4. House Bill No. 6290, contained in Committee Report No. 701;
5. House Bill No. 6289, contained in Committee Report No. 702;
6. House Bill No. 6291, contained in Committee Report No. 703;
7. House Bill No. 7490, contained in Committee Report No. 704;
8. House Bill No. 7491, contained in Committee Report No. 705;
9. House Bill No. 6292, contained in Committee Report No. 706;
10. House Bill No. 7497, contained in Committee Report No. 708;
11. House Bill No. 7500, contained in Committee Report No. 711;
12. House Bill No. 7501, contained in Committee Report No. 712;
13. House Bill No. 7502, contained in Committee Report No. 713;
14. House Bill No. 7521, contained in Committee Report No. 724;
15. House Bill No. 7549, contained in Committee Report No. 730; and
16. House Bill No. 7550, contained in Committee Report No. 731.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

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

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. Since there are no interpellations on these local measures, and no Member registered to speak against the same, Mme. Speaker, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

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

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

The period of amendments is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, since there are no Committee or individual amendments on these local measures, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move for the omnibus approval of the aforesaid local bills, Mme. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). There is a motion for the omnibus approval of the aforesaid local bills.

As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

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

The aforementioned local bills are hereby approved on Second Reading.\*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. RPT. ON H.B. NO. 64 AND S.B. NO. 1317

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Conference Committee Report reconciling the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 64 and Senate Bill No. 1317, entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING COMPLIANCE WITH OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

## STANDARDS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). 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. 64, entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING COMPLIANCE WITH OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF; and Senate Bill No. 1317, entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING COMPLIANCE WITH OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, in accordance with our rules, I move that we ratify the said Conference Committee Report.

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

The Conference Committee Report on House Bill No. 64 and Senate Bill No. 1317 is hereby approved.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, I have a brief manifestation on the OSH.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Kindly proceed.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, yesterday was exactly a week after the commemoration of the third year of the Kentex fire tragedy in Valenzuela that claimed the lives of over 73 workers, most of whom were women. Today, too, the bicameral panel approved a landmark legislation seeking stricter compliance with occupational safety and health standards or OSH. Rather than a mere coincidence, this is the concrete result of the workers' sustained and tireless struggle for justice with the Makabayan bloc and other partners. Since GABRIELA first filed the measure in 2014, there have been numerous tragedies—Kentex, HTI in Cavite and

NCCC fire in Davao and the Manila Pavilion fire—and throughout these tragic flashpoints, hindi po tayo tumigil sa pangungulit sa Komite na aprubahan na ang OSH Bill.

Sa wakas, masasabi nating may ibinunga ang ating kampanya para sa mas ligtas na kalagayan sa paggawa. Masasabi nating inisyal itong tagumpay sa laban natin para sa katarungan para sa mga manggagawa subalit hindi dito natatapos ang ating laban dahil kailangan nating igiit pa rin ang kriminalisasyon ng paglabag ng mga kapitalista sa OSH standards. The bicam version does include imprisonment for erring employers and contractors in the range of penalties. Nevertheless, we recognize that the updated amount for administrative fines is an advance from the current measly level of P1,000 to P10,000. With the measure now proceeding to the President's desk, we raise the challenge to the Duterte regime to enforce this measure mandatorily even among the untouchables inside special economic zones. Dapat may masampolan at higit sa lahat, dapat may managot sa pagpapabaya sa kaligtasan ng ating mga manggagawa lalo sa loob ng ecozones.

Mme. Speaker, binabati namin ang mga organisasyong pang-manggagawa sa makasaysayang araw na ito. Tuloy ang laban para sa mas ligtas na paggawa. Mabuhay ang uring manggagawa.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, before we proceed let us acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Bai Sandra Sinsuat A. Sema. We have the SIGN BBL which is headed by Duma Maskud. We have the Women's Organizations Movement of Bangsamoro or WOMB. We have The Society of Empowered Royal Ladies of the Empire Cotabato or SERLEC. Lastly, we have The Sustainable Initiative of Grassroots and Networks for BBL or SIGN BBL. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*) The Majority Leader is recognized.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS  
TO THE CONF. CTTEE.  
ON H.B. NO. 7436 AND S.B. NO. 1620

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members of the Conference Committee on House Bill No. 7436 and Senate Bill No. 1620, abolishing the Road Board and providing for the distribution and management of the motor vehicle user's charge collections: Reps. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Celso L. Lobregat, Dakila Carlo E. Cua, Ron P. Salo, Joel Mayo

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

Z. Almario, Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr., Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, MD., Evelina G. Escudero, Estrellita B. Suansing and Anthony M. Bravo, PhD.

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

The Members nominated are hereby designated to the Conference Committee.

#### CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF CERTAIN MEASURES

REP. DEFENSOR. I move for the change of referral of the following measures:

1. House Bills No. 532 and 4325 – regulating the packaging, use, sale, distribution, and advertisements of electronic smoking devices, from the Committee on Trade and Industry to the Committees on Trade and Industry, and Health;

2. House Bills No. 3330 and 4810 – regulating the use, sale, packaging, distribution, and advertisements of vaporized nicotine products, from the Committee on Health to the Committees on Trade and Industry, and Health;

3. House Bills No. 5961 and 7104 – streamlining the Regulatory Commission on Energy, renaming the Energy Regulatory Commission to the Philippine Power Regulatory Commission, from the Committee on Energy to the Committees on Government Reorganization, and Energy; and

4. House Resolution No. 213 - Resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Philippine Government urges the Government of Japan to formally acknowledge, apologize for and accept its responsibility over the sexual slavery of young women commonly known as “comfort women” by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II and provide compensation to the victims, from the Committee on Women and Gender Equality to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The change of referral of the said House bills is hereby approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we go back to take up bills on Second Reading.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is

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

Kindly proceed.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7525 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7525, contained in Committee Report No. 726, as reported out by the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare and the Committee on Appropriations.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7525, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE MONTHLY PENSION OF SENIOR VETERANS THEREBY AMENDING RA 6948, AS AMENDED.

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

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, to sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, the Hon. Leopoldo N. Bataoil.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Leopoldo Bataoil is hereby recognized.

REP. BATAOIL. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 7525 be considered as my sponsorship speech.

REP. DEFENSOR. We join the motion of the

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

Gentleman, Mme. Speaker, to have his Explanatory Note as the sponsorship speech thereon.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, since there are no interpellations, and no Member registered to speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

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

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

The period of amendments is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, since there are no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 7525 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 7525 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7525 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 7525 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up Unfinished Business.

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

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7442

##### *Continuation*

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 7442 under Committee Report No. 681 and that we direct our Secretary General to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is so directed.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7442, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN SITUATIONS OF ARMED CONFLICT AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, to sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize the Hon. Jose Christopher “Kit” Y. Belmonte, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Kit Belmonte is hereby recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. The parliamentary status, Mme. Speaker, is that we are still in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that we recognize the Lady from GABRIELA, the Hon. Arlene D. Brosas, for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Arlene Brosas is hereby recognized.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Noong nakaraan po, G. Isponsor, humiling po ako ng ilang panahon para sa mga ilang katanungan

kaugnay sa Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict. Ang una ko pong sinabi ay kaugnay sa pagbabalangkas ng pormulasyon o konteksto ng definition ng “child associated with armed groups.” Totoo po ba na ang nakalagay pa rin diyan ay ang Paris Principles at iyon pa rin ang gagamitin para sa pormulasyon na ito?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Maraming salamat po sa tanong na iyan. Kung babalikan po natin, hindi po iyan ang una ninyong tanong, pero okay lang po at didiretso po tayo.

Tinanggal po sa framework iyong pagpasok ng Paris Principles as basic principles. However, na-broaden po iyong definition ng “children in situations of armed conflict,” to include iyong mga bata na hindi lang actually combatants pero nasa mga areas na may actual existing armed conflict para maproteksiyunan sila, at pinasok ho dito iyong principle na kino-consider ang mga ito as “zones of peace,” which is likewise covered by the Paris Principles, but it is more unique to this Bill, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. So, hindi po buong-buo na ang ginamit ang Paris Principles ...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Hindi eksakto.

REP. BROSAS. ... at mayroon lang mga certain portions na sinasabi ninyo. Anu-ano po ang mga portions na iyon kung zones of peace ang ating pag-uusapan?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Okay. The Paris Principles set out six main criteria that the government or the law is required to meet: “1. mandate and confidence - a broad mandate, based on universal human rights norms and standards; autonomy from government; independence guaranteed by statute or Constitution; pluralism; adequate resources; and adequate powers of investigation.”

Ang mga elemento na iyon po ay incorporated more or less sa Bill. Although tinanggal na ho iyong reference to the term “Paris Principles” sa substitute bill, the broadening of the definition is actually beneficial to the children concerned as the protection of their welfare will be extended to them even if they are only incidental to the fights. Those actually engaged in armed conflicts are now considered victims instead of children in conflict with the law. This Bill aims to extend the mantle of protection to cover all children in situations of armed conflict, not just to those who are holding firearms.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Naniniwala ba ang batas na ito sa definition ng “child associated with armed

groups,” na hindi kinakailangan na mayroong direktang sangkot—sinabi ninyo na po iyan, ano ...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Tama.

REP. BROSAS. ... kasi kahit walang direktang sangkot ang bata sa armadong tunggalian para mataguriang—ano po ang tawag ninyo—kasi mayroong sinasabi na “child warrior.” Ginagamit ninyo po ba iyong terminong “child warrior”?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Hindi ko ginagamit ang termino na iyon and in fact, ang basis or ang whole purpose ng batas na ito ay i-consider iyong mga bata na nasa conflict situations as victims ...

