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House of Representatives

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No. 5

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Fredenil "Fred" H. Castro called the session to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Everybody will please rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Everybody will please remain standing for a minute of prayer and meditation.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

ROLL CALL

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

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

The Secretary General is hereby directed to call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 5, dated July 31, 2018. **

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 208 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 208 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the approval of the Journal.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, We would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery, namely, the guests of the Hon. Jeffrey D. Khonghun of the First District of Zambales: Mr. Gilbert Durago of Barangay New Ilalim, Olongapo City, Luisito Manalo, Lani Belino, Marcelina Acera, Aira Jane Macasaet, Divina Espelita, Wendell Antonio, Romeo Caoile, and all the other officials of Barangay New Ilalim, Olongapo City.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The guests of Congressman Jeffrey Khonghun, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOEL. We would also like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Michael L. Romero, PhD, of 1-PACMAN Party-List: the Barangay Captain of Sta. Lucia, Pasig City, Elpidio Buñag; Ms. Karen Kay Anne Segui; Ms. Christine Zamudio; and Mr. Ramon Apuya.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The guests of Congressman Michael Romero,

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

please rise. *(Applause)* Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, with leave of the House, we would like to move that we approve bills on Third Reading.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is hereby directed to read the title of the bills on First Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOEL. Bills on Third Reading, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Majority Leader, please state the bill number and the title, and the Secretary General is hereby directed to call the roll for nominal voting.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7503
ON THIRD READING

REP. NOEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7503 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 30, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7503, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE AS THE NATIONAL SIGN LANGUAGE OF THE FILIPINO DEAF AND THE OFFICIAL SIGN LANGUAGE OF GOVERNMENT IN ALL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING THE DEAF, AND MANDATING ITS USE IN SCHOOLS, BROADCAST MEDIA, AND WORKPLACES.

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 nominal voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7503
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 211 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7503 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the guests of the Hon. Jorge “Bolet” Banal from the Third District of Quezon City. They are the Grade 12 students from Miriam College, together with their teacher, Ms. Rizalyn Camacho.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The guests of Congressman Banal, you are welcome in the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING OF H.B. NO. 7512
ON THIRD READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7512 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 30, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7512, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BARANGAY INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

APPROACH FOR NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT (BIDANI) OF THE RURAL POOR AS A LINKAGE PROGRAM FOR ALL STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCs) AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES 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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7512
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 213 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7512 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7544
ON THIRD READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7544 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 30, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7544, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE LAST MONDAY OF JANUARY OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN OBSERVANCE OF "NATIONAL BIBLE DAY."

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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7544
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 215 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7544 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7373
ON THIRD READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7373 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7373, entitled: AN ACT REQUIRING THE PLANTING OF TREES FOR ANY CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7373
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 217 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7373 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7437
ON THIRD READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7437 and

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7437, entitled: AN ACT PROHIBITING THE PRIVATIZATION AND CORPORATIZATION OF PUBLIC HOSPITALS, PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7437
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 218 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7437 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7742
ON THIRD READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7742 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7742, entitled: AN ACT REINFORCING THE CORPORATE VIABILITY OF THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, STRENGTHENING ITS MONETARY AND FINANCIAL STABILITY FUNCTIONS AND ENHANCING ITS REGULATORY POWERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7653, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE NEW CENTRAL BANK ACT.”

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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7742
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 219 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7742 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7749
ON THIRD READING

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7749 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7749, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 12 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL YOUTH DAY.

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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7749
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 221 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7749 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7752
ON THIRD READING

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7752 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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."

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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7752
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 222 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7752 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7753
ON THIRD READING

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7753 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.

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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7753
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 224 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7753 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7472
ON THIRD READING

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7472 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. Castro, F.H.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7472, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING CERTAIN LANDS OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BANTAYAN, MADRIDEJOS, AND STA. FE, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU, AS AGRICULTURAL LAND OPEN TO DISPOSITION FOR AGRICULTURAL, COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL AND TOURISM PURPOSES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 2151, "DECLARING CERTAIN ISLANDS AND/OR PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AS WILDERNESS AREAS."

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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7472
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 224 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7472 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7483
ON THIRD READING

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7483 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7483, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING MULTISPECIES MARINE HATCHERIES IN THE

CITY OF ZAMBOANGA 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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7483
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 224 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7483 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7498
ON THIRD READING

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7498 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7498, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTISPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATUAN, TICA O ISLAND, PROVINCE OF MASBATE 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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7498
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 224 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

abstention, House Bill No. 7498 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7504
ON THIRD READING

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7504 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7504, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER 28 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF SARANGANI IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY.

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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7504
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 225 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7504 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7508
ON THIRD READING

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7508 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7508, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING MT. PINATUBO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BOTOLAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES AN ECOTOURISM ZONE 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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7508
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 225 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7508 is approved on Third and final Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7509
ON THIRD READING

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7509 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7509, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING MT. TAPULAO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALAUIG, PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND FOREST RESERVE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7509
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 225 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7509 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7545
ON THIRD READING

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7545 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7545, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING OCTOBER 27 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF SARANGANI IN RECOGNITION OF ITS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WHO CONSTITUTE A LARGE PORTION OF THE POPULATION AND HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE RICH AND DIVERSE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE PROVINCE.

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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7545
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 226 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no

abstention, House Bill No. 7545 is approved on Third and final Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7548
ON THIRD READING

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7548 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) There 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7548, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING THE WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY (WVSU)-EXTENSION IN THE CITY OF HIMAMAYLAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A REGULAR CAMPUS OF THE WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY-HIMAMAYLAN CITY CAMPUS 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.5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7548
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 226 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7548 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7713
ON THIRD READING

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7713 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7713, entitled: AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF INOYONAN HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY INOYONAN, MUNICIPALITY OF BULA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR TO FELIPE P. PANTON HIGH SCHOOL.

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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7713
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 226 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7713 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7714
ON THIRD READING

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7714 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7714, entitled: AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF TAWANTAWAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TAWANTAWAN, BAGUIO DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY TO ROSALIA “AGLAY” AYAG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7714
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 226 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7714 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7733
ON THIRD READING

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7733 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7733, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING THE DR. EMILIO B. ESPINOSA, SR. MEMORIAL STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEBESMSCAT) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANDAON, PROVINCE OF MASBATE, INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE DR. EMILIO B. ESPINOSA, SR. – MASBATE STATE UNIVERSITY (DEBESMSU), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7733
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 226 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

abstention, House Bill No. 7733 is hereby approved on Third and final Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7750
ON THIRD READING

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7750 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.

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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7750
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 226 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7750 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7754
ON THIRD READING

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7754 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.”

