Journal of the House of Representatives

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2016 - 2017

JOURNAL NO. 23
Monday, September 19, 2016

Prepared by the
JOURNAL SERVICE
Plenary Affairs Bureau
CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Sharon S. Garin called the session to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PRAYER

Pursuant to Section 73, Rule XI of the amended Provisional Rules of the House, the Members sang the National Anthem and thereafter, Representative Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno delivered the invocation.

DEFERMENT OF THE ROLL CALL

On motion of Rep. Ann K. Hofer, there being no objection, the Body deferred the calling of the Roll.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

As copies of Journal No. 22, dated September 14, 2016, had been distributed to the Members, on motion of Rep. Hofer, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the said Journal and subsequently approved the same.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

On another motion of Rep. Hofer, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Reference of Business.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read on First Reading the titles of the following Bills including the Communications, which were referred to the appropriate Committees or consigned to the Archives as hereunder indicated:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 3559, entitled:

“AN ACT FORMALLY INCORPORATING THE MALAMPAYA SOUND PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE SITUATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF TAYTAY AND SAN VICENTE, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN WITHIN THE ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS NETWORK SYSTEM OF PALAWAN AND THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Alvarez (F.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 3560, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION TO OFFER INDEX BASED INSURANCE COVERAGE AND ALLOWING IT TO ENGAGE IN REINSURANCE, INCREASING ITS FUNDING SOURCE AND IMPOSING HEAVIER PENALTIES ON SPURIOUS CLAIMS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1467, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHARTER OF THE PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION (PCIP)”

By Representative Yap (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 3561, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER SEVENTEEN OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LOS BAÑOS, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA IN CELEBRATION OF THE TOWN’S FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY AND THE ANNUAL BAÑAMOS FESTIVAL”

By Representative Chipeco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS
House Bill No. 3562, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC RESTROOMS ALONG NATIONAL ROADS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Mercado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3563, entitled:

“AN ACT ENHANCING THE PHILIPPINE BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM BY FOCUSING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL THINKING, CRAFTSMANSHIP AND CHARACTER AMONG THE LEARNERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2013”

By Representative Salo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 3564, entitled:

“AN ACT FOR SUPPORTING SCALING UP NUTRITION DURING THE FIRST 1000 DAYS OF LIFE BY STRENGTHENING AND PROTECTING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE WORKERS”

By Representative Baguilat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 3565, entitled:

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

By Representative Baguilat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 3566, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT ZAMBOANGA CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (J) OF BATAS PAMBANSANG BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Dalipe

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 3567, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE OLD RAILWAY - CABUTOY ROAD TO TUNGKIL MINGLANILLA FROM A BARANGAY ROAD TO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gullas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3568, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE FIDEL BAS ROAD TO RIZAL ROAD FROM A BARANGAY ROAD TO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gullas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 3569, entitled:

“AN ACT RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN LOCATED IN BARANGAYS CABIGAN, MAGBABADIL, BARAKE, IRAAN, SAGPANGAN, ISAUB, SAN JUAN, APURAWAN AND CULANDANUM OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ABORLAN, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AS ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LAND”

By Representative Baguilat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
By Representative Acosta

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 3570, entitled:

“AN ACT MAKING TEACHERS WORK FOR ONLY HALF A DAY”

By Representative Belaro

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

With the permission of the Body, the following Members were made coauthors of the Bills and Resolutions hereunder indicated:


Rep. Leo Rafael M. Cueva for House Bills No. 2952, 2957, 2961, 2965, 3371 and 3430;

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing for House Bill No. 2600;

Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño for House Bills No. 1953 and 1975;

Rep. Christopher "Toff" Vera Perez De Venecia for House Bills No. 2404, 2405 and 3389;

Rep. Rosanna “Ria” Vergara for House Bill No. 3171;

Reps. Florida "Rida" P. Robes and Bayani F. Fernando for House Bill No. 56;


Rep. Enrico A. Pineda for House Resolution No. 258;