REP. BROSAS. So, ang halimbawa po ...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). ... at hindi po as mandirigma. Okay. Ngayon, ang sinasabi ninyong broadening ng definition, for example, ang anak ng combatant, nalagay siya in harm’s way dahil anak siya ng combatant, sakop siya ng batas na ito, at kapag sinasabi ninyo rin ang isang batang ginagamit as a courier ng isang armed group or even ng government forces, sakop din siya ng batas na ito.

REP. BROSAS. So, ibig sabihin po, iyong definition ng “child involved in armed conflict,” kasama kahit iyong nagluluto, iyong nag-aabot ng mensahe, iyong nagbibigay ng tubig sa isang armadong grupo o tao, at puwede na ninyong tawagin na sila ay “child involved in armed conflict.”

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Kailangan ho nating ilagay sa konteksto po ito. Ang urgency ho ng Bill na ito ay nag-iiba na ho iyong concept o iyong reality ng digmaan dito sa atin. Hindi na lang ho ito simpleng mga kapatid natin na may ipinaglalaman at nasa bundok sila, or nasa kanayunan sila at may ipinaglalaman sila. Ang pinag-uusapan po natin dito ay iyong mga sitwasyon katulad ng Zamboanga o ng Marawi, kung saan ang mga kabataan mismo in the middle of the actual firing zones ay, against their will or because of deception or even voluntarily dahil naloloko sila, nasasangkot sila, nalalagay sila sa danger situations. Ano ang ibig sabihin nito? Maaari nga na nasa loob sila ng kampo o nasa loob ng kuta ng, not necessarily of the rebel forces but even sa loob ng military, for example, ng government installation or a government unit in the danger zone, in a conflict area at ginagamit nila iyong mga bata as runner nila or ginagamit nila ang anak ng sarhento, for example, na gustong tumulong sa tatay niya, gustong magluto doon—sila ay nalalagay sa conflict situations, nalalagay sila sa risk, kaya biktima sila.

Therefore, kailangan sakop sila ng batas na ito.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, precisely, the point po ng pagtatanong namin kasi iyong sinasabi natin ay iko-cover ang lahat e, ng buo at wala namang—including all. Sinasabi nga ninyo...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. ... na kahit doon sa mga rebel areas, sa iba't ibang mga lugar, et cetera, all children ang iko-cover nito kaya po mas importante na mabusisi natin kung anu-ano ba iyong mga different areas na ito na sinasabi natin.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Mme. Speaker, ako ay bago lang na nag-i-sponsor ng batas na ito. In fact, kung babalikan ko po iyong kasaysayan ng batas na ito, noong nakaraang Kongreso po, binusisi na ito ng tatlong extensive meetings ng isang TWG noong Sixteenth Congress. Noong Fourteenth Congress, ipinasa ito on Third Reading after a long process in the TWG at kahit na ipinasa ho ito on Third Reading, tuloy-tuloy pa rin hong tinatalakay ng mga concerned groups ang batas na ito. Noong last Congress, in fact, hindi ho ito naisalang sa Plenary despite the extensive discussions and in fact, sabi po ng ating Chairman at ng Committee Secretary, bago ho ito dumating dito sa Plenary ay ilang TWG meetings din po ang dinaanan ng Bill na ito.

So, kung pag-uusapan po natin iyong mga extensive na usapan ay, sa palagay ko po, long overdue na po. In fact po, noong ni-ra-ratify po ng ating Senado iyong batas—iyong international convention na humihingi ng ganitong batas ay noong 2003 pa po yata. Every Congress since, noong pinag-uusapan na po ang batas na ito at ngayon dumating na po sa atin ang Zamboanga, ang Marawi—hindi pa natin alam kung anu-ano pa iyong mangyayari dahil kinukumbinse ng mga iba nating mga kababayan iyong mga kabataan, nadadala sila. For example, kung hindi ho natin maipasa at makuha ang peace sa Mindanao, iyong mga extremists, iyong mga fundamentalists, iyong mga kuwan, ay dadalhin nila uli dito iyong mga kabataan kaya kailangan ho natin ang batas na ito.

REP. BROSAS. Babalikan ko po iyong tanong ko kaugnay doon sa depinasyon ng panukalang batas sa “Armed group,” ito ay tumutukoy sa “armed non-state actor or non-state entity engaged in armed violence against the State and/or its governmental armed forces or against other non-state armed groups, actors or non-state entities.” Hinuhugasan ba ng panukalang batas na ito ang anumang paglabag na gagawin ng estado o pag-recruit o paggamit ng mga menor de edad at mga bata bilang kasangkapan sa giyera?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Of course not, Mme. Speaker, and in fact, kung titingnan po natin ang

kabuuan ng batas, mas mabigat po ang aktuwal na restrictions sa ating government and state forces which encompass at least the military and the PNP. Regarding government forces, in fact, it is stated in subsection “(n) Governmental armed forces refer to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, together with its reserve and auxiliary forces including paramilitary forces, the Philippine National Police (PNP) and other law enforcement agencies.”

REP. BROSAS. Dito po kami kinakabahan talaga dahil napapaloob sa non-state actors entities ang mga paramilitary groups na directly tumatanggap—alam po natin iyon—ng mga orders mula sa government state forces, kaya po iyong nababayaran at iyon po, iyon ang may mga kaso ng iba't ibang mga paglabag,...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Tama po kayo diyan.

REP. BROSAS. ... lalong-lalo na sa mga bata. Hindi ko na po siguro iisa-isahin iyong mga kaso ng mga bata kung saan may paglabag ang state forces natin, at napakarami po actually ang mayroon tayo nito. Iyong mga case ng summary killings...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). In fact, kaya po natin kailangan ang batas na ito, Mme. Speaker, dahil by definition po—I am sorry for interrupting, but by definition po, exactly, subsection (n) specifies that paramilitary groups, paramilitary and auxiliary forces under the control and supervision ng ating state forces ay included sa definition na ito.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Iyong mga case ng summary ng mga pagpatay sa mga bata, later ko na lang po siguro iyan ia-ano.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). By all means, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Iyong sa “Definition of Terms,” na-mention po iyong “Attack on schools, hospitals, places of worship, child development or day care centers, evacuation centers and other public places.” Napapaloob po ba dito ang mga IP schools, evacuation centers,...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Dapat lang po, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. ... day care centers, iyong mga schools, mga structures with or without marked visible boundaries which are recognized and known by the government as a learning space?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Mme. Speaker, kung

babalikan po natin iyong mga usapan sa TWG na nandoon po, as I recall, iyong ating magiting na Representative ng GABRIELA, specific na na-mention iyong mga nare-recognize po and in fact, kahit ho iyong barangay kapitan o barangay kagawad or even iyong health worker o iyong social worker sa community, kinikilala, nakikita o nare-recognize po nila, by actual or by implication, iyong isang place as a center for education or health care for children, ay sakop po sila ng batas na ito.

REP. BROSAS. Sakop po sila ng batas na ito pero, actually, iyong reality po na mayroon tayo ...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Wala po tayong pinagtatalunan sa reality, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. ... ng mga nakaraan ...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Wala po tayong pinagtatalunan sa reality kaya po natin kailangan ma-implimenta ang batas na ito.

REP. BROSAS. ...ang reality po, bina-brand sila, iyong mga schools at institutions, iyong mga hindi binibigyan ng permit o iniipit iyong permit, sinasabi na sympathizers sila, iyong mga communities na ito. So, nagkakaroon po ng napakaraming mga cases diyan.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. In fact, ang realidad po ay mayroon tayo, for example, sa mga affected Lumad schools po natin sa Salugpongan Ta' Tanu Igkanogon Community Learning School, Mindanao Interfaith Services Foundation o MISFI Academy, Father Fausto Tentorio Memorial School, Tri-Farmers Program for Community Development, Tribal Filipino Program of Surigao del Sur, Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and Livelihood Development, Center for Lumad Advocacy and Networking Incorporated, Rural Missionaries of the Philippines, Lumad Schools Project— walong miyembro po ng PTCA and one student were killed by suspected military operatives; 78 individuals, mostly volunteer teachers and Lumad students, were victims of frustrated killings; AFP troops encamped in 30 Lumad schools, affecting 1,221 Lumad students and 70 volunteer teachers; 56 Lumad schools, mostly CLANS schools in Region XII, were forced to cease operations due to intense militarization, nagsara po, at 2,209 Lumad students and 98 volunteer teachers were affected and displaced; 7,766 Lumad students and 451 volunteer teachers were part of the 25,344 Lumad community residents, having been threatened, harassed and intimidated by the AFP, paramilitaries and local government units; 11,498 Lumad people were victims

of displacement caused by an all-out war and martial law in Mindanao; 4,050, mostly Lumad students, and 53 volunteer teachers, were affected by indiscriminate firing carried out by AFP, CAFGU and paramilitary group Alamara; 1,298 Lumad residents, 63 students and 12 volunteer teachers were affected by aerial bombings in three communities of Sarangani Province; 11,446 individuals, mostly PTCA members, volunteer teachers and Lumad students were vilified and red-tagged; 111 PTCA members, 15 Lumad educators and one Lumad student were illegally arrested and detained with trumped-up charges; 1,392 Lumad students and 83 volunteer teachers were affected by destruction of school properties committed by the AFP and marine battalion landing teams. One Lumad student is yet to surface after being abducted by suspected military agents; all in all, 535 incidents of different forms of state-sponsored human rights violations and attacks on Lumad schools and communities in four regions of Mindanao were committed by the State under the Duterte administration since July 2016 up to March 2018, and 385 of which or 72 percent were committed during the reign of martial law in Mindanao.