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. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7754
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 226 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7754 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7767
ON THIRD READING

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7767 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7767, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE SICSICAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – ANNEX IN BARANGAY STA. MONICA, PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM THE SICSICAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS SANTA MONICA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7767
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 226 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7767 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7768
ON THIRD READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7768 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7768, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE BOCBCO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – KIARA ANNEX IN BARANGAY KIARA, MUNICIPALITY OF DON CARLOS, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON FROM THE BOCBCO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS KIARA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7768
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 226 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7768 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7769
ON THIRD READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7769 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7769, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PINAYAG, MUNICIPALITY OF KAYAPA, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA TO BE KNOWN AS PINAYAG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7769
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 229 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7769 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7775
ON THIRD READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7775 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7775, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING THE BAYOG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY KAHAYAGAN, MUNICIPALITY OF BAYOG, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR INTO A NATIONAL TECHNICAL – VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BAYOG NATIONAL TECHNICAL – VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7775
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 229 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7775 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7776
ON THIRD READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7776 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7776, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE DABUBU HIGH SCHOOL – ANNEX IN BARANGAY SINAOANGAN SUR, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN AGUSTIN, PROVINCE OF ISABELA FROM THE DABUBU HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS SOUTHEASTERN REGION HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7776
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 229 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7776 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7777
ON THIRD READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7777 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 July 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7777, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE CABANGAHAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – CORDOVANATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL EXTENSION IN BARANGAY DAY-AS, MUNICIPALITY OF CORDOVA, PROVINCE OF CEBU FROM THE

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

CABANGAHAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS CORDOVA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 5, dated July 31, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7777
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 229 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7777 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that a copy of all bills approved on Third Reading be immediately transmitted to the Senate.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of a Message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 5367, entitled: AN ACT REAPPORTIONING THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS OF THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE TO CREATE AN ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT TO BE KNOWN AS THE EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE.

We have been advised that the Committee on Local Government, the sponsor of the said House Bill, as well as the author thereof has no objections to the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 5367.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOEL. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of a Message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 5160, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF STO. TOMAS IN THE PROVINCE OF BATANGAS INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF STO. TOMAS. We have been advised that the Committee on Local Government, the sponsor of the said House Bill, as well as the author thereof has no objections to the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 5160.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, can I have a one-minute suspension of the session?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended.

It was 6:24 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:24 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed. The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7735
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, I move we consider House Bill No. 7735 contained in Committee Report No. 739, as reported out by the Committees on Agriculture and Food, Ways and Means, and Appropriations.

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

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). 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. 7735, entitled: AN ACT REPLACING THE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON RICE WITH TARIFFS AND CREATING THE RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND.

The author of this measure is the Speaker. We have this evening, Mr. Chairman, the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Food, Representative Panganiban.

May we ask that he be recognized, Mr. Speaker, to sponsor the Bill.

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

Cong. Jose T. Panganiban Jr. CPA, LLB is hereby recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. PANGANIBAN

REP. PANGANIBAN. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, honorable Majority Leader, distinguished Members of the House of Representatives, good afternoon.

Today, I rise in this august Chamber for the consideration of a very important piece of legislation that seeks to provide a balance between our government's commitment to the World Trade Organization and the protection of the welfare of the Filipino rice farmers and rice consumers.

In 1995, the Philippines committed to remove all nontariff barriers in agriculture when it joined the WTO. Thus, Republic Act No. 8178, which was enacted on March 28, 1996, provided for the tariffication of agricultural products imported in the Philippines except rice. It was allowed, however, to maintain its quantitative restriction on rice through the Special Treatment provisions contained in Annex 5 of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. The QR allowed the Philippines to limit imported rice under the Minimum Access Volume mechanism. In 1995, the MAV was

set at 238,000 metric tons and the tariff at 50 percent. This Special Treatment expired on June 30, 2005. The Philippines negotiated for a seven-year extension, or up to June 30, 2012, where, in return for this extension, the Minimum Access Volume was increased to 350,000 metric tons at a tariff of 40 percent in-quota and 50 percent out-quota. The Philippines, again, negotiated for a waiver that allowed the country to postpone the tariffication on rice from July 1, 2012 to July 1, 2017, but the Minimum Access Volume was again increased to 805,000 metric tons at a tariff of 35 percent in-quota and 50 percent out-quota. However, after two extensions, in 2005 and 2012, the Special Treatment provisions of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture has finally expired on June 30, 2017. Another extension would require the country to grant more concessions, which will be costlier in the long run.

Thus, as an interim solution, Executive Order No. 23 was issued on April 27, 2017 by Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte to abate the risk of being placed under a dispute settlement with WTO. Hence, the Committees on Agriculture and Food, Appropriations, and Ways and Means are presenting Committee Report No. 739 regarding House Bill No. 7735, entitled: AN ACT REPLACING THE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON RICE WITH TARIFFS AND CREATING THE RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND, which seeks to put in place the safety nets for Filipino rice producers and rice consumers by imposing tariffs in lieu of quantitative restriction on rice imports.

The key provisions of the Bill are as follows: It mandates the National Food Authority as the sole authority to undertake the direct importation of rice only for purposes of ensuring food security and maintaining sufficient national buffer stocks. It mandates the NFA to issue guidelines for the exportation of rice and corn by certified and licensed exporters. It provides for the composition of the NFA Council which shall be chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, and co-chaired by the Administrator of the NFA, with the following as members: the Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; the Secretary of the Department of Finance; the Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry; the Secretary of the National Economic and Development Authority; the Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development; the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government; the Chairperson of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council; the Executive Secretary under the Office of the President; and two farmer representatives.

It also sets the bound rate for rice imported into the Philippines: at 40 percent MFN rate for importation

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

within the 350,000 metric tons MAV from non-ASEAN WTO member countries, and 180 percent tariff rate MFN out-quota.

It also empowers the President, when necessary, to adjust the applied rate, regulate rice exports, impose temporary regulations or restrictions on the volume of imports of rice, and enter into trade negotiations or renegotiations relating to the bound or maximum rates committed to or to be committed by the Philippines in relation to rice. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, it creates the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund or Rice Fund which shall be constituted of all duties collected from the importation of rice under this Act, to be allocated and disbursed as follows: up to 20 percent of the rice fund shall be utilized for the establishment of a rice endowment fund; up to 20 percent shall be made available as credit subsidy or grants in aid for purposes of increasing rice farms modernization, mechanization and production efficiency; up to 20 percent shall be used for rice crop finance; up to 20 percent shall be used for postharvest facilities, logistics, transportation facilities, and other infrastructure projects; up to 10 percent shall be used for scholarships and vocational education for rice farmers and their children; and up to 10 percent shall be used for research and development.

Mr. Speaker, honorable colleagues, we can no longer postpone rice tariffication. No less than the President has mentioned in his recently concluded SONA the urgency of passing this Bill into law. I strongly believe that all the safety nets in favor of our Filipino rice farmers and rice consumers are contained in House Bill No. 7735. Hence, I would like to appeal to your support for the earnest passage of this this Bill.

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7735

REP. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, at this point in time, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 7735. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, now, we come to the main event of the evening. We will now proceed with the interpellation—the list of interpellators on the privilege speech delivered by the Honorable Quimbo. Next to Deputy Speaker Miro Quimbo—no, he is not Deputy Speaker, he has just transferred to the Minority. Next on the list is Congressman Daza who

will opt to deliver a question of privilege, but with the understanding that his speech will be limited to 15 minutes maximum with no questions, Mr. Speaker.

So, tonight, we continue with our never-ending story on who the Minority Leader is or will be. In the red corner, we have Cong. Danny E. Suarez. In the blue corner, we have Cong. Rudy C. Fariñas. And, of course, in the yellow corner, we have Cong. Miro S. Quimbo.

So, the Minority leadership now, Mr. Speaker, is likened to the West Philippine Sea. There are numerous claimants to the seat of the Minority Leader; and, of course, we also have Eugene Michael B. De Vera, likewise another claimant to the seat of Minority Leader.

So, let us proceed. As per agreement, we will have five Members talking this evening in the following order: Congressmen Daza, Batocabe, Zarate, Tinio and Villarin. Okay, let us proceed with the question of privilege.

May we now recognize Cong. Raul A. Daza for his speech—15 minutes maximum.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Congressman Daza is hereby recognized.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. DAZA

REP. DAZA. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer.