Rep. Henry C. Ong for House Bill No. 2566;

Rep. Victoria Isabel G. Noel for House Bills No. 2505, 2906 and 3509;

Rep. Ronald M. Cosalan for House Bills No. 1894 and 3532 and House Resolution No. 328;


Rep. Nancy A. Catamco for House Bills No. 2783, 3495 and 3514;


Rep. Gwendolyn F. Garcia for House Bills No. 3409, 3411 and 3416;

Singson, Tobias "Toby" M. Tiangco, Antonio L. Tinio, Alberto T. Ungab, Juliette T. Uy and Rolando "Klarex" A. Uy for House Bill No. 51;

Rep. Len B. Alonte-Naguiat for House Bill No. 3469;


Rep. Amado T. Espino Jr. for House Bills No. 37, 40, 229, 246, 290, 278, 304, 324, 417, and 489;

Rep. Eric M. Martinez for House Bill No. 287;


Reps. Strike B. Revilla and Jose Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III for House Bills No. 1955, 2288, 2289 and 2290;

Reps. Karlo Alexei B. Nogales and Strike B. Revilla for House Resolution No. 258;

Rep. Isidro S. Rodriguez Jr. for House Bills No. 56 and 2798;

Rep. Arnel M. Cerafica for House Bill No. 1894;

Rep. Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo for House Bills No. 37, 39, 2037, 2038, 2444, 2445, 2448, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2457, 2462, 2464, 2465, 2709, 2727, 2798 and 2897;

Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento for House Bills No. 34, 52, 55, 201, 459 and 460;

Rep. Ron P. Salo for House Bills No. 458 and 3181;

Rep. Ramon V.A. "Rav" Rocamora for House Bill No. 53;

Rep. Raul V. Del Mar for House Bills No. 2798 and 2989;

Rep. Carmelo "Jon" B. Lazatin II for House Bills No. 196 and 2798;

Rep. Divina Grace C. Yu for House Bills No. 479, 480, 797, 798, 1870 and 1872;

Rep. Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales Jr. for House Bills No. 479, 796, 797, 798, 1870, 1872, 2287, 2396 and 2531;

Rep. France L. Castro for House Bills No. 478, 480, 796 and 797;

Rep. Richard C. Eusebio for House Bills No. 478, 1871, 2287, 2396 and 2514;

Rep. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan for House Bills No. 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566 and 2567;


Reps. Frederick W. Siao and Divina Grace C. Yu for House Bill No. 2566;

Reps. Mark Aaron H. Sambar and Romeo M. Acop for House Bill No. 3532;

Rep. Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II for House Bills No. 1325 and 1350;


Rep. Raul "Boboy" C. Tupas for House Bills No. 208, 210, 1911, 1912 and 1915;


Rep. Franz E. Alvarez for House Bill No. 1179;


Rep. Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano for House Bill No. 584;

Rep. Ma. Theresa V. Collantes for House Bills No. 533, 534, 535, 2774, 2775 and 2926;

Rep. Celso L. Lobregat for House Bill No. 2434;

Rep. Arlene B. Arcillas for House Bills No. 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 2798, 2812, 2973, 2974, 2975, 2976, 2977 and 3159; and


**COMMUNICATIONS**

Letters dated May 31, June 17, 20 and 27 and July 18, 2016 of Roland A. Rey, Regional Director, Commission on Audit, Regional Office No. V, transmitting copies of the Annual Audit Report on the following Water Districts for the year ended December 31, 2015:

1. Paracale Water District, Paracale, Camarines Norte;
2. Pandan Water District, Pandan, Catanduanes;
3. Camalig Water District, Camalig, Albay;
4. Donsol Water District, Donsol, Sorsogon; and
5. Libmanan Water District, Libmanan, Camarines Sur

**TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

Letter dated August 16, 2016 of Evelyn P. Reyes, Director IV, Commission on Audit, Regional Office No. VI, transmitting two (2) original copies of Republic Act No. 10922 which lapsed into law on 22 July 2016 pursuant to Art. VI, Sec. 7 (1) of the Constitution, entitled:

"AN ACT DECLARING THE SECOND WEEK OF NOVEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL LITERACY WEEK"

**TO THE ARCHIVES**


**TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

Letter dated August 26, 2016 of Jelu G. Gela, State Auditor IV, Audit Team Leader, Commission on Audit, Office of the Auditor, transmitting copies of the 2015 Annual Audit Reports on the following Water Districts:

1. Ayungon Water District, Ayungon, Negros Oriental;
2. Bais City Water District, Bais City, Negros Oriental;
3. Bayawan Water District, Bayawan City, Negros Oriental; and
4. Tanjay Water District, Tanjay City, Negros Oriental.

**TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**


**THE PRIVILEGE HOUR**

It being a Monday, on motion of Rep. Alexandria P. Gonzales, there being no objection, the Chair declared a Privilege Hour and then recognized Rep. Arthur C. Yap from the Third District of Bohol for his privilege speech about the issue of agricultural financing.
PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. YAP (A.)

Rep. Yap centered on the defectively designed insurance for agricultural products with the agricultural crop insurance continuing to be peril- or indemnity-based. He said that the inefficiency, tediousness, complexity and attendant hazards in crop insurance which result in exorbitant and unreasonable premium prices for insurance products make crop insurance in the country very unpopular. However, Rep. Yap pointed out that in other parts of the world such as India, the Carribean and Africa, which are also reeling from the effects of climate change, crop insurance is being offered on the basis of innovative terms, thus, instead of being peril- or indemnity-based, crop insurance in these areas is classified as weather index-based insurance (WIBI).

WIBI, he said, is the only way now to go in the future, as hundreds of farmers in Mindanao are presently enrolled in a WIBI program with funding support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Thereafter, Rep. Yap urged his peers to commit to eradicating rural poverty and alleviating farm misery from the quandary of generational debt because profitability in agriculture during these times of climate change is the only way to achieve food security for the people. In closing, Rep. Yap sought his colleagues’ support for the recapitalization and expansion of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation’s mandate to engage in reinsurance and direct insurance of WIBI products for crops and agriculture.

REFERRAL OF REP. YAP’S (A.) PRIVILEGE SPEECH

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (A.P.), there being no objection, the Body referred the privilege speech of Rep. Yap to the Committee on Rules.


PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. NOGRALES (K.)

Rep. Nograles dwelled on the alleged web of lies claimed by the surprise witness in the hearing on extrajudicial killings of the Senate Committee on Justice. He said that he and his father, former Speaker Prospero Nograles, have come out to dispute the lies told by the surprise witness, particularly, the claim that four bodyguards of the former Speaker were kidnapped and killed during the election period in 2010. He said that no one among his father’s security personnel assigned to him during his incumbency as House Member or as House Speaker was ever kidnapped or killed.

Rep. Nograles also lamented the inconsistencies and distortions of facts and events which have been overlooked; and the surprise witness being heard in a legislative hearing upon the direct endorsement of the committee chairperson herself. In this light, Rep. Nograles pointed out that the Senate hearing was not a sincere search for truth on the matter of extrajudicial killings but a calculated and unmitigated direct assault on the dignity and reputation of the President of the Republic. Moreover, he underscored that a coordinated attack on the presidency appears to have been launched from within and from without to waylay the President’s change agenda and stop the momentum for radical reform towards making the government work as it should for the people. He added that at stake is not simply the success on the war against illegal drugs or the agenda for reform of the Duterte Administration but the stability and survival of the Republic.

In conclusion, Rep. Nograles condemned the lies to destroy the President’s dignity and reputation and the use of inquiries in aid of legislation for such and asked the Body to be vigilant in defending the truth, justice, and the people’s mandate.

REFERRAL OF REP. NOGRALES’ (K.) PRIVILEGE SPEECH

On motion of Rep. Gonzales (A.P.), there being no objection, the Body referred the privilege speech of Rep. Nograles to the Committee on Rules.


PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ROMAN

Rep. Roman initially recalled the support and acceptance that her father, the late Rep. Antonino P. Roman, had given her as a daughter, transgender, and politician. She also thanked the Members of the 17th Congress for welcoming her and treating her with dignity and respect, as had been her father’s dream.

Rep. Roman then advocated the needs of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders (LGBTs), saying she could not turn her back on their plight even as she wanted to focus on serving her constituents as her parents had done before her. She said that the LGBTs had suffered discrimination and had been denied adequate legal protection as she had herself experienced although they were part of society and were human beings; and enumerated their needs such as sociopsychological support and legal and labor protection. Stressing that Congress must immediately pass the Anti-
Discrimination Bill, she discussed some features thereof such as discriminatory acts on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI) and the corresponding penalties.

Rep. Roman concluded that the LGBT community is not asking for extra rights and privileges but for equality, inclusiveness, and diversity and that the time and opportunity to pass the anti-discrimination measure on the basis of SOGI is at hand.


INTERPELLATION OF REP. BAG-AO

At the outset, Rep. Bag-ao expressed her respect and admiration to Rep. Roman on what she stands for and thanked her for delivering a timely privilege speech. Both Members then exchanged views on the provisions of the anti-discriminatory measure in relation to the following issues: 1) same-sex marriage, 2) issuance of professional licenses and other similar documents issued by the government; 3) refusal to provide services to individuals or juridical entities on the basis of their SOGI because of religious beliefs; 4) on LGBT as a social disorder; 5) definition of SOGI; and 6) the effectiveness of the measure in eliminating discrimination against LGBTs in the country.

Rep. Bag-ao stated that Rep. Roman is truly an inspiration not only as a Member of the 17th Congress but to every Filipino LGBT in the country. She said that the LGBT community is only asking for respect and expressed support for the passage of the anti-discrimination measure of Rep. Roman.

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Gonzales (A.P.), the Chair recognized Rep. Christopher “Toff” Vera Perez De Venecia for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. DE VENECIA

At the outset, Rep. De Venecia congratulated Rep. Roman, whom he described as a game-changer and the first-ever transgender Congresswoman in the country, for delivering a heartfelt, personal, human, and historic privilege speech. Both Members then discussed the extent of discrimination faced by the LGBT youths in educational institutions and the measures undertaken by the government to address such problem; the pertinent provision of the anti-discriminatory measure that would address discrimination in the educational institutions; and the government effort with regard to gathering data on the crimes and injustices committed against the LGBTs.


INTERPELLATION OF REP. BAGATSING

Rep. Bagatsing’s queries focused on the topics of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and how it is regarded as parallel to homosexuality, and the availability of health centers or support systems for LGBT-related problems, with Rep. Roman clarifying the need for figures that will shed light on cases involving homosexual or heterosexual couples, and admitting to the lack of government facilities that provide services for LGBT issues, such as depression, anger and family relationships. Rep. Bagatsing then commended Rep. Roman for her speech and manifested support for the anti-discrimination measure.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. VILLARIN

Recognized by the Chair on motion of Rep. Gonzales (A.P.), Rep. Tom S. Villarin inquired on the pertinent laws or provisions in the Civil Code discriminating people based on the SOGI; stressed the need to review them because of their certain discriminatory provisions; agreed with Rep. Roman that the security sector should include SOGI as inclusive of policies that it will discuss and enable the country to follow the examples of developed nations with regard to individuals who want to serve in the military; and supported the view that a person’s SOGI should not be a basis for discrimination. Rep. Villarin encouraged his colleagues and the Filipino people to join the fight against discrimination and for self-expression.