So, lumalabas po sa summary ng mga cases, napakarami po nating kaso ng mga ganyan, pero ang sinasabi po namin, dahil iko-cover ninyo ang lahat, hindi ba mas delikado naman po ang batas na ito para sa mga bata, lalong-lalo na iyong mga vulnerable na bata na kino-consider natin dito. Kung ito nga, hindi nagawan ng paraan, hindi ba, tapos, sasabihin po ninyo na gagawa kayo ng batas na magpo-protokta sa bata, ma-ensure natin na poprotektahan natin iyong mga bata, ay baka naman magkaroon pa ng mas lalo tayong maraming mga cases kung saan ang impunity ay napakalakas. Iyon po iyong sinasabi namin.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Puwede na po ako, Mme. Speaker?

REP. BROSAS. Hindi po ito mga numero lang.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). One-line lang po ang sagot ko. Precisely, kung bakit ho kailangan natin ng batas na ito. In fact po, under Chapter IV, Section 9, paragraph (d), item no. 5, sa panukalang batas na ito, precisely po, kinakasuhan at ginagawang bawal po ang false branding at liable ho dito kahit sinong actor sa armed conflict, whether State, state-sponsored, or outside groups, non-state players po.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, pero, Mme. Speaker, ...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Wala pa ho kasi nitong batas na ito, kaya maluwag talaga at talagang madaling-madali hong ikutan ang state impunity. With this Bill

po, mahihigpitan kasi malinaw na malinaw po ang mga parameters.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, dito po sa inyong Chapter VII, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION, RESCUE AND RELEASE, very particular po kayo sa Section 22, “Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration,” let me quote: “The State shall institute policies, programs and services for the rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of children in situations of armed conflict.”

Sa Section 24, letter (c) states:

Upon the rescue or surrender of CIAC, government agencies, in particular, the AFP, the PNP, the Department of National Defense (DND), the local government units (LGUs), other concerned government agencies or non-government organizations in possession of the CIAC shall report immediately within twenty-four (24) hours the incident to the LSWDO and the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC).

Ibig sabihin, ang magre-rescue ay AFP, DND—paano if paramilitary groups na under sa AFP or sa AFP mismo, hindi ba?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Hindi po. Mme. Speaker, if I could correct the impression, or I should say misimpression from my colleague from GABRIELA, specifically po, nilalagay lang natin iyong specific requirements para sa state players. Bakit po? Kasi nga po, dahil may specter nga po ng state immunity, dahil nga po may presumption ng regularity ang actions ng state forces, iyong government forces. Therefore, kaya po mas specific po nating nilalagay iyong mga restrictions and requirements sa kanila. However, this does not mean na an ordinary civilian or a participant in the armed conflict can be involved or can help to rescue the victims, the children in armed conflict. In fact, I think under a previous section, Section 21—I am not sure if it is Section 21—pero precisely sinasabi po doon na may immunity from suit of any person or entity or group na nire-rescue ang mga batang victims na ito ng armed conflict.

REP. BROSAS. Ang hirap-hirap pong paniwalaan sa panahon ngayon...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Mahirap po talaga, ...

REP. BROSAS. No, no, kasi ...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). ... kasi hindi pa ho natin nasusubukan.

REP. BROSAS. ... actually, kasi sa panahon

ngayon—well, i-mention ko lang ito bago ko i-mention iyong medyo ano, na sa Section 27, “Monitoring and Reporting System. – The State, through IAC-CSAC, shall ensure the implementation of the provisions of this Act and shall submit to the President and to Congress of the Philippines the annual report thereof.” Sa mga nangyayari, at nagsabi ang Presidente na “bobombahin ko ang mga Lumad schools,” parang ang hirap hong paniwalaan na mapoprotektahan ang mga bata.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Hindi po tayo nagkakatalo diyan, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Napaka ano niyan e. Pagkatapos, habang ang ekonomiya natin ay matindi ang ibinabagsak sa kasalukuyan, habang mayroon po tayong mga nagpapahirap na mga patakaran, mga panukala o mga batas katulad ng TRAIN Law, kaya lalong humihirap iyong kalagayan ng mga bata. Parang we expect na ...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Hindi rin po tayo nagdedebate diyan, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. ... sa pamamagitan ng batas na ito ay makakatulong talaga ito sa ating mga bata. Habang ang realidad po, lalo na sa sinasabi nating “zone of peace,” which “refers to a site with sacred, religious, historic, educational, cultural, geographical or environmental importance which is protected and preserved by its own community and officially recognized by a governmental authority. It is not merely a “demilitarized zone”, but a sanctuary that operates within ethical principles of nonviolence, free from weapons, acts of violence, injustice and environmental degradation,” pero sa totoo lang po, hindi naman ito nangyayari.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Lalo na sa Marawi, ilan po iyong mosque na nasira sa Marawi, hindi ba.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Wala po tayong pinagtatalunan po diyan, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. So, iyong zones of peace, iyong schools ...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Ito rin po iyong, Mme. Speaker, kaya po tayo ay going out on a limb para sa BBL, kaya po tayo ay going out on a limb para sa mga prinsipyong pinaninindigan po natin. Hindi rin po natin masasabing perpekto ito o may katiyakan, o magagawan nito ng paraan para maresolbahan ang problema sa mga batang biktima ng armed conflict, pero kaysa sa wala. Kaysa sa nangyayari iyong Marawi, iyong Zamboanga siege, iyong nangyayari sa mga bata



sa Lumad schools, na puwede na lang silang sakupin dahil walang malinaw na batas na nagsasabing, “Hoy, non-prescriptible ang ginawa ninyong kasalanan sa mga batang ito. Hoy, mataas ang penalty sa pagtorture ninyo o pagbi-victimize ninyo sa mga batang ito.” Therefore, kailangan po natin talagang ipilit ito or gawan ng paraan para maging batas talaga ho ang panukalang ito, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, napakarami po ng mga cases na, hanggang ngayon, ay hindi naman nabigyan ng hustisya.

Ang case po ng summary killing and branding of children, ang child soldier na si Christian Roy Noceto na 15 years old. Ang case summary niya po: On February 15, 2012, around ten in the evening, Christian Roy Noceto, with Gino Bañez, 15 years old, and Francis Abanilla, 18 years old, asked permission from their parents that they will be accompanying Jaycee Perez, 31 years old, to the forested area, a part of Barangay Atingay, Magdalena and Barangay Suba, Majayjay, both in Laguna Province, to hunt for fruit bats and frogs to sell. Every night, the four go on a hunt.

Around 12:10 a.m., February 16, 2012, the residents of Barangay Atingay heard gunshots and after a few minutes, this stopped. Around 12:40 a.m., a military truck full of soldiers passed by the community and it was followed by an ambulance. The residents said that the ambulance was carrying the wounded Gino and Francis, and the lifeless body of Christian. The wounded persons were brought to Liliw Hospital by the soldiers, and the body of Christian was brought to the funeral home but was left unattended and has not undergone an autopsy until 2:00 p.m. Meanwhile, the lifeless body of Jaycee Perez was left in the area. According to the provincial police who conducted the investigation on the incident, the four were mistakenly identified by the military as members of the New People’s Army. The four allegedly fired at the soldiers using the airgun rifle and the military elements fired back at them. In the incident area, the investigation has recovered 53 bullet slugs of M-14 and two slugs of caliber .45. Christian Noceto suffered.

Ang case summary po ng frustrated killings and denial of humanitarian access, mayroon din po tayo noong 2013. On April 3, 2013, around 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., Roque Antivo, eight years old, was killed; and Larry, 12 years old, and Renzo, 13 years old, were hit by bullets after around 18 soldiers of the Alpha Company of the 71st Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army led by Lt. Col. Jerry Borja opened fire at them while they were traversing the road in Purok 6 crossing Kidaraan, Special Barangay Mascareg–Anitapan Mabini, Compostela Valley Province.

Before the incident, Roque and Larry, together with their uncle Renzo helped their relatives tend their farm which was about a 30-minute walk or a five-minute

motorcycle ride from their house. The family intended to visit their vegetable garden and harvest their corn crops. The three children were tasked to fetch water in the nearby stream while Roque and Larry’s stepfather, Sonny, went to hunt birds for dinner.

It was about four o’clock in the afternoon when the three, Roque, Larry, and Renzo, accompanied their uncle Ronnel to hunt for wild cats on the hill just above their farm lot. After a while, the family decided to go home as it was already getting dark. About 5:50 to 6:00 p.m., they headed towards Mount Kabunulan, to the abandoned road, just above their farm, where Sonny left his motorcycle. While they were walking, Larry was carrying one-fourth sack of shredded corn, while Roque and Renzo were carrying rootcrops. When they arrived, they left their harvested crops beside the motorcycle ready to be tied up. Sonny then urged the three kids to go ahead since it was too risky to have them ride a single motorcycle together with him while negotiating a rough terrain. He then told them to convene at the bulldozed-road about 250 meters from Kabunulan.

It was between 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. when the three kids started walking in a single file. Renzo was first in line, followed by Roque who was carrying the flashlight to light their way, and Larry was last in line. Then they heard a loud explosion and were astonished that they were the ones being fired upon. Larry shouted out, “Mga bata kami, sir. We are children, sir!” Then, he rolled on the ground and continued shouting, “We are children, sir!” while sustaining small wounds on the face. Larry went to the location of his brother Roque, who was lying flat on the ground and could no longer stand because of the gunshot he obtained. Larry carried his brother Roque while calling his name, but all he heard was him groaning in pain. Meanwhile, Renzo managed to run toward the location of Sonny despite being hit also on his chin and shoulders. Trembling in fear, he informed Sonny that they were shot by soldiers.

Then, within 40 meters, Sonny came riding the motorcycle with Renzo and another person. According to Sonny, he shouted at the soldiers that, according to him, he knew their leader as a certain Lieutenant Llorca. The soldiers then started to appear. Sonny inquired why they shot his children, and the soldiers responded that they only fired at the top of the hill where they said there were some enemies uphill. The certain Lieutenant Llorca ordered the victims to leave the place. Sonny and the children immediately boarded the motorcycle and rushed to their house. However, just seconds after they arrived, Roque drew his last breath. Larry, who sustained a gunshot wound on his chin and left shoulder, was admitted to the hospital, while Renzo was hit by splinters on his left face. The survivors now experienced harassment at the hospital during that time as there were soldiers guarding them.