Tonight, I rise on a question of personal and collective privilege under Rule III, Section 11 of the House Rules. Without waiting for the query of the Presiding Officer, I would like to put it on record that the basis for my rising tonight is the fact that in yesterday's session, the learned former Majority Leader, Rodolfo Fariñas, spoke on the floor and made certain statements and allusions affecting the dignity, integrity and reputation of the House as well as my duties, conduct, rights and privileges as a Member representing the First District of Northern Samar.

Mr. Presiding Officer, may I now proceed.

The issue of who constitutes the Minority is simple and clear-cut because it can and should be decided on irreversible facts of record and irrefutable provisions of the House Rules, and a Supreme Court decision which has become case law. In truth, the decision restated the relevant facts and applicable rules.

Still, for clarity, let me recall the salient facts. On July 25, 2018, the Seventeenth Congress, comprising this House and the Senate, convened for each Chamber to organize itself pursuant to Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution. Conformably to Rule I on Convening and Organizing the House, Section 1 of the House rules, this Chamber proceeded to elect a Speaker. Three Members were nominated: Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez, Cong. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. and Cong.

Danilo Suarez. Two hundred fifty-two Members voted for Congressman Alvarez, eight for Congressman Baguilat, seven for Congressman Suarez, with 21 casting votes of abstention and one “No” vote. The leadership recognized Congressman Suarez’ group, which almost entirely consisted of the 21 Members who had abstained, as the Minority and Congressman Suarez as the Minority Leader. Thus, Congressman Baguilat and his group sued in the Supreme Court in *Baguilat vs. Alvarez*, GR No. 227757, July 25, 2016.

The crux of the case was the interpretation of Rule II on Membership, Section 8 of the rules. The relevant paragraphs of which we quote:

Section 8. *The Majority and the Minority.*

– Members who vote for the winning candidate for Speaker shall constitute the Majority in the House and they shall elect from among themselves the Majority Leader. x-x-x

The Minority Leader shall be elected by the Members of the Minority and can be changed, at any time, by a majority vote of all the Minority Members.

x-x-x

Members who choose not to align themselves with the Majority or the Minority shall be considered as independent Members of the House. They may, however, choose to join the Majority or Minority upon written request to and approval thereof by the Majority or Minority, as the case may be.

Under Section 8, who constitutes the Minority? What is the status of the Members who abstained in the election for Speaker?

Section 8, for better or for worse, was silent.

Nevertheless, the Supreme Court gave the answer. It ruled:

After a judicious study of this case, the Court finds that petitioners have no clear legal right to the reliefs sought. Records disclose that prior to the Speakership Election held on July 25, 2016, then-Acting Floor Leader Representative Fariñas responded to a parliamentary inquiry from Representative Atienza as to who would elect the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives. Representative Fariñas then articulated that:

—and this part of the decision is in the original decision involved—

“(a) all those who vote for the winning Speaker shall belong to the Majority and

those who vote for other candidates shall belong to the Minority; (b) those who abstain from voting shall likewise be considered part of the Minority; and (c) the Minority Leader shall be elected by the members of the Minority. Thereafter, the election of the Speaker of the House proceeded without any objection from any member of Congress, including herein petitioners. Notably, the election of the Speaker of the House is the essential and formative step conducted at the First Regular session of the 17th Congress to determine the constituency of the Majority and Minority (and later on, their respective leaders), considering that the Majority would be comprised of those who voted for the winning Speaker and the Minority of those who did not. The unobjected procession of the House at this juncture is reflected in its Journal No. 1 dated July 25, 2016, which, based on case law, is conclusive as to what transpired in Congress: x x x”

In page four of the decision, the Supreme Court reasoned:

Logically speaking, the foregoing circumstances would show that the House of Representatives had effectively adopted Representative Fariñas’ proposal anent the new rules regarding the membership of the Minority, as well as the process of determining who the Minority Leader would be. More significantly, this demonstrates the House’s deviation from the “legal bases” of petitioners’ claim for entitlement to the reliefs sought before this Court, namely: (a) the “long-standing tradition” of automatically awarding the Minority Leadership to the second placer in the Speakership Elections, i.e., Representative Baguilat; and (b) the rule that those who abstained in the Speakership Elections should be deemed as independent Members of the House of Representatives, and thus, they could not have voted for a Minority Leader in the person of Representative Suarez. As will be explained hereunder, the deviation by the Lower House from the aforesaid rules is not averse to the Constitution.

From pages 7 to 8—consequently, the petitioners, the Baguilat group lost in the case and the Suarez group was recognized by the Supreme Court as the Minority and Congressman Suarez as the Minority Leader, as I previously pointed out, quoting from the decision itself. This was because the Court upheld Majority Leader Fariñas’ interpretation of Section 8.

Now, three groups vie for the Minority status: our group consisting of the 12 Members who voted to abstain in the election of the new Speaker, the Fariñas group who did not vote at all, and the Suarez group who voted for the winning and unopposed Speaker led by Congressman Suarez himself. Having abstained, we 12, indubitably belong to the Minority under the *Baguilat* ruling, which is now part of case law. Under this ruling also, having voted for the winning Speaker, Congressman Suarez and his group clearly belong to the Majority. The Suarez group posits that Section 8, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, does not apply to the present situation because Section 8 covers only the organization of the House at the start of the Congress. This is obviously untenable both under the rules and the *Baguilat* Doctrine.

Rule I specifically refers to Convening and Organizing the House. Section 8 is in Rule II on Membership. If Section 8 were intended to apply only when this Chamber convenes and organizes itself in a new Congress, Section 8 would have been under Rule I and not under Rule II. Likewise, in Rule III on Officers, Section 11 does not differentiate between the election of the Speaker at the commencement of this Congress and an election whenever there is a vacancy. The pertinent parts of Section 11 provide, and I quote:

Section 11. Election of Officers. – x x x.

At the commencement of each Congress, the Speaker shall be elected by a majority vote of all the Members and the Secretary General shall record the vote of each Member which shall be cast without explanation. x x x

Likewise, whenever there is a vacancy, the Speaker shall be elected by a majority vote of all the Members and the Secretary General shall record the vote of each Member which shall be cast without explanation.

The language is identical, both when we elect a Speaker at the start of a new Congress and whenever a vacancy occurs in the position of a Speaker as what happened last week. In brief, the rules do not distinguish nor did the Supreme Court in the *Baguilat* case. Familiar to the lawyers—and there are many in this House—is the Latin maxim, *Ubi lex non distinguit, nec nos distinguere debemus*. Where the law does not distinguish, neither should we distinguish.

On the other hand, the Fariñas group contends that although they did not vote in the election of the Speaker, they constitute the Minority. As a starter, let me say, Mr. Presiding Officer, this view is immediately beset by a veritable physical obstacle. According to the Journal of the session of July 23, 2018, which we have already approved unanimously, when the election was held, 243 Members were recorded present during the roll

call. However, in the election for Speaker, 184 voted for Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 12 abstained and three voted “No.” They totaled only 199, which is 44 less than 243. Of these 44 Members, how many were physically present in the Session Hall during the election? How many were physically absent? Of those present, how many subscribed to Congressman Fariñas’ view? How many did not? That, Mr. Presiding Officer, is obviously physically impossible to determine.

Moreover, Congressman Fariñas and his group are now barred by estoppel from denying or rejecting the *Baguilat* Doctrine because it was his own view that was upheld in that case. They belong neither to the Majority nor the Minority. What are they then?