Hindi po rin iyan bago ngayon. In fact, ang

pinaka-latest po natin ay mayroong napagbintangan sa Mindanao na bata, ano, at pinatay recently. Sinasabing, at parang ang dali-dali lang ng excuse nila, na sila ay mga NPA. They were branded as NPA kahit po hindi totoo, at kahit sinasabi ng mga pamilya ito pagkatapos po ng mga pangyayari. Parang ganito po, iyong krimen na ginawa ay gagawan pa ng panibagong krimen na ipapatong and so, paano po iyong mga ganitong cases sa ganitong klase ng batas na ipapasa natin?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). This is precisely po kung bakit kailangan po natin ang batas na ito. Hindi ko po kayo dedebatihin sa mga kaso ng mga sitwasyon na ang mga bata ay madale sa crossfire o napagbintangan. In fact po, iyon ang sinasakop ng batas na ito, iyong false branding, iyong pag-target ng mga kabataan. In fact, tinataasan iyong mga penalties kasi ini-equate ang ilang klase ng pang-aabuso sa bata as violations of International Humanitarian Law which makes the crimes imprescriptible, which makes the penalties higher, including the auxiliary penalties.

Hindi lang po iyan, Mme. Speaker, if I may po.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Kasi po, alam ninyo, tinitingnan ko ho noong ginawa ang batas na ito, in the long difficult road para ilabas po nila ang batas na ito. Napansin ko po na iyong mga colleagues natin—hindi lang ho iyong mga actors na directly involved sa armed conflict o iyong may relation sa armed conflict, sila po iyong number one na may main objections sa batas na ito. In fact, noong titingnan ko po iyong records, iyong transcripts, it was the state security forces that raised the initial objections. Then, there were colleagues natin who have direct contact with communities and families na talagang naramdaman nila iyong armed conflict. Iyon ang mga unang nag-o-object dito. For example, I think CRC, for example, the Children's Rehabilitation Center, sila ho mismo—I have a very, very warm history with CRC. Noong estudyante po kami, ang aming mga projects ay for the benefit of CRC. Marami rin po akong mga colleagues from the student council days na naging responsible officers sa CRC. Yet, pagdating dito, along with our colleagues from the armed services, ang CRC iyong nag-o-object sa Bill na ito.

Ako po, ang pananaw ko ho dito, mahirap po talagang magtiwala. Mahirap po talagang paniwalaan na may pag-asa itong mga ganitong sitwasyon, iyong mga batas katulad nito, kung ikaw mismo ay lubog doon sa actual conflicts. Kung ikaw mismo, nakita mo at naramdaman mo iyong mga violations of the law on either side; kung ikaw mismo, nakita mo kung paano na-violate ang human rights, kung paano nag-create ng trumped-up charges or paano nadale ang mga civilians

na incidental lang po, hindi ko ho puwedeng bawasan or i-disparage iyong ganoong point of view ng mga kaibigan po natin.

Ang sinasabi lang po natin ay kaya nga po kailangang ilagay na ho natin sa batas para hindi na ho ito whim ng lieutenant on the ground, or the commander on the ground, or the patrolman na nasa bundok, na nasa mainit na sitwasyon—if you get my point, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, iyong sinasabi po ninyo, kung paano po mai-ensure, ano? Paano tayo maa-assure kasi kahit naman iyong mga ibang batas katulad ng R.A. No. 7610, katulad ng special laws na RA No. 9344, iyong iba pang mga batas on children ay hindi naman naiimplementa ng maayos, paano pa kaya ang batas na ito ay mag-a-assure sa atin?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Alam ho ninyo, magandang-magandang point iyan.

Sa R.A. No. 7610 o iyong minors in conflict with the law, for example, naaalala ko noong early days—in fact hanggang ngayon, madaming questions. In fact, in one of the early debates at pinag-uusapan natin dito sa halls of Congress ay iyong pag-adjust ng minimum age of criminal responsibility ng mga kabataan. Tama ho kayo diyan. Hindi ho perfect and implementation ng mga batas. In fact po, linggu-linggo at araw-araw sa mga barangay ko ang mga kaso ng VAWC, ng mga kabataan na minors in conflict with the law, Hindi rin ho perfect iyong rehabilitation or iyong protection measures para sa kanila, pero malaki na po ang kaibahan kaysa noong wala pang mga ganyang batas.

Noon ay puwede akong paluin ng tatay ko, puwede akong paluin ng teacher ko, puwede kong awayin ang misis ko ng basta-basta. Ngayon, mayroong nang mga batas na nagsasabing kapag ginawa mo iyan at nahuli ka, malilintikan ka. Hindi ibig sabihin perpekto ang implementation, hindi rin po ibig sabihin na perpekto ang batas, pero kaya po tayo nandito sa hallowed halls ng Congress na ito ay na-elect po tayo ng mga distrito at ng mga sektor po natin para busisiin ang mga batas tulad niyan at ayusin para mas angkop sa mga tao po.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mme. Speaker, dapat talaga na tumutulong iyong batas, pero iyong mga indicators po, kahit po sa situation of Filipino children natin sa kasalukuyan, in fact, ay hindi po talaga ganoon ang reality, you know. Kaya po sinasabi natin, we should be very careful sa pagpasa ng mga batas na magagamit ng estado sa lalong pangsamantala at pang-aapi sa paanong paraan. Tinitingnan po natin iyong kabuuang sitwasyon ng mga bata.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Eksakto po.

REP. BROSAS. Sabi nga kanina, i-contextualize natin, hindi ba?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Eksakto po.

REP. BROSAS. Alam po natin na ang high level of inequality ay manifested among population groups and geographic areas in almost all economic and social indicators na mayroon tayo. It impacts on the situation of children and youth and despite the economic growth na sinasabi ng mga administrasyon na nakaraan, children from poor families and households are predisposed to various social risks and vulnerabilities that could result in reduced food consumption, sickness and disease, and dropping out of school. Napakarami po nating mga cases na ganoon.

Mayroon din po tayong low-performing regions concentrated in Mindanao, mainly in the ARMM, ang Zamboanga Peninsula kung saan nagkaroon nga ng Marawi. Sa Mindanao talaga iyan, at ang pinakamatindi ay ang Caraga Region, although two regions in Luzon ranked highest in poverty and underweight prevalence. In fact, sa issues natin ngayon ay napakaraming mga bata natin na stunted ang growth. Davao Region, Region XI is among the lowest ranked in elementary education while SOCCSKSARGEN is among the lowest ranked in secondary education.

On the other hand, Zamboanga Peninsula is the best performer on the infant mortality, having the lowest rate of 14 deaths per 1,000 live births, followed by Northern Mindanao and Bicol Region in Luzon with 19 deaths per 1,000 live births. Hanggang ngayon po, namamatayan pa rin tayo ng maraming mga bata. Iyong children in need of special protection and children living in poverty are the most vulnerable to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. They need ample protection measures, including legal protection, policies and programs to address their special needs. These children, among others, are those without family or parental care, who are left behind, with disabilities, who are employed in hazardous working conditions, who are commercially and sexually abused and exploited, trafficked children in prostitution and in pornography, those in conflict with the law, those involved in drugs, those living and working in the streets, those affected by armed conflict and displacement, those from indigenous populations, emergency situations, affected and displaced by human-induced and natural disasters.

So, ang dami pong dapat asikasuhin sa mga bata, to children victims of violence, as child abuse, maltreatment or other forms of violence continue to afflict children right in their very homes, in schools and in communities. Cases of child abuse handled by the DSWD were recorded at 6,196 in 2009, and 4,701 in 2010. Ngayon po, parami ng parami ito, habang dumadami iyong mga cases tulad ng nangyari sa Marawi

na na-displace, maski ang mga bata ay nadi-displace; ngayon, walang regular na trabaho, mas maraming bata ang naapektuhan, mas marami talaga ang ganitong kalagayan ng bata. Palala ng palala, lalo na ang kalagayan ng mga bata, kaya marami talaga ang mga cases na ganito—abandonment, 30.48 percent; sexual abuse, 26.53 percent, and neglect, 22.95 percent. In fact, may naitala po tayo sa GABRIELA, sa mga report sa amin, na 75 percent ng mga rape cases ay mga bata. Ganoon po ang mayroon tayo. Sa children of indigenous peoples who live in remote areas usually accessible only by foot, they have limited access to basic social services such as health centers and schools. Mortality rates among infants, children under five years old, and mothers are higher among children of indigenous populations than among the majority population.

So, ito po iyon—ang dami-dami nating dapat asikasuhin— at ang batas ho na ito ay baka mag-backfire sa atin. Iyon po ang sinasabi namin. Dapat walang room para mag-backfire sa mamamayang Pilipino, iyong ganitong mga klase ng batas, hindi po ba,?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Mme. Speaker, if I may be allowed to beg to differ with the Lady Representative from GABRIELA. In fact po, I agree with the Lady sa data na binabanggit po niya and this is precisely po kung bakit kailangan natin ng mga batas katulad nito, dahil po iyong most likely na natatamaan ng armed conflict ay iyong children sa marginalized sectors ng ating lipunan, iyong mga nasa kanayunan, iyong mga nasa mga barung-barong o squatter communities ng urban centers na puwedeng sakupin, at iyong mga Lumad na nasa bundok na walang access sa education. Napakalayo nila at napakahirap, even with our modern technology, noong access nila sa proteksiyon ng batas, sa basic services, et cetera. All the more, sa tingin ko po, na kailangan po nating maglagay ng batas para po hindi po sila tinatamaan o nagiging biktima ng conflict situations arising mismo from the social inequalities ng mismong lipunan po natin, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Diretso po, Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor—what is the point ng batas na ito sa ganitong kalagayan ng mga bata? Paano nila ito magagamit for their safety, lalo na kung ang danger na sinasabi natin ay nagmumula sa AFP at nagmumula sa State, sa estado?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Sige po.