Section 8 classifies them as Independents. This section unequivocally decrees that “Members who choose not to align themselves with the Majority or the Minority shall be considered as independent Members of the House.” They did not vote, they neither aligned with the Majority nor the Minority. Section 8 says that they are Independents. To paraphrase Congressman Fariñas himself when he spoke yesterday, his group belongs neither to heaven nor to hell, but rather properly to purgatory. It is, however, debatable which of the Majority or the Minority deserves heaven or hell. Of course, at the appropriate time, the members of his group are welcome to join us, according to the procedure in Section 8.

Regrettable it was, therefore, Mr. Presiding Officer, when Congressman Fariñas yesterday injected partisanship into the question of the Minority in the House. He warned that if a Liberal becomes the Minority Leader—as I have previously shown he should—the President’s legislative agenda will be at risk. I find this prediction tenuous, to say the least.

Firstly, the Liberal Party ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Chair would like to advise the Gentleman from Northern Samar that he has already consummated the 15 minutes allotted to him.

REP. DAZA. May I ask the indulgence ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Kindly wind down your speech, Congressman Daza.

REP. DAZA. I will wind up in five minutes, Mr. Presiding Officer.

Firstly, the Liberal Party is an opposition party, but it is not an obstructionist one. The records clearly show that both in the Senate and in this House, the Liberals, by and large, have voted for administration measures. Recently, they all voted for the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) in the sponsoring Committees, the Bicameral Conference Committee, and in the Plenary.

Most, if not all of them, have voted for the General Appropriations Act since the advent of the present administration in 2016. Of course, there were times when they voted against certain measures because they believe these were contrary to the party principles and program of government. Secondly, in the election of Speaker Arroyo, five Liberals voted for her because the Liberal Party is a liberal and democratic one. Thirdly, in the election of Senate President Sotto, two Liberal Senators voted for him although four abstained. Minority Leader Franklin Drilon was one of those who abstained.

In other words, Congressman Fariñas was correct when he observed that in determining the Majority and the Minority, as well as the independence if I may add, the rules do not speak of political parties simply because they talk of actual votes in the election. What then, in my humble submission, should be the course and the decision of the House in determining and deciding who constitutes the Minority?

Mr. Presiding Officer, before I answer this, let me indulge in some moments of nostalgia. I had the good fortune, merely from longevity of age if not luck, to have sat in the Seventh Congress which was overtaken by martial law. They tell me that I am the only legislator today in the whole of Congress to be in this hallowed Chamber. I value dearly this institution, as all of you do, and I accord all of you, particularly the present leadership, my utmost respect. Yet, I cannot help but recall the change of Speaker during the Seventh Congress where I sat as a Liberal and a member of the Minority. On April 1, 1971, a resolution was brought before the floor to declare the position of Speaker vacant. Speaker Jose Laurel was the incumbent. Sixty of the 91 members of the Majority who belonged to the Nacionalista, had signed the resolution. Speaker Laurel himself moved for the approval of that resolution. All the 20 members of the Minority who belonged to the Liberal Party, including myself, abstained.

The *delicadeza*—that still undefined sense of legality, propriety, decency and fairness and justice, all together in one word—was simply splendid and for me, then a neophyte, was unforgettable.

I now answer my own question. While this House may debate day to day, hour to hour—we may debate for as long as what they sometimes figuratively describe as “till hell freezes over.” In the ultimate analysis, however, Mr. Presiding Officer, history and future generations will judge this House and all of us, not by entrenched legalisms, clever semantics or pragmatic politics. Aptly, the measure will be that of values that must endure in a true and functional democracy.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Congressman Daza, you have already exceeded your 15 minutes and again, you have exceeded the extension of five minutes that you have been given. Read faster.

REP. DAZA. I move for an extension of just two minutes, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Chair denies the extension requested.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Gentleman from Camarines Norte—no, from Ilocos Norte, is hereby recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS. Will the Gentleman from Northern Samar yield to a few questions because my name was mentioned several times here, Mr. Speaker?

REP. DAZA. With pleasure, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Proceed with your interpellation Congressman Fariñas.

REP. FARIÑAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Gentleman cited the case of *Baguilat* where he was one of the petitioners. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. DAZA. Yes.

REP. FARIÑAS. In that case, the Gentleman and his colleagues, namely, Representatives Baguilat, Lagman, Erice, Billones, Villarín and Alejano, the Magnificent Seven as they called themselves before, were claiming that they were the duly constituted Minority. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. DAZA. Well, the first part is incorrect. Our group was baptized “Magnificent Seven” not by ourselves, but by the media. Now, the second part is correct.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, okay, but you were one of the seven petitioners.

REP. DAZA. That is correct.

REP. FARIÑAS. They wanted, Mr. Speaker, to be recognized by the Supreme Court, claiming that the House of Representatives committed a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of jurisdiction in recognizing the Suarez group.

REP. DAZA. Well, technically, that was the ground, okay, although the Supreme Court, I think by way of obiter dictum, said that the question was political and

that normally or generally, the Supreme Court will deny jurisdiction. Nevertheless, I believe that for the guidance of the House, it made a ruling. As I had mentioned, the ruling of the Supreme Court was an affirmation or reaffirmation of the position taken by then Majority Leader, my distinguished colleague from Ilocos Norte, on the interpretation of Section 8.

REP. FARIÑAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAZA. Let me finish my answer, if I may. In fact, and I would say, as a laurel or even an honor to the distinguished Gentleman, the Supreme Court—which in a rare occasion, you know, as shown in this case—admitted that it was departing from the tradition invoked by the petitioner, the tradition being that whoever comes in second in the election for Speaker, becomes the Minority Leader. The Supreme Court said, “Nevertheless, we are not going to abide by any such tradition. We uphold the interpretation of the Majority Leader.”—and so, even invoked in the decision itself, the Supreme Court categorized what should govern us now:

(a) all those who vote for the winning Speaker shall belong to the Majority and those who vote for the other candidates shall belong to the Minority; (b) those who abstain from voting shall likewise be considered part of the Minority; and (c) The Minority Leader shall be elected by the members of the Minority.

The language of the Supreme Court in making this ruling cannot be any clearer and so, I would like to reply to the distinguished Gentleman that no matter how we speak of technicalities, invoke legalisms here, the language of the Supreme Court is so clear as to preclude further debate.

The group of the distinguished Gentleman from Ilocos Norte did not vote. They neither voted for the winning Speaker nor did they abstain and so, as I have said, under Section 8, they are Independents. Of course, they are free to join the Majority or the Minority at the appropriate time by following the procedure in Section 8. Kagaya nga—as I have said, although I intended to be just humorous about it, to paraphrase the language, the colorful language of the distinguished Gentleman from Ilocos Norte, his group neither belongs to heaven nor to hell, but probably to purgatory. Although I would—as I have said, I am not sure whether, either for the Majority or the Minority, heaven or hell is the appropriate place for them.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, my simple question was not answered. I am now constrained to answer the Gentleman that my group did not vote during that

election. How could we vote when we did not know that there was a session? I do not even want to go into that anymore because by House Resolution No. 2025, we have entered the election into the records.

For the record, Mr. Speaker, how can we vote when we did not know that there was a session? There was no quorum bell and we were here the whole day and for the record, we adjourned at 12:45 p.m. Neither was there any call for a session before the SONA. I was here, and my office is the closest to the Session Hall. You were here. In fact, I was just telling Deputy Speaker Quimbo earlier, he is still the Deputy Speaker. He should have objected to the proceedings. What is this proceedings? In fairness to the Gentleman from Albay, he questioned the proceedings, and I am referring to the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman.