REP. BROSAS. Iyon ho iyon—how can you...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Para madali po ang sitwasyon natin. Madami pong na-narrate ang kagalang-galang na Representante ng GABRIELA. Kung tama po iyong pagkaintindi ko po sa mga binanggit po niya, iyong karamihan, kung hindi po lahat ng binanggit

niya, po ng mga kaso at sitwasyon ay maaari na pong maparusahan under nitong batas na ito.

For example, iyong mga bata na binaril dahil napagkamalan daw silang NPA or iyong Lumad school na na-occupy, under the specific provisions po ng batas na ito, sakop po ang state players, whether nag-i-implement lang sila o sila iyong nag-utos, ay liable sila dito sa batas na ito. Hindi lang po ito sa state players pero all armed groups, all independent entities na engaged in armed conflicts or using force ay puwedeng liable at covered ng batas na ito, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, gusto ko lang banggitin na iyong climate of impunity na mayroon tayo in committing human rights violations, nagpe-pervade pa rin ito sa ngayon. Ito po iyong major stumbling block to our goal of ensuring that children in armed conflict situations are protected. Ngayon po, nasabi naman po siguro sa posisyon ng CRC o ng Children's Rehabilitation Center that the government should address poverty, unemployment, landlessness, low wages, injustices and lack of basic services, and by resolving the root cause of the armed conflict, that is the main assurance that all children will fully enjoy their rights. Iyon po iyong gusto naming sabihin. Ang batas na ito, baka ito pa nga iyong maka ano...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Tama po, Mme. Speaker, pero paano po kung mangyari uli ang isang Marawi? Paano kung mangyari po ang isa pang Zamboanga? Paano po kung something similar happens again, na hindi po simpleng basic inequalities ng lipunan ang pinag-uusapan po natin kung hindi po ay other causes? Paano po natin poproteksiyunan ang mga bata na caught in that conflict situation?

Hindi po black and white lang. Tama po, dapat lang talaga ayusin natin ang ekonomiya, ayusin natin ang basic inequalities. Wala po tayong pagtatalo doon, but the real and material, and aktuwal na kinakaharap natin mismo sa mga na-rape na, sa mga actual situations na may mga kabataan talaga na at risk, victims mismo ng armed conflict o ng mga puwersang gumagamit ng armed force, therefore, kailangan po natin now, immediately, as soon as possible, ng isang batas para maproteksiyonan sila, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, iyong sinasabi natin na i-root out ang cause ng armed conflict, even po sa usapin ng Marawi, has to do with economic and political.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Wala po tayong pinagtatalunan diyan, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Lahat po iyan ay ganoon.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Tama po.

REP. BROSAS. For my last, sa huling tanong ko po siguro, Mme. Speaker, hayaan ninyo basahin ko na lang kung ano iyong nais naming sabihin at ang aming posisyon kaugnay diyan.

Ang panukalang batas nitong Seventeenth Congress ay halaw lang din sa mga naunang ipinasa simula noong Fifteenth Congress katulad po ng pagbanggit ng G. Isponsor kaugnay sa karapatan at proteksiyon ng mga batang involved or naapektuhan ng armadong tunggalian. Much as we agree that the rights and welfare of children should be of paramount consideration in formulating the programs and policies of the government, the problematic contents of aforementioned bills, primarily the inclusion of the Paris Principles as its basic framework, have convinced us to strongly oppose its passage.

Ito po iyong pupuwede na iyong nagluluto lang iyong mga bata involved, na silang lahat, iyong inutusan lang, iyong nandoon lang sa may area o nandoon mismo sa area ay puwede nang sabihin na children in armed conflict. Ang pinalawak na depenasyon ng "child associated with armed groups" na nakapaloob sa Paris Principles ay naabuso sa tingin namin at malisyosong nagagamit ng State sa anti-insurgency campaigns nito by falsely and wantonly branding the children, especially in rural communities, as being recruited or being used by non-state armed groups. In fact, lumalabas nga na wala pang hustisya iyong mga nakaraan na naganap, at ina-assure tayo ng batas na ito na magkakaroon tayo ng hustisya sa mga susunod pa. Sa lohika, balangkas, prinsipyo at konteksto, ito mismo ang nagbigay ng lisensiya and immunity blanket sa government forces and its paramilitary groups to persistently perpetuate human rights violations against children and residents in communities they tagged as controlled areas of revolutionaries like the MNLF, the MILF or the BIFF.

Ang paggamit po sa Paris Principles mismo ang nag-justify para sa pambibiktima ng estado sa mga kabataan at mga menor de edad sa kadahilanang sila ay residente ng mga komunidad na ito. Parang dahil sila ay taga doon, so, automatic implicated sila doon sa ano. Living in these areas may now be construed as being associated with the non-state armed groups and therefore, part of legitimate military targets. Having parents, neighbors and friends belonging to peoples' organizations that have been alleged by the State as front organizations of the armed groups may also make children vulnerable to attacks and make them subject to programs and interventions for children associated with armed groups.

Ang panukalang batas na ito ay maglulunsad lamang sa pag-alis ng mga bata sa kanilang komunidad papunta sa mapang-abusong kamay ng Estado. Arbitraryong paghuli at pagdakip sa mga bata mula sa

mga komunidad na tinaguriang sympathizers ng mga rebolusyonaryo o anumang armadong grupo. Hindi man kaila sa atin ang mga sinasabi na mitolohiya o na hobby ng AFP sa mga tinatawag nitong child soldiers, at sa pagba-brand nito mula 2010 hanggang 2016 alone, 28 children had been systematically and falsely branded as rebels matapos itong dumaaan sa harassment, interrogation, torture, illegal arrest and detention, while some were arbitrarily killed and declared as armed ngunit malakas ang ebidensiya na nagpapasinungaling sa mga kuwento ng AFP. In fact, iyong latest nga na sinasabi namin, iyong case ni Acto na minor, menor de edad, sa Davao ay isang pagpapatunay ng mga nagaganap at nagpapatuloy na ganito. Mayroon ding case kamakailan kung saan nagkaroon kami ng resolution, nagpasa ng resolution ang buong Makabayan Bloc, dahil sa dalawang bata na na-torture at nakatakas lamang. In fact, na-torture at sila, sinunog at inilibing ng buhay. Buti nga po ay nakatakas sila. Iyon po ang pinaka-recent at nagpapatuloy talaga ito hanggang ngayon.

Ayon nga sa Children's Rehabilitation Center, an organization upholding children's rights, being falsely branded, accused, detained, arrested or charged as children associated with armed groups, subject the children to extreme trauma that could hinder their physical, intellectual and socio-emotional development. At the same time, it may affect not only their self-concept but also their world view involving concepts such as human rights and justice. Pagkatapos, ang panukalang batas na ito ngayon ang mas magpapatibay sa blanket authority ng AFP sa pangha-harass sa mga menor de edad at mga bata dahil ang panukalang batas na ito, mismo, may immunity ang kahit sinumang mag-a-assist sa pag-rescue ng isang menor de edad.

With these bases, the Children's Rehabilitation Center considers the passage of the Bill as a step to institutionalize the AFP's long history of child's rights violations and provide their escape from accountability by labelling children victims as child soldiers. Iyon po.

Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker. Maraming salamat, G. Sponsor.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Maraming salamat din po. Tapos na rin po ang pag-uusap natin—wala na?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Mayroon pa.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, next to interpellate is the Lady from the ACT TEACHERS Party-List. I move that we recognize the Hon. France L. Castro.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. France Castro is recognized.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker.

G. Sponsor, mga ilang katanungan lang po, paglilinaw sa title at sa paggamit ng mga batas na naito ng panukalang batas na ito and at the same time, iyong focus sa parental accountability.

Would the good Sponsor yield to some questions?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Of course, Mme. Speaker, from the second Lady from GABRIELA.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). I am not from GABRIELA.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). From ACT po. I stand corrected, Mme. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mula sa mga guro, ACT TEACHERS Party-List.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Galing sa teacher. Si Tonchi kasi ang nakita ko, sorry po.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, doon po sa title ng ating pino-propose na batas, ANACT PROVIDING FOR THE SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN SITUATIONS OF ARMED CONFLICT AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, pinapatunayan natin at nag-a-agree pa tayo na talagang sa ating bansa ay nag-e-exist ang giyera. Dito po ba sa pagpapasa ng proposed Bill na ito ay nag-e-exist ang giyera among our people?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Armed conflict—may broad definition po. Depende po sa legal definition of terms. Mas expert po siguro ang iba nating colleagues pero ang ibig po sana nating sabihin na situations in armed conflict ay kung saan may situations locally.

Basahin ko po iyong definition as defined dito sa panukalang batas na ito:

Armed conflict refers to armed confrontations occurring between governmental armed forces and one or more armed groups, or between such groups arising in the Philippine territory. These shall include activities which may lead to, or are undertaken in preparation of armed confrontation or armed violence that put children's lives at risk and the rights violated.