Then we had the SONA and—I have been a Member of this august Chamber for a long time—after the SONA, we all go home and have parties, but unknown to us, you had another session here and you did not call us. And you say that because of that proceedings that you had here, the incumbent Speaker, and the incumbent Majority Leader are now Independents because we did not participate. Sir, if the elections were conducted during our session in accordance with our rules and we did not come to vote, then that would have been our lookout, and you can say that we did not participate in the voting. But how could we have participated, Sir? When we adjourned at noon of Monday, after informing the Senate that we had passed and adopted a Concurrent Resolution, we sent or constituted Members to inform the Senate. The Senate likewise informed us that they had passed a Concurrent Resolution and so, we adjourned for the SONA in a Joint Session of both Houses of Congress. As witnessed by the whole world, the SONA was conducted and after the President delivered his SONA, the Speaker of the House then, the Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez said, “On the part of the House, the Joint Session is adjourned”; and the Senate President likewise adjourned the Joint Session. So I was there in my office—we did know that you held an election and, Sirs from the Liberal Party, you participated passively. You instigated and agitated the rump session because, Sir, you should have objected. But no, you played possum there, goaded and tricked the Minority into voting and by that subterfuge, you were there but you did not object at all but told them, in fact, goaded them to vote especially in the morning, because in the morning, there were only 147 but there were 14 of them being heroic, they joined the Majority to be able to get 161 votes.

That is now already in our records, and House Resolution 2025 has been adopted. So, I take issue with the statement of the Gentleman that since we did not vote, we neither abstained nor voted for the winning candidate. That is a skewed interpretation of the rules.

Under our rules, Sir, the rules say that we will have session only at 4:00 p.m. You conducted the session in the evening without informing us.

I was the Majority Leader but I will not go into that anymore, Mr. Speaker, because we recognize the speakership of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. What we do not recognize is—I will ask the Gentleman, in that case that you filed, did the Supreme Court not state that the Suarez group was the validly constituted Minority in the House and not your group?

REP. DAZA. Let me first respond.

REP. FARIÑAS. I asked a question, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAZA. No, no, I would like to respond to the distinguished Gentleman with regard to his last observation when he, for instance, said that the Liberals agitated or incited the rump session. First of all, by his own admission, the words or the term “rump session” is inappropriate because the Gentleman himself admitted that the proceedings have been ratified by a resolution.

Now, secondly, 243 were present during the election and 199 actually voted, and that is more than a quorum. I think what happened is something related to what the Bible refers to as a situation where there are those who looked but chose not to see, and there were those who heard but chose not to listen. I cannot imagine that 199 Members of the House who actually voted were not notified. I would just surmise that if the distinguished Gentleman, then the Majority Leader, was just at his office at the back of Session Hall, he probably shut himself from the rest of the world for reasons of his own, and I would not want to speculate. So be it.

REP. FARIÑAS. No, I asked my question to be answered.

REP. DAZA. I cannot believe that one hundred and—let me just stress, Mr. Presiding Officer, that I find it rather odd, if not laughable, that 199 Members of this House came to the session and voted; and that earlier, a roll call was made and 243 answered the roll call. That to me, Mr. Presiding Officer, is, perhaps, rather comical.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Chair believes that any question on the number of votes is reflected well in House Resolution No. 2025.

REP. DAZA. That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). This Representation believes that the best evidence is the copy of House Resolution No. 2025.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Chair also believes that...

REP. DAZA. I concur.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). ... the distinguished Gentleman from Camarines Norte has already sufficiently answered the query of the good Gentleman from Southern Leyte. Therefore, the Chair rules that we will now—sorry, from Southern Samar—proceed to the interpellation of Congressman Quimbo from Marikina City.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, Mr. Speaker, from Ilocos Norte, Sir, not Camarines Norte.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Ilocos Norte.

REP. FARIÑAS. Sir, I just asked but he did not, the Gentleman did not answer my question—in the decision on *Baguilat vs. Alvarez, Fariñas and Suarez*, the Supreme Court upheld that the duly constituted Minority is the group of Suarez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). I will give the Gentleman from Southern Samar one minute to answer the question...

REP. FARIÑAS. It is only “yes” or “no.”

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). ... of the good Gentleman from Ilocos Norte. Will he want to answer the query?

REP. DAZA. Yes, I will. I will answer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Now, please answer, and you have one minute.

REP. DAZA. Mr. Presiding Officer, it is not Southern Samar, it is Northern Samar.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Northern Samar.

REP. DAZA. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Chair stands corrected. Let us not waste time.

REP. DAZA. Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Please answer the question of the Gentleman.

REP. DAZA. Yes, that is true. That was how the Supreme Court decided the case and so, what I am saying is, now that the shoe is on the other foot, that decision was binding, was applicable to us, then it is binding and applicable also to the group of the distinguished Gentleman from Ilocos Norte.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Is the Gentleman from Ilocos Norte now satisfied with the answer of Congressman Daza?

REP. FARIÑAS. I am not satisfied, but I will terminate my interpellation, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you to the Gentleman from Northern Samar.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). We will now proceed, Majority Leader.

REP. DAZA. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. ANDAYA. Alright, at this point in time, I would like to move that we again recognize Congressman Quimbo to continue the interpellation on his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Congressman Quimbo is recognized.

REP. ANDAYA. To interpellate him, may we ask that we recognize now, the Hon. Rodel M. Batocabe of Party-List AKO BICOL.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Congressman Batocabe is hereby recognized for his interpellation.

REP. QUIMBO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Majority Leader.

REP. BATOCABE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Will the Gentleman from Marikina City yield to a few questions so that this Representation will be enlightened by his novel interpretation of our rules?

REP. QUIMBO. Yes, willingly, and there is nothing novel about my interpretation because they are the express words of the law that I can only enunciate.

REP. BATOCABE. Mr. Speaker.

REP. QUIMBO. Novelty is your talent, not mine, but please go ahead.

REP. BATOCABE. Okay. Are you now in heaven, purgatory or hell?

REP. QUIMBO. Wherever I will be, I wish we would be together. (Laughter)

REP. BATOCABE. Okay. Now, may I just be enlightened as to whether or not you are still the Deputy Speaker of this House?

REP. QUIMBO. No, I am not. I am no longer the Deputy Speaker.

REP. BATOCABE. Ang gusto po ninyong sabihin, hindi na po kayo Deputy Speaker? Paano pong nangyari na hindi na kayo Deputy Speaker?

REP. QUIMBO. Noong nagkaroon po noong eleksiyon noong Lunes, noong July 24, 2018, because of the votes cast, as expressed in Section 8, we, in effect and by force of law, became members of the Minority. Effectively, when we organized ourselves, I was unfortunately elected as the Minority Leader; I therefore ceased from being the Deputy Speaker.

REP. BATOCABE. So, ang sinasabi po ninyo, noong nag-abstain po kayo sa botohan sa Speaker, kayo po ay hindi na Miyembro ng Mayorya at automatic na nawala kayo sa pagiging Deputy Speaker, at napunta kayo sa Minorya.

REP. QUIMBO. Tama po iyon. Hindi po ako ang nagsasabi, ang Section 8 po ang nagsasabi at ang *Baguilat vs. Alvarez and Fariñas* case, decided in July 25, 2017.

REP. BATOCABE. Okay. Ngayon po, do you consider yourself as an officer of the House, being the Deputy Speaker?

REP. QUIMBO. I used to be an officer of the House, yes.

REP. BATOCABE. Yes, an officer of the House and so, if you are an officer of the House, you should be governed by the rules on Officers and that is Rule III, am I right?

REP. QUIMBO. Partly, yes, but not exclusively.

REP. BATOCABE. Okay. Bilang Deputy Speaker,

...

REP. QUIMBO. Yes po.