Hindi po ibig sabihin na may giyera ang buong Pilipinas. Ang ibig lang sabihin ay may situations na may armed conflict.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Doon po sa sagot ninyo, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, kahit hindi natin directly tinatanggap, tinatanggap natin na there is an existing civil war. Doon sa study, siyempre nagkaroon tayo ng ganitong batas dahil nakikita natin sa sitwasyon, lalong-lalo na sa kanayunan, na sa iba't ibang lugar ng ating bansa ay nag-e-exist ang giyera sa pagitan ng gobyerno at ng tinatawag nating mga armed forces din na naglalayon ng mga iba pang mga prinsipyo o paniniwala gaya po, halimbawa, iyong NPA, MNLF o MILF. So, tinatanggap natin ito dahil ...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). May armed conflict situation.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). ... sa ganitong prinsipyo. Tama po ba, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Puwede po nating sabihin iyan.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay, tinatanggap natin iyon. Doon po sa scope, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, paano ba natin nade-determine, at sino po, anong otoridad ang magde-determine noong conflict area? Mayroon po ba ditong depinisyon sa ating pino-propose na batas about conflict areas? Paano po natin madi-differentiate iyong conflict area, dahil mayroong naglalabanang dalawang puwersa, as compared po sa government versus the revolutionary forces or the government versus sa tinatawag nating mga terorista? Sa panukalang batas na ito, sinasakop din iyong ganoong scope?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Maaari po bang ipaliwanag ninyo iyong tanong kasi hindi ko po masyadong nakuha, Mme. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mme. Speaker, ang tinatanong ko po ay iyong scope ng batas na ito. Paano natin nade-determine iyong mga conflict areas? Kung titingnan kasi natin, parang mahirap ma-determine. Ano ba talaga iyong armadong labanan, is it between the revolutionary forces na tinatawag at saka iyong tinatawag nating terorista na katulad ng what we described doon sa Marawi situation? Lahat po ba ng mga bata na nasa ganitong sitwasyon ay covered nito?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Technically po. Kung Babalikan po natin iyong binasa ko pong definition kanina, kapag nasa armed conflict situation ang mga bata, covered po sila ng batas na ito.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay, so iyong scope. Sa schools, halimbawa, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, iyong mga schools po na tinatawag nating "zone

of peace," hindi po ba nakalagay dito sa ating mga definition, definition "(aa) zone of peace refers to a site with sacred, religious, historic, educational, cultural, geographical..." et cetera. Kino-consider po natin itong zone of peace, kaya ang ibig sabihin, itong mga zones of peace po ay protektado ng batas na ito.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Opo. In fact, ang minimithi ng batas na ito ay kahit sinong bata na nasa conflict situation, whether nasa school or nasa bahay, o mismong armed combatant, ay dapat i-consider siya as zone of peace. Victim siya at dapat proteksiyonan ng ...

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). ... lahat ng panig sa armed conflict na iyan.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, pati po person o mga personahe, ...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Mga bata po.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). ... lalo na iyong mga bata.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Opo.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Halimbawa po, wala sa zone of peace, sorry, halimbawa po ay wala sa conflict areas pero nakakaranas ang lugar na ito ng militarization ...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Sakop po kaagad iyan.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). ... brought about by the government forces.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Sakop po kaagad iyan.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Paano po ito mako-consider?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Sakop po kaagad iyan.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Hindi. Paano po mapo-proteksiyonan? Halimbawa po, ito po ay alam naman natin, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, na may mga eskuwelahan tayong itinatag ng ating mga komunidad, itinatag ng ating mga mamamayan doon sa komunidad nila dahil hindi sila naaabot ng ating gobyerno. Halimbawa, private schools, mga ALS, mga kung ano, na hindi naman covered ng conflict areas na tinatawag natin or how we describe it here in this proposed law. Paano po pananagutan ng gobyerno iyong ganoon kung, halimbawa, mismong armed government forces iyong nagmi-militarize sa lugar na hindi naman natin tinuturing na conflict area?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Pumasok po sila, na-force nilang umalis iyong mga bata sa eskuwelahan for example, sakop po sila dito. Sakop na sakop po sila ng batas na ito.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Pati po ba doon sa mga nag-evacuate, halimbawa, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, dinala sila sa isang lugar na zone of peace o malayo na sila sa conflict, sakop pa rin po ba ito?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Depende po, at interesting iyong tanong ninyo. May mga specific requirements po sa batas. Kung kino-consider ninyong ni-rescue iyong mga bata from a conflict situation, may mga requirements po na specific ang batas. For example, kailangan within 24 hours ay na-turn over sa local government authorities iyong mga bata. Kapag hindi po na-comply, for example, itong mga requirements, iyong tinatawag na blanket—na iyong rescue, iyong impunity dahil sa rescue, liable po sila sa batas na ito.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. Focus naman po tayo sa Section 9 (e) on parental accountability. There were cited laws but actually nowhere in those laws can be said to be a basis to hold a parent accountable for the so-called children in situation of armed conflict.

Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, paki-cite nga po dito sa mga naka-cite na mga batas like PD 603, RA 7610, RA 9208, RA 10364 on Trafficking in Persons, RA 9231 on child labor, RA 9581 on crimes against IHL, crimes against humanity—paki-cite nga po, Mr. Sponsor, iyong mga specific provisions doon sa nabanggit nating mga batas na mine-mention iyong parental accountability for CIAC or Children in Area of Conflict.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Kung maaari po tulungan ako ng kaibigan natin from GABRIELA, ay from ACT TEACHERS pala.

PD 603—ano nga ba uli ang PD 603?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Child and Youth Welfare Code.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Okay. Article 59 (11) “provides parental accountability for children carrying firearms regardless of ownership.”

RA 9208, ano po iyon?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Trafficking.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Trafficking...

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Trafficking in Persons.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Section 6 (d) of the law

“includes parents or legal guardians as qualified trafficking.”

RA 9231, ano po iyon?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). On child labor.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). On child labor. Section 6 (f) of the law “provides parental accountability for the crime of child labor.”

RA 9851, ano po iyon?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Crimes against Humanity.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). IHL.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Opo, IHL

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Section 2 (c) “declares the state policy that children—the state policy of children as zones of peace.”

RA 10364, ano ho ito?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, wala po akong nabanggit na ganoon.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Sorry.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Kung maidadagdag po ninyo, ang tanong ko lang ay paki-cite dito sa mga batas na binanggit natin iyong specific provision ng...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Kagagawa ko lang po.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). ... parental accountability involving children in conflict situation. So, parang wala po siya.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Hindi po. For example po, iyong RA.603, ano po uli iyon?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Child and Youth Welfare Code.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Okay. Sabi po dito na kapag iyong bata ay kumakarga ng baril.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Ng ano po?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Kung may dalang baril ang isang bata, liable ang parent o iyong guardian niya regardless of ownership. Iyan ang batas. Relevant po ito dahil ang pinag-uusapan natin ay mga bata sa armed conflict situation na, kunwari, may dalang baril, liable din ang parent, for example po, and we can go down through the laws po na ganoon, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Medyo hindi pa po ako satisfied doon sa sagot, Mme. Speaker, ng ating kagalang-galang na Isponsor. So, sinasabi natin, “children in situations of armed conflict” is defined as all children involved in armed conflict, children affected by armed conflict and internally displaced children. Reading this Bill as a whole, CSAC are those members of the communities affected in war who are involved in war in one way or another. Halimbawa po, Mme. Speaker, sa isang community na lugar ng sinasabi nating conflict area, so, apektado po sila noong tinatawag nating giyera, hindi po ba? Kung hindi naman po sila, halimbawa, involved, iyong mga community na dito, ano po iyong proteksiyon ng batas na ito doon sa mga community na iyon? Hindi na po ito, ano ha, tungkol doon sa children pero siyempre, kapag sinabi nating community, involved na dito iyong parents, iyong children at iyong mga tao po sa community.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Hindi—wala po ako sa posisyon ngayon para sagutin iyong proteksiyon ng buong community. Bukod sa mga proteksiyon na already existing, under iyon ng mga existing laws po natin. Ang sinasabi ko po, under this proposed Bill, ay iyong mga bata sa situation—dinala sila sa giyera, pumunta doon ang isang platoon ng Marines, or dumaan doon ang isang squad ng mga rebeldeng MILF, ay nalagay na sila sa armed conflict situation. Kapag nalagay sila sa ganoong situation, applicable na ho itong panukalang batas.

Ang sinasabi ko po, ang point po ng “parental accountability” ay simple lang po, iyong existing laws katulad ng PD 603, RA 9208, may mga sakop silang mga sitwasyon na may mga batang nasa loob ng armed conflict situation. For example, iyon na nga, sa PD 603, iyong batang may dalang firearm, automatic, liable ang magulang niya o iyong guardian niya. Sa child trafficking, kinuha iyong bata from an armed conflict situation, forcibly na inilipat sa ibang lugar at pinag-hanapbuhay doon or ginawang kuwan, liable din ho ang magulang doon.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. On the section on qualification or qualifying circumstances for parental responsibility, sa tingin po ng Representasyong ito, ay too broad. Una po ay ang involvement ng child is due to parental action or inaction— parents ratified the involvement of the child and the child acted as the parents’ agent or servant. A dangerous weapon or instrument, masyado po itong broad. Dito po, sino po iyong magde-determine kung sino po iyong puwedeng maparusahan, iyong parent ba, iyong nagre-red tagging, iyong nagmi-militarize, or ano? So, sino po ang magde-determine nito?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Nice point.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, parang masyado pong ...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Thank you for that question, Mme. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Yes, masyadong broad.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Nais ko lang hong isingit before that, under subsection (I), may karapatan din iyong mga bata to be with their families, especially with their mothers during evacuations and in evacuation centers. So, may special protection para sa kanila. Ngayon, under the provisions ng batas na ito, doon sa pagresolba ng mga cases regarding itong aktuwal na sitwasyon na ito, ini-empower ng batas na ito ang mga family court. Kung na-encounter po natin iyong mga family court sa mga ilang taon ng nagpa-practice po ako, special ang mga applicable rules sa child witnesses, sa proteksiyon ng kabataan, ng Rules of Evidence, so that napapaboran iyong interes ng kabataan.

Therefore, kapag ang pinagtatalunan po natin ay sino ang nagde-determine po nito, ini-empower po natin sa loob ng batas na ito ang ating mga family court para mag-take ng jurisdiction, i-take over ang mga cases na involved dito, at tinataasan po natin ang mga liabilities at iyong mga penalties kapag mga bata in armed conflict ang nasasakop.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). May naalala lang ako, Mr. Sponsor. Wala yata akong nakita dito sa batas na ito iyong pananagutan o maging ang gagawin ng ating estado, partikular po ang Department of Education, halimbawa po sa mga evacuation areas. So, paano po? Kasi sa nakikita ko, halimbawa, sa ngayon, hindi po ba kapag na-evacuate iyong komunidad sa isang lugar, wala na, tigil na sa pag-aaral iyong mga bata.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Tama.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). But nowhere in this proposed law na nakikita ko ano iyong magiging aksiyon. Kasi dito, mayroon itong DPWH et cetera pero ano ba iyong aksiyon ng Department of Education or responsibility po ng Department of Education para magpatuloy sa pag-aaral iyong mga bata, kasi parang wala po akong nakitang probisyon ninyo tungkol dito.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Maraming salamat po sa punto na iyon. Kung mamarapatin po ng Representante ng ACT TEACHERS ay willing po kaming mag-entertain ng proposed amendments niya dito sa nakikita niyang pagkukulang sa batas sa tamang panahon po.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Ituloy ko lang po iyong



parang responsibility ng magulang, kasi wala namang mga magulang na hindi gusto na makapag-aral iyong mga anak nila. So, in times of conflict ay mapipilitan sila na talagang mag-evacuate at i-safety ang kanilang mga anak.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Tama po.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Ang batas na ito, sa tingin ko, Mme. Speaker, G. Sponsor, unduly expands the liability of parents without any reasonable justification at all. An effort of misdirection lays the blame on the parents of the child and not the cause of the war. Kapag binabasa ko iyong the whole na batas na ito, parang tinitingnan natin na ang paninisi ay doon sa involved.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Not at all, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. In fact po, kaya na-specify and na-itemize po dito iyong mga laws na relevant and applicable dito sa mga sitwasyon na ito, wala pong extension ito outside ng coverage ng existing laws na nagbibigay ng responsibilidad sa magulang para sa kanilang mga anak—iyong tinatawag po nating extraordinary diligence of a good father of a family at iyong mga requirements ng batas para sa kanya po. Wala pong hinihingi beyond this. In fact po, kung mayroon pa na mas mataas po na restrictions at mas mataas na liability, ang mga combatants o iyong mga armed groups o iyong mga players sa armed conflict ang mas tinataasan at pinapatungan ng mas mahigpit na liabilities and responsibilities, and this includes our own State forces, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Iyon na lang po, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. Siyempre, pinapasalamat ko ang ating Sponsor para doon sa napaka-patient niya na pagsagot sa mga tanong ko. Kung pag-uusapan po natin iyong talagang conflict within our country, talagang malalim ang mga dahilan kung bakit nagkakaroon ng mga armadong pakikibaka at harassment. Ang human rights violations ay talamak na nakita naman natin base doon sa mga sinasabi po ng ating mga mamamayan na dulot ng armed government forces natin. Kaya po mahalaga na mabantayan kung paano po ito mai-implementa ng maayos o, halimbawa, may mga gagawin tayong mga amendments dito at ang primary purpose natin ay maproteksiyonan talaga ang mga bata at ang kanilang mga karapatan o mga basic rights para sa kanilang pamumuhay.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Tama po.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Maraming salamat, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Thank you din po, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, next to interpellate is the Lady from KABATAAN Party-List. I move that we recognize the Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Sarah Jane Elago is recognized.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker. Just a few questions to our dear Sponsor, to our distinguished Sponsor, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Of course, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, by all means.

REP. ELAGO. All right. Mme. Speaker, this is actually a welcome development that we are tackling, as we are giving due diligence in discussing the situation of children in areas with armed conflict. But for a President of the Philippines who had threatened to bomb Lumad schools and even tagged children enrolled in Lumad schools as “enemies of the State,” this Bill, if passed into law, could be used as an additional tool to terrorize not just children but also their families and their communities. Ano po ang masasabi dito ng ating distinguished Sponsor?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). I would like to think that conflict, iyong pagiging biktima ng ating mga kabataan in situations of armed conflict, is a continuing situation. It has not started with our President now and I am sure it will not end with him. However, that is precisely why we need this law.

As of now, the only existing protection I can think of is an EO, an executive order promulgated by a previous administration and being an executive order, it is subject to the whims of whichever administration is in place and therefore, it can be reversed, it could be cancelled, it could be superseded. However, if we put this into law, then subject to our changing it, amending it or repealing it in the future as a democratic institution, then this law and its inherent protection for children victims of armed conflict will transcend this administration or whichever administration succeeds it, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ELAGO. Yes. Mme. Speaker, nabanggit ng ating Pangulo ang hinggil sa napakarami at talagang vastly unregulated, even by the military, na mga binubuo nila na mga paramilitary forces at marami dito ang

inaabuso ang mga bata para sa kanilang mga nais gawin. Paano po natin mai-ensure na ito kung sa kasalukuyan ay hindi nababantayan, at kahit pa ang Presidente mismo ang nagsabi na dapat nang buwagin ang mga paramilitary forces na ito, pero magpahanggang ngayon ay nariyan pa rin, nag-o-operate, nagpapatuloy, at hindi natin natitiyak, hindi malinaw ang pananagutan ...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Tama po.

REP. ELAGO. ... kung mayroong nagawang mali ang mga paramilitary forces na ito.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Tama po. Marami po ang nagsasabi na ang dami ho nating batas na nagpoproteksiyon ng human rights, nagpoproteksiyon ng kabataan, ng kababaihan. In fact, ang dami nating batas sa RPC pero alam din po ng mga kasamahan po natin na naglilingkod na hindi ho perfect iyong ating judicial system o iyong sistema po natin. Kita po natin iyan. Hindi po talaga, hindi po lahat ng nagba-violate ng human rights ay nahahabol. Hindi po lahat ng krimen ay nahahabol pero sa batas na ito, nagiging malinaw iyong definition ng pagbibiktima ng mga bata sa situation of armed conflict, nagiging malinaw iyong mga players involved, iyong mga elements ng krimen nila, at ipinapataw nang malinaw ang kanilang mga liability and nililinao din po iyong mekanismo para ma-implementa ito. Hindi ho ibig sabihin na perpekto ito. Subject din ito, of course, sa implementation.

Alam po natin na sa sitwasyon ng armed conflict ay malabo po ang mga bagay-bagay, iyong pong tinatawag nilang “the fog of war,” kaya lalong-lalo pong kailangan ng mga batas na katulad na ito para magkaroon ng kaunting sibilisasyon, ng kaunting humanity, ng kaunting morality ang armed conflict, at lalong-lalo na ho iyong pagpoproteksiyon ng mga kabataan.

REP. ELAGO. Mme. Speaker, malamang mula doon sa sinabi ng ating distinguished Sponsor na mayroon tayong mga kalagayan na hindi naman agad-agad na mahuhulaan o makikita o mai-expect natin, mayroon tayong binuo dito na isang panukala hinggil sa Inter-Agency Committee on Children In Situations of Armed Conflict.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). That is correct.

REP. ELAGO. Maaari po bang maibahagi sa atin ng ating kagalang-galang na Isponsor ang rationale sa pagpili ng mga miyembro ng Inter-Agency Committee na ito? Ito po ay binubuo ng 15 members.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Sandali lang po ha. Ito po...

REP. ELAGO. Dito po ba ay mamimili lang ba tayo ng representante mula sa mga ahensiya na nakalagay dito?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). ...na po. Thank you very much.

Section 25 of the proposed Bill creates the IAC-CSAC chaired by the Commission for the Welfare of Children and composed of the following government agencies: the AFP, the CHR, the DILG, the DOH, the DepEd, the DOJ, the DND, the DSWD, the LGUs, the NCIP, the NCMF, the NDRRMC, the OPAPP, the PCW, and the PNP. It also provides child-focused NGOs to take an active part in strengthening their programs and capabilities in delivering their services. The IAC-CSAC shall also serve as monitoring and reporting agency which will submit its reports to the President and Congress.

So, itong mga line agencies na directly involved or puwedeng nakita ng mga framers ng Bill at iyong mga nagtrabaho sa TWG ang maaaring ma-involve dito sa pag-rescue or pag-arbitrate ng mga kabataan na nasa situations of armed conflict. Specific na specific sa paragraph kasunod ng enumeration ng mga government agencies iyong pag-empower ng mga child-focused and local community-based NGOs na mag-participate dito sa monitoring and implementation ng batas na ito, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ELAGO. Yes, Mme. Speaker. May we know the rationale for including the AFP, the DND and the PNP in this Inter-Agency Committee. Hindi po ba sila rin ay maaaring masalag kapag sila naman ay may paglabag sa mga naturang mga karapatan, ayon, sa loob ng panukalang batas na ito ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor? Mme. Speaker, paano natin maiiwasan ...

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Yes, Mme. Speaker, ...