REP. BATOCABE. Under the rules, and I quote,

“x x shall hold office until the term of the Congress in which they were elected ends unless they resign, are removed from office, or are permanently incapacitated to perform their duties.” So, ito lang po ang mga kondisyones na pupuwede kang maalis sa iyong posisyon.

REP. QUIMBO. Tama po.

REP. BATOCABE. The law is clear, tama po ba?

REP. QUIMBO. Tama po.

REP. BATOCABE. Are you also aware that our rules provide for a vacancy sa isang posisyon ng opisyal?

REP. QUIMBO. Yes, again, it is stated in Rule III the grounds upon which vacancy takes place as well as how it will be filled up.

REP. BATOCABE. Okay. Ang vacancy lang ho dito, kapag ikaw ay namatay And obviously, buhay ka pa.

REP. QUIMBO. Huwag mo naman ako patayin.

REP. BATOCABE. Ang maging gulay ka, maging baldado or permanently incapacitated, tama ba?

REP. QUIMBO. Tigasin pa ito, kayang-kaya pa.

REP. BATOCABE. Baldado, gulay. Hindi ka naman naging gulay.

REP. QUIMBO. Yes po.

REP. BATOCABE. Or kung idineklara ng iyong mga kasamahan dito sa Kamara na bakante na ang posisyon. Lahat na ito, ang mga enumeration na ito, nangyari ba sa kaso mo?

REP. QUIMBO. Hindi po kasi hindi naman iyon ang dahilan kung bakit nagkaroon ng vacancy or na-terminate ako as Deputy Speaker. It was, effectively, the first one which is resignation.

REP. BATOCABE. Klarong-klaro po dito sa rules natin, vacancy. Kanina sinasabi ho ng magiting na Kinatawan ng Northern Samar na when the law does not distinguish, you should not distinguish.

REP. QUIMBO. Yes po.

REP. BATOCABE. Vacancy, tama? Vacancy, doon lang po, at nagkakaroon ng vacancy dito sa mga in-enumerate sa Section 13. Tama?

REP. QUIMBO. Yes, exclusio alterius. When the law expressly includes, it excludes others.

REP. BATOCABE. Okay, it excludes in the law— what is not included should be excluded.

REP. QUIMBO. That is inclusio unius.

REP. BATOCABE. Inclusio unius, yes.

REP. QUIMBO. That is the other principle, but it is the same, yes.

REP. BATOCABE. Okay. So, dito po, these are the only instances as enumerated in our rules wherein an office is declared vacant, the office of an officer such as a Deputy Speaker, and this is expressly and categorically stated in our rules. That is clear and certain, is it not?

REP. QUIMBO. Yes. Like I said, I vacated the position by virtue of resignation.

REP. BATOCABE. Nag-resign ho kayo?

REP. QUIMBO. Yes.

REP. BATOCABE. So, ang gustong sabihin, nag-resign, hindi automatic.

REP. QUIMBO. Anong ibig sabihin ng “hindi automatic”?

REP. BATOCABE. Hindi automatic. Kanina sinasabi ho ninyo nawala kayo sa pagiging Deputy Speaker dahil bumoto kayo, nag-abstain kayo sa eleksiyon sa Speaker at naging miyembro kayo ng Minority by operation of law. You resigned so you no longer hold the office of a Deputy Speaker.

REP. QUIMBO. Hindi po, mali po.

REP. BATOCABE. So, ang gustong sabihin ...

REP. QUIMBO. Nag-resign ako effective at the point of writing the Speaker when I was elected as the Minority Leader.

REP. BATOCABE. So, ang gustong sabihin, nag-resign kayo after na-elect kayo na Minority Leader.

REP. QUIMBO. Well, you can argue that, yes.

REP. BATOCABE. So, ang gusto mong sabihin, everything is not automatic.

REP. QUIMBO. You do not ...

REP. BATOCABE. You still need an enabling act, that is, writing a letter.

REP. QUIMBO. Yes, for officers, that is correct but not for membership in the Minority or Majority—that is automatic.

REP. BATOCABE. Hindi po ba masyadong contradictory iyan? Bakit kailangan mo pang mag-resign? Nawala ka. Sabi mo nga noong bumoto ka ng “abstain,” wala ka na sa Majority. Kung wala ka na sa Majority, at ang source ng posisyon mo ay ang pagiging miyembro ng Majority and as such, automatic na nawala ka na sa posisyon mo, hindi ba?

REP. QUIMBO. Hindi...

REP. BATOCABE. Itong ginawa ho ninyo ay parang contradictory. Dapat sana kung ang posisyon ninyo na kapag bumoto ka ng “abstain,” pupunta ka na sa Minority, wala ka nang gagawin na ibang aksiyon, ay automatic din na resigned ka as Deputy Speaker, tama?

REP. QUIMBO. Iyan ang posisyon ninyo pero ang posisyon ko is, in fact, we have had an opportunity in the past na we had officers who, in fact, originally were in the Minority. So, nangyari po iyan, especially the Deputy Speaker.

REP. BATOCABE. So, ang gustong sabihin, hindi automatic, tama?

REP. QUIMBO. Ang pinag-uusapan natin ay hindi po whether you are a member of the Minority or the Majority. Ang pinag-uusapan natin ay Section 11 regarding the officers of the House.

REP. BATOCABE. Yes, pero ang office ding iyan ...

REP. QUIMBO. Wawalo lang ho iyan.

REP. BATOCABE. ...hindi ka pu-puwedeng maging officer unless you are a member, hindi ba?

REP. QUIMBO. Of course.

REP. BATOCABE. That was a condition sine qua non.

REP. QUIMBO. Nakasulat po dito, babasahin ko, kung maaari, “The officers of the House namely the Speaker,”—the sex, the sex, puwede na ring “sex”—“the six (6) Deputy Speakers, the Secretary General and the Sergeant-at-Arms shall be elected at

the commencement of each Congress.” They will be voted upon by the majority of all Members and with the Secretary General recording the vote of each Member as cast without explanation.

Hindi po nakasulat dito na kailangan Mayorya ka o Minorya. Ang nire-require, iboto ka ng majority ng lahat ng Miyembro.

REP. BATOCABE. Ang gusto mong sabihin, puwede rin galing sa Minority, sa tingin ng Deputy Speaker.

REP. QUIMBO. Ako, kapag itinulak ng majority at magnanimous, nothing prevents them from doing that under the rules.

REP. BATOCABE. Okay, let me go now, let us say, for example, sa teorya mo ...

REP. QUIMBO. Hindi ko teorya iyon. Iyon ang batas.

REP. BATOCABE. Iyon ang sabi mo.

REP. QUIMBO. Iyon na nga ang sabi ko e.

REP. BATOCABE. Iba rin iyong batas na binabasa ko e.

REP. QUIMBO. Ang tingin ko nga, iyong binabasa mong libro ay baka luma.

REP. BATOCABE. Hindi, tama rin, pareho rin.

REP. QUIMBO. Okay.

REP. BATOCABE. Sa nabanggit ninyo, anim na Deputy Speaker lang. Marami na tayong Deputy Speaker. Anyway, ngayon, iyong nangyari noong nakaraang Lunes, nagkaroon po tayo ng bagong Speaker, ...

REP. QUIMBO. Opo.

REP. BATOCABE. ... is it your interpretation that once we elect a new Speaker, there is a reorganization in the House?

REP. QUIMBO. I-define mo kung ano ang ibig sabihin ng reorganization.

REP. BATOCABE. Meaning to say, those who voted for the Speaker will comprise the Majority; and those who abstained like you, and those who voted against the Speaker will now comprise the Minority.

REP. QUIMBO. Yes, pero hindi iyan ang definition ng reorganization kasi ang reorganization also involves all the standing committees and the subcommittees.

REP. BATOCABE. Okay.

REP. QUIMBO. So, linawin natin kung ano po ang gusto ninyong epekto para mas maging maganda ang pag-uusap.

REP. BATOCABE. Okay. Ngayon, kapag ganoon po ang interpretasyon, ang magiging epekto po nito ay magbabago-bago ang komposisyon ng Kamara, sa Majority at sa Minority. Tama?

REP. QUIMBO. Tama po dahil maaapektuhan, depende sa magiging boto mo. Tulad sa lahat ng parlamento sa buong mundo, hindi lang sa Asya pero sa buong mundo, kung ano ang magiging boto mo sa speakership, whether it is at the start, in the middle, two weeks before it ends, it will determine whether you are in the Majority or the Minority.

REP. BATOCABE. At maaapektuhan din po ang lahat ng posisyon.

REP. QUIMBO. Not necessarily, but ultimately maybe. Ibig sabihin, hindi naman dini-declare—ang posisyon lang naman na maaapektuhan diyan ay ang Minority at saka ang Majority Leader. Iyong chairmanship, iba ang proseso ng pag-o-organize. Nasa kabilang rule po iyan.

REP. BATOCABE. Pero posible na iyong bumoto na mga chairperson, hindi bumoto o nag-abstain, sila rin ay mawawala na rin sa posisyon. Tama?

REP. QUIMBO. Kapag ibinoto sila ng karamihan ng mga miyembro ng committee, then, matatanggal sila.

REP. BATOCABE. Hindi. Ang tanong ay—ang gusto mong sabihin, ang interpretation mo kapag, let us say, for example, I am a chairman of a certain committee and I abstained ...

REP. QUIMBO. Pangalanan mo para malinaw.

REP. BATOCABE. ... and I voted “no.”

REP. QUIMBO. Pangalanan mo which committee para malinaw—Ways and Means?

REP. BATOCABE. Oh, si Dax Cua.

REP. QUIMBO. Okay, go.

REP. BATOCABE. Okay. Hindi bumoto si Dax Cua.

REP. QUIMBO. Yes, po.

REP. BATOCABE. Ano na ngayon ang sitwasyon ni Dax Cua?

REP. QUIMBO. He remains the Chairman of the Committee but he is no longer part of the Majority.

REP. BATOCABE. So, ang gusto mong sabihin, ang teorya mo, Chairman pa siya ng Committee pero Minority siya.

REP. QUIMBO. Yes, because hindi naman nakasaad sa rules natin in the organization of committees, hindi naman sinasabi doon that the chairmen of the committees must be members of the Majority. Ang sinasabi lang is that, they must be organized proportionately.

REP. BATOCABE. Okay.

REP. QUIMBO. Unfortunately, in his case, ang mangyayari, ang Ways and Means has 88 members on record. Kapag proportionate ang sharing diyan, tinitingnan mo, “Ilan ba ang Minority?” Sabihin na nating ang Minority ay may 10 porsiyento, kaya ang ibig sabihin, of the 88, dapat 8.8 ang Minority members ng committee.

Now, unfortunately, he is now part of the Minority, susuportahan pa ba siya noong 90 percent? That remains to be seen. In all likelihood, they will probably remove him if the Majority, through their caucus, decides na tanggalin siya. It is not automatic because the leadership in these committees is dependent on the rules on how committees are organized.

REP. BATOCABE. Okay. Ngayon, sinasabi mong Minority Leader ka. Tama?

REP. QUIMBO. Anong ibig mong sabihin?

REP. BATOCABE. Sinabi mong nahalal ka na Minority Leader.

REP. QUIMBO. Tama po.

REP. BATOCABE. Tama po? Sino naman ang kasama mo?

REP. QUIMBO. Kasama ko po iyong nasa unang organizational meeting namin, iyong lahat ng nag-abstain at ang nag-“no” doon sa botohan noong July 24.

REP. BATOCABE. Ang gusto mong sabihin din, automatic din iyon.

REP. QUIMBO. Which is automatic? Linawin mo iyong tanong mo.

REP. BATOCABE. Automatic, iyong kapag nagboto ka laban sa Speaker, automatic na Minority ka.

REP. QUIMBO. Depende sa magiging boto mo. The rules are very specific.

REP. BATOCABE. Iyon nga ang sinasabi ko. Again,...

REP. QUIMBO. It governs Rule II, it is called Membership. It is not found in Rule I. As we all know, Rule I talks about the organization of the House. It is in Rule II because, precisely, it governs the character of our Members at any point in time. Kapag bumoto ka sa nanalong kandidato, you do not give up your other positions, you do not give up your chairmanship. What you determine is—Magiging ano ka ba, Mr. Speaker? Are you going to be a part of the Majority because you voted for the winning candidate, or are you going to be a part of the Minority because you either voted for the losing candidate or you abstained—as sustained in the most recent jurisprudence? Iyan po ang mangyayari kahit ano ang ating gawin.

REP. BATOCABE. Bakit kailangan palitan ang na-constitute na Majority at ang Minority?

REP. QUIMBO. Because the Congress is constantly ever-changing, depending on who is the leader, hindi lang ang constitution. Kapag sinasabing, when you constitute the Congress for the first time, nakasaad, “for the first time.” First plenary meeting natin, organizational, ito iyon pero kapag subsequent, you are effectively constituting Congress again because of the votes that you make, depending on who wins.

REP. BATOCABE. Ang gusto mong sabihin ...

REP. QUIMBO. Ang pinanggalingan ng konseptong iyan ay giyera. Congress as a legislature, even during the time of our great forefathers from which we patterned it, is very clear—nag-aaway kayo, there is combat, at nagpapatayan. Whoever wins, sides with and fights for one king becomes part of the Majority, and those who lose, they are part of the Minority. It is as simple as that. Why are you called “Majority”? Bakit? As defined by the most basic dictionary, you are the Majority if you comprise more than 50 percent plus one. Iyon lang ang tinitingnan. Are you part of the 50 percent plus one? If you are, then, you are the

Majority. Bata pa lang ako, iyan na ang itinuro sa atin. Huwag mo sasabihin sa akin na pagdating sa Kongreso, iibahin natin iyong pinaka-basic na definition.

REP. BATOCABE. Iyan po, when you are referring to the election of a Speaker. The election of a Speaker is the duty of every Member of this House, regardless of whether you are from the Majority or from the Minority. The Speaker is the administrative and political head of this House. That is why it is not accounting for the Majority or even the Minority. Hindi na po pinag-uusapan dito kung sino ang magko-constitute ng Majority or Minority. What we are doing, what we did last Monday is we elected our leader regardless of whether we are from the Minority or the Majority. There are members of the Minority who might not want the Speaker and so, they have to get members from the Majority. So, ang ini-elect po natin dito ay Speaker bilang right natin as Members of Congress and this is not for the determination as to who will comprise the Minority or the Majority. What we did is we just elected our leader. That is why may vacancy doon. So, it does not mean that if you elect the leader—nanalo ka, nasa Majority ka na. Mababago na agad ang membership ng House kasi ang ini-elect lang po natin ay iyong leader nating lahat at hindi po iyong idi-determine natin kung sino ang Majority or Minority.

Section 8 refers to the determination as to who will comprise the Majority and the Minority. Once you determine the Majority and the Minority of the House, the rules also provide how you can be a member of the Minority or a member of the Majority. The rules are clear. Paano ka na—let us say na naayos na natin ang composition ng Members of the House. Then, the rules provide for a way, a procedure, in order for you to join the Minority or to join the Majority. Klaro na po iyan. Mayroon na po tayong rules.