REP. ELAGO. ... ang pagkakaroon ng cover-up pagdating sa mga reklamo?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, kaya ho sila nandiyan kasi kailangan po nating kilalanin na sila ang armed forces ng gobyerno. Wala po tayong puwedeng—sa Konstitusyon natin, malinaw na malinaw na iisa lang po ang armed forces po natin. So, kailangan kasama po sila doon pero that does not mean na-exempt sila or hindi po sila liable kapag iyong mga elements nila ay nag-violate ng batas na ito. Therefore, I would think of it as an advantage na kasali po sila dito para directly na nakakalat sa kanila, directly napapaliwanag sa kanila kung ano ang restrictions nila when it comes to children in situations of armed conflict, when it comes to minors or victims in situations of armed conflict. Dahil kasali sila, kapag nag-violate

sila at naging liable po sila ay lalo po silang walang excuse. Kaya po, sa tingin ko lang po, dapat lang isama po sila. In the same light na isinasama po natin iyong mga civil society organizations, iyong mga NGOs, iyong mga POs at mga child-focused na groups dito ho sa local implementation ng batas na ito because, in all likelihood, sila iyong nandoon sa conflict situations at sila iyong nakakakita ng anong best para ma-implement ang batas na ito, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ELAGO. Mme. Speaker, how does the distinguished Sponsor envision the selection process of the representatives, particularly of the AFP, the PNP and the DND in this Inter-Agency Committee?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). I think—ayaw ko hong pangunahan iyong mga magda-draft ng implementing rules nito. However, kung ako lang po, ang titingnan po natin, dapat lang po sa top level. Kung pag-uusapan natin ang national implementation ng batas na ito, kailangan po sa top level ng armed services po natin—ang PNP, AFP at ang line services—nasa top level po nila ang magpa-participate sa implementation ng batas na ito para malinaw na malinaw din po iyong restrictions, iyong liabilities at iyong paraan ng implementation dito. Top-down dahil command organization po siya, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Mme. Speaker, kasi ang Representasyon na ito ay nababahala na maaaring magkaroon ng paghuhugas-kamay, ng cover-up, ng pagtatakip ayon sa kung ano ba iyong mga naging paglabag maski pa ng mga puwersa ng ating gobyerno. Kaya nararapat lamang na magkaroon din tayo ng mga measures kung paano natin mababantayan, iyong mekanismo para sa lalo pang mas mabilis na pananagutan ng mga puwersa ng ating gobyerno.

Hindi natin makakalimutan na nitong nakaraan lamang na buwan, Abril 21, ang pinakahuling natala na kaso ng pamamaslang at isa sa mga ibinandera na kaso ng rebelde na bata ay isang 15 taong gulang mula sa Ipong National High School. Isa po itong batang Lumad na pinaslang. Matapos siyang paslangin ay pinalitan ng damit at binihisan ng parang isang miyembro ng New People's Army. Siya ay tinamnan ng baril. Ang principal ng kanyang eskuwelahan, mga guro, mga kapit-bahay, maski po ang barangay captain ay nagsabi at nagbigay na ng kanilang pahayag na ang batang ito, si Jhun Mark Acto, ay hindi isang rebeldeng NPA, ngunit isang araw po matapos nangyari ang killing, ayon sa kanya, nakabandera po sa mga diyaryo na ang nahuli, ang napaslang ay isang rebelde.

So, tayo po ay talagang mariin na nababahala sa mga ganitong kaso kung saan para lamang maipakita na nagtatagumpay ang operation laban sa mga kalaban po ng gobyerno ay maski iyong mga bata, ganito po

ang ginagawa sa kanila at nagpapakalat pa ng maling impormasyon, ng mga paninira at mga pekeng balita.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Maraming salamat po sa tanong na iyan, Mme. Speaker.

Precisely po kung bakit kailangan natin itong batas dahil up to now ay, sa aking pagkaalala, ay wala po nitong Chapter IV, Section 9, paragraph (d), item number (4) ng panukalang batas na ito, which specifies false branding or labeling as punishable under this law. Ibig sabihin, iyong mga sitwasyon at iyong mga kaso katulad ng binanggit po ninyo ay magiging liable na po under this proposed law kung mapapatunayan sa tamang forum, at iyong mga forum na pinag-uusapan po natin dito ay iyong mga korte po natin, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Mme. Speaker, ano ang magiging papel ng panukalang batas na ito, kung sakaling ito ay maipasa sa ating Seventeenth Congress, doon sa mga kaso na naglabag sa karapatan ng mga bata sa mga sitwasyon ng armed conflict para mapabilis iyong kanilang mga kaso at madala sa hustisya ang mga perpetrators ng mga kaso kung saan involved ang ating mga bata at kabataan?

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Okay. Maraming puwede nating isa-isahin pero mayroong isang significant na seksyon itong batas na nagsasaad na iyong mga pagbibiktima ng mga kabataan sa sitwasyon ng armed conflict ay isang krimen na akin to a violation of International Humanitarian Law and therefore, non-prescriptible. Ano ang ibig sabihin nito? Kung ikaw ay gumawa consciously at nag-torture ng bata o pumatay ng bata, or other similar situations katulad noong sitwasyon na binabanggit ng Representante ng KABATAAN, kahit na ho 30 years from now ay puwede ka pang habulin ng batas na ito dahil sa tantamount ito to a violation of International Humanitarian Law. That is an example of the teeth, iyong ngipin na ibinibigay po natin sa batas na ito para proteksiyonan ang mga batang biktima ng armed conflict, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Yes, Mme. Speaker. Ang nais lang maipabatid ng Representasyon na ito sa kagalang-galang na Isponsor ay ang kanyang pagkabahala na ang mga may pinakamalaking impluwensiya sa loob ng ating Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Situations of Armed Conflict, bagamat nagbigay tayo ng puwang sa maraming peoples' organizations at sa iba't ibang mga ahensiya para magkaroon ng boses sa loob nito, ay ang mga katulad mismo ng Philippine National Police na may naiulat na may 13,000 kaso ng mga pamamaslang—at napakarami pa diyan sa mga sinasabing kaso na nanlaban. Mayroon tayong mga nakasampag na kaso maski sa Korte Suprema na nais maisiwalat natin pero lahat ba talaga diyan ay nanlaban?

Ang libo-libo na iyan ay ang katulad ng mga kabataan na sila Kian delos Santos at Carl Arnaiz, na iyong korte na rin ang nagsabi na deliberate at intentional ang killing sa mga bata na ito.

Andiyan din ang Department of National Defense na, noong nagkaroon po tayo dito ng deliberasyon para sa pagpapahintulot sa isa pang taon ng deklarasyon ng martial law sa buong Mindanao, ang sabi po nila ay wala daw nilabag na karapatang pantao, ngunit ang Representasyon mismo na ito ang sumali sa isang international fact-finding at solidarity mission kung saan naitala natin dito na hindi na pala mabilang ang mga human rights violations at nangangailangan ang pag-e-empower sa mas marami na mga bata, mga kabataan, mga organizations upang magkaroon sila ng boses para mapadinig sa mga hindi nakikinig sa kanila o pinasasawalang bahala iyong kanilang mga ulat hinggil sa mga paglabag sa karapatang pantao. Nariyan din po ang AFP na sa mata ng mga batang Lumad na nag-aaral doon sa mga Lumad schools ay ang nanakot na sila ay bobombahin. Nakakaranas din sila ng airstrikes, nandiyan din iyong nakakaranas sila ng mga drones na hindi nila alam kung maglalaglag ba ng bomba. Nakikita nila kung paano na ang kanilang komunidad ay nalalagay sa panganib kapag sila ay napagkakaitan ng katotohanan at kapag sila ay hindi pinapakinggan.

Iyan ang sitwasyon na iniinugan natin ngayon hinggil sa panukalang batas na ito. Kaya mainam na masusi pang mapag-aralan at mailapat sa nararanasan ng ating mga kababayan lalong-lalo na bukas, May 23, isang taon na matapos na madeklara ang martial law sa Mindanao. Ang batas na ito ay sisikapin natin na magsilbi para doon sa mga walang boses at para doon sa hindi napoprotektahan ng ating batas, however good this may sound on paper. Ang sabi nga po ng isang batang Lumad, “Ano ang mailalaban ng aming mga bibig sa kanilang baril?” Kaya sa mga ganyang sitwasyon na walang epekto ang mga batas na ito, mainam na kung paano tayo nagpupursigi na magpasa ng batas na ito ay ganoon din sa pagkakaroon ng mga signipikanteng reporma para tunay na mabigyan ng boses at maingat iyong kabuhayan hindi lang ng mga bata o ng kabataan, kung hindi ng taong-bayan, Mme. Speaker. Kaya po ating titingnan kung ito ay magdudulot ba ng mas panganib o makabubuti sa ating mga batang Pilipino.

Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

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

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

The period of amendments is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, since there are no Committee or individual amendments, I move to close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 7442 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). As many as are in favor of the approval of House Bill No. 7442 on Second Reading, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7442 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 7442 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7465 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7465, contained in Committee Report No. 685, as reported out by the Committee on Public Order and Safety.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7465, entitled: AN ACT REQUIRING NEW PERSONNEL OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION TO BE CERTIFIED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 3 AND 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION AND BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY PROFESSIONALIZATION ACT OF 2014."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby opened.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, to sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Public Order and Safety, the Hon. Romeo M. Acop.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Romeo Acop is recognized.

REP. ACOP. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. May I respectfully request that we adopt the Explanatory Note of the measure as my sponsorship speech, Mme. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider the Explanatory Note as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, since there are no interpellations, and no Member registered to speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

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

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

The period of amendments is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. Since there are no Committee or individual amendments, Mme. Speaker, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 7465 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 7465. As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7465 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 7465 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7445  
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7445, contained in Committee Report No. 662, as reported out by the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development and the Committee on Appropriations.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7445, entitled: AN ACT PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS AMONG GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO INSPIRE INNOVATIVENESS AND TO ENSURE THEIR PRODUCTIVITY EVEN BEYOND GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby opened.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, to sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize the Hon. Victoria Isabel G. Noel.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Binky Noel is recognized.

REP. NOEL. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. I move that

we consider the Explanatory Note as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker with that, I move that we consider the Explanatory Note as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, since there are no interpellations, and no Member registered to speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

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

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

The period of amendments is now open.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, since there are no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 7445 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 7445 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7445  
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 7445 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we include additional coauthors of House Bills No. 7373, 7437, 7445, 7446, 7525 and 7652 as contained in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we

transmit to the Senate the bills that we just approved on Third Reading.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, May 23, 2018, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until tomorrow, May 23, 2018, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

*It was 7:17 p.m.*