Ngayon, sabi ko nga, the Speaker is not only the leader of the Majority. The Speaker is not a member of the Majority nor is he a member of the Minority. Rather, the Speaker is the head of the House, the administrative and political head. He is the primus inter pares. So, in other words—ano ba iyon—unique siya. Hindi siya Majority, hindi Minority. It does not mean, if I vote for the Speaker, Majority na kami because the Speaker is the one presiding. So, when we exercise our right, when we declared our seat as vacant last Monday and then eventually elected a new Speaker, we were not doing that to determine the Minority or the Majority. Rather, we were electing our leader. We declared the position vacant because we wanted a new leader, not because of alliances or labanan, but because we wanted a new leader. Iyon po ang spirit and intent na nakikita ko dito sa rules na ito.

REP. QUIMBO. If I may respond. If we are to

follow that logic, it is clearly skewed. If we are to follow that logic, what you are saying is that what happened on July 24 is not similar to what we did on July 23, 2016. Ang sabi mo, iyong rules ng Section 8, nag-a-apply lang noong July 26. Hindi ito nag-a-apply sa July 25, 2018. Papanong hindi? Anong rule ang naggo-govern pagdating sa panahon ng botohan?

The rules which we passed cover all instances when the election of a Speaker happens. Why? It is important to determine where sides are drawn. What you want to avoid is that the parties or the Minority and the Majority—that characterization is no longer important, hindi na importante. Kung tatanggapin ko ang sinasabi mo, ang pag-determine lang ng Minority o Majority ay sa simula lang, na kapag magbago o magkaroon ng pagbabago ng pamahalaan o magkaroon ng bagong Speaker, hindi maaapektuhan. Parang tila taliwas naman yata iyan sa napaka-basic principle na kapag ikaw ay sumuporta—the rules are clear, and let me read—it does not distinguish—“Members who vote for the winning candidate for Speaker shall constitute the Majority in the House.”

Hindi sinasabi rito that this rule will only apply if it happens at the point of constitution of the House for the first time. Hindi po. Bakit? Because this is the only rule that will always govern. Kung mayroong ibang rule, ipakita ninyo sa akin on how the characterization of whether you are a Minority or a Majority, how will that be governed if the change of Speaker takes place after the first opening of Congress.

Lastly, on how ridiculous that kind of an interpretation is—you are, in effect, promoting na magdoble-kara ang mukha ng mga tao dito. Kung iyan ay tinatanggap mo, kung iyan ang tingin mo na kagalang-galang dito na isang Miyembro ng ating Kamara na puwede kang magdalawang mukha, kabahagi ka ng Minorya and not only kabahagi but you are the Minority Leader, yet at the same time, you are the best friend of the Speaker of the House, ano pang gamit ng pagkakaroon ng hiwalay? Who will do the function of checks and balances? Anong gagawin na lang nila kung hindi puwede at hindi na papalitan automatically? Ang gagawin lang ng Mayorya, gusto natin tanggalin ang Speaker tulad ng nangyari noong nakaraan, gawin natin. I-coup po natin lahat ng posisyon, kunin natin lahat. Kayo ang challenger, so ang gagawin natin para kapag maupo itong ating Speaker na sinusupportahan, kapag maupo siya, hawak na natin ang Majority, hawak pa natin ang Minority. Ayos na ang buto-buto, hindi ba?

So, if we accept that, you are in effect accepting that the House, you will accept that sa isang lutong-makaw na Kongreso, hindi naman puwede. Kapag tumaya ka, tumaya ka. Hindi puwedeng dalawa ang sumbrero mo. Number one supporter ka ng Speaker and yet at the same time, ikaw ang namumuno sa magtse-check and balance? Mahiya naman tayo.

REP. BATOCABE. Una, sasagutin kita doon sa nag-a-apply na rule. Last Monday, we declared a vacancy. So, it should refer not to what composes the Majority or the Minority sa provision. It should not refer to Section 8, but to the controlling provision should be Section 13 on Vacancy kasi iyon po ang pinaguusapan po natin. When we started this Seventeenth Congress, wala pa pong Speaker and so, we have to elect and to organize the House, including determining the Majority and the Minority.

Ngayon, may Speaker na and so, we declared a vacancy. The controlling provision should be Section 13 and that refers only to the vacancy in the position of Speaker. Pangalawa, who are we to judge kung sino ang magiging kaibigan ng Speaker, kung magiging ineffective ang Dep. Minority Leader, o magiging moro-moro ang Kongresong ito? It is not for us to judge. Let us say, si Minority Leader Danny Suarez is the best friend of GMA because before anything else, baka more or less, iyong mga gusto ring maging Minority Leader ay may association din one way or another sa ating Speaker. So, I do not think personal association or even connection should be the standard in order to determine who will be the Minority Leader.

The Minority Leader, the Minority has already been constituted. So, it is the duty of the Minority headed by the Minority Leader to perform its duty and that is, to serve as the checks and balances, as the fiscalizer. If it fails to do that duty, it is not for us to judge, it is for the people to judge. Ang taumbayan na ang maghuhusga at magsasabing walang kuwentang Minorya iyan, walang kuwentang Kongreso iyan, rubber stamp na iyan. Pero huwag muna natin uunahan at sasabihin natin na si Danny Suarez ay kaibigan ni Speaker at hindi siya magiging epektibong Minorya. Ang sinasabi lang po natin dito, he has his duty and he has to do his duty, at kung hindi niya gagawin ay mananagot siya sa taumbayan and eventually, this institution will suffer.

The point here is we have already constituted the Majority, we have already constituted the Minority. If you want to join the Minority, then there is a process in joining the Minority and also with respect to the Majority. As to whether or not the Minority Leader is an extension of the Speaker, then we might just as well also accuse the Majority Leader as an extension of the Speaker. Then, we might as well close this House because I maintain that the Speaker should be above the fray. She should not be a member of the Majority, nor be a member of Minority. That is why the Speaker is the one presiding, the one judging. So, the Majority is the one pushing for the bills and it is the Minority that is fiscalizing, that is checking. It is not for the Speaker to check. Ang Speaker ang nagpe-preside. Iyon po. Ito lang ang trabaho ng Speaker, at hindi po siya Minority or Majority.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is all.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Speaker, if I may just respond.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Majority Leader.

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Speaker, I have the floor.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, we are moving ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Proceed.

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. ... for adjournment because there are not enough Members anymore and we thank Congressman Batocabe for clarifying an issue ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. ... but we cannot learn anything more because there is no quorum.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). I recognized the Majority Leader.

REP. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, before we ...

REP. ATIENZA. There is no quorum anymore and we are questioning ...

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Speaker.

ELECTION OF REP. ERMITA-BUHAIN TO THE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS

REP. ANDAYA. Before we adjourn for the evening, Mr. Speaker, we would like to move that we elect as Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Accounts, the Hon. Elenita Milagros "Eileen" Ermita-Buhain. I so move.

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Majority Leader.

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

Congresswoman Ermita-Buhain is elected as Vice Chairperson of the House Committee on Accounts.

REP. ATIENZA. We move to adjourn.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. We move to adjourn, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ANDAYA. I move that we adjourn, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FARIÑAS. I object, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). There is a motion to adjourn.

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Speaker, I have not even responded yet.

REP. ANDAYA. I move to adjourn the session, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you.

REP. FARIÑAS. We object.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). There is a motion to adjourn.

REP. FARIÑAS. I object.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). There is a motion on the floor. Is there any objection?

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I am objecting.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). We adjourn the session until tomorrow at four o'clock in the afternoon, August 1, 2018.

It was 7:45 p.m.