INTERPELLATION OF REP. HERRERA-DY

Reps. Roman and Herrera-Dy focused on the news reports alleging that school buildings in Ateneo de Davao provide for gender-neutral bathrooms, with the former stressing the need to look beyond the form and look of a person and that setting up a third restroom is not obligatory but will be helpful to the LGBT members.
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Rep. Victoria Isabel G. Noel acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Deputy Speaker Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu as well as Reps. Scott Davies S. Lanete, M.D., and herself. She also acknowledged the members of the House basketball team.


INTERPELLATION OF REP. VERGARA

After commending Rep. Roman for her conviction and determination to stand for the rights of the LGBT sector, Rep. Vergara noted that the anti-discrimination measure authored by Rep. Roman is silent on discrimination within the family, and asked how the government can reach out and help concerned minors.

Rep. Roman affirmed the observation of Rep. Vergara and said that she would consider proposed amendments at the committee level to fine tune the measure concerning the discrimination experienced by children of LGBT orientation in their respective families.

Rep. Vergara also expressed her support for Rep. Roman’s bill and all future measures that will promote the rights of the LGBTs.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ELAGO

Upon recognition of the Chair, Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago pointed out that the absence of a law that explicitly deals with hate crimes is one of the reasons why violent deaths or discriminatory acts against certain groups of people, including members of the LGBT community, are simply recorded generically as murders or homicides without considering the perceived or actual hate or bias towards these people. She then asked how the Bill can address the inadequacy in the law.

REMINDER FROM THE CHAIR

At this point, the Chair reminded the guests from the gallery to refrain from clapping.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ELAGO (Continuation)

In response, Rep. Roman cited the need for more bills that would address the legal aspect of hate crimes based on the SOGI. Rep. Elago expressed belief that the passage of an anti-hate crime law will also address the inadequacy in the law and will serve the interest and welfare of the most vulnerable and marginalized sectors of society especially the LGBT community. She then congratulated Rep. Roman for standing up for gender rights, human rights, the youth, and the Filipino people.

REMINDER FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair reminded the guests in the gallery to refrain from clapping.

INTERPELLATION OF REP. ROA-PUNO

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Roa-Puno discussed with Rep. Roman her concerns on whether the latter subscribes to the epigenetic theory of homosexuality and whether it has any relevance to the anti-discriminatory bill that she had filed.

Rep. Roa-Puno thereafter manifested her full support to Rep. Roman’s anti-discriminatory bill but most importantly in the person that the latter is without labels and one that is worthy of praise and admiration.

REMINDER FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair reiterated her reminder to the guests in the gallery to refrain from clapping during interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER ANDAYA

Recognized by the Chair, Rep. Rolando G. Andaya Jr. asked Rep. Roman to enlighten him on the following issues: her reaction regarding the people’s acceptance of her Bill; the difference between the terms “sexual orientation” and “gender identity”; on whether the Bill subscribed more to the legal acknowledgment of the LGBT or a policy statement on the discrimination of the LGBT; other legal aspects or the ultimate goal the Bill sought to achieve and the aspects which the Bill does not tackle.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Noel, the Chair suspended the session at 6:00 p.m.
RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 6:03 p.m.

REFERRAL OF REP. ROMAN’S PRIVILEGE SPEECH

On motion of Rep. Noel, there being no objection, the Body referred the privilege speech of Rep. Roman and its interpellations to the Committee on Rules.

ROLL CALL

Likewise, on motion of Rep. Noel, there being no objection, the Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll and the following Members were present:

Abaya
Abayon
Abu
Abueg
Acharon
Acop
Acosta
Acosta-Alba
Adiong
Advincula
Agarao
Aggabao
Aglipay-Villar
Akbar
Alcala
Alejano
Almario
Almonte
Alonte-Naguiat
Alvarez (F.)
Alvarez (P.)
Amatong
Andaya
Angara-Castillo
Antonino
Antonio
Aragones
Arbison
Arcillas
Arenas
Atienza
Aumentado
Bagao
Bagatsing
Baguilat
Barbers
Barzaga
Bataoil
Batocabe
Bautista-Bandigan
Belaro
Belmonte (F.)
Belmonte (J.)
Belmonte (R.)
Billones
Bolilia
Bondoc
Bordado
Bravo (A.)
Bravo (M.)
Brosas
Bulut-Begtang
Calderon
Calixto-Rubiano
Caminero
Campos
Canama
Cari
Casila
Castelo
Castro (F.L.)
Castro (F.H.)
Catamco
Cayetano
Celeste
Cerafica
Cerilles
Chavez
Chipeco
Co
Collantes
Cortes
Cortuna
Cosalan
Crisologo
Cua
Cuaresma
Cueva
Dalipe
Dialog
Daza
De Jesus
De Venecia
De Vera
Defensor
Del Mar
Deloso-Montalla
Dimaporo (A.)
Dimaporo (M.)
Dy
Elago
Enverga
Erice
With 261 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See also Appendix 1)

REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS
ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

Thereafter, on motion of Rep. Noel, there being no objection, the Body approved to refer the following House Resolutions on inquiries in aid of legislation to the appropriate Committees hereunder indicated:

1. House Resolution No. 117, on the revision of the current college curricula – to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;

2. House Resolution No. 118, on the review of the Expanded Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act of 2012 – to the Committee on Revision of Laws;

3. House Resolution No. 120, on the alleged violations in the contracts between oil palm plantation cooperatives in Southern Palawan and Agumil Phils., Inc. – to the Committee on Cooperatives Development;

4. House Resolution No. 122, on the irregularities in the implementation of the Student Academic Information System (SAIS) and the eUP Project – to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;

5. House Resolution No. 123, on the current state and condition of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the Middle East – to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;

6. House Resolution No. 124, on the current state of the alleged P750 million eUP Project of the University of the Philippines – to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;

7. House Resolution No. 130, on the hacking incident involving the Commission on Elections website – to the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms;

8. House Resolution No. 133, on the status of implementation of the newly passed Republic Act No. 10390 or the People’s Television Network, Inc. Law – to the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization;
9. House Resolution No. 135, on the erratic operations of major power plants and the status of power supply in the country – to the Committee on Energy;

10. House Resolution No. 136, on the sudden price spike of electricity at the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM), to the Committee on Energy;

11. House Resolution No. 141, on the leadership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) – to the Committee on National Defense and Security;

12. House Resolution No. 165, on online or electronic games (E-Games) – to the Committee on Games and Amusements;

13. House Resolution No. 172, on the plight of thousands of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) working in various construction companies who remain stranded in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;

14. House Resolution No. 173, on the shutting down of rural and thrift banks – to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;

15. House Resolution No. 177, on the indiscriminate firing in Sitio Tibugawan, Kawayan, San Fernando, Bukidnon, allegedly perpetrated by the paramilitary group New Indigenous People’s Army backed by the 8th IB of the Philippine Army – to the Committee on Human Rights;

16. House Resolution No. 179, on the performance of DOH government-owned and -controlled corporate specialty hospitals vis-à-vis revenue generation and provision of inexpensive and free health services for indigent patients – to the Committee on Health;

17. House Resolution No. 190, on the disbursement of almost P1 billion in public funds meant to establish adequate residential drug rehabilitation centers – to the Committee on Dangerous Drugs;

18. House Resolution No. 203, on the framework for the general refurbishment of the Philippine National Railways (PNR) Mass Transport System – to the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization;

19. House Resolution No. 204, on the scientific validity of the findings that alkaline water is the secret to longevity – to the Committee on Health;

20. House Resolution No. 206, on the alleged loophole in R.A. No. 10533 or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 – to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;

21. House Resolution No. 207, on the adverse effects of character-based video games on children – to the Committee on Welfare of Children;

22. House Resolution No. 209, on the alleged land grabbing by the Maria Theresa Virata Realty Corporation and Manila Southcoast Development Corporation involving 602 hectares of Patungan Cove – to the Committee on Natural Resources;

23. House Resolution No. 210, on the violent dispersal of protesting farmers on April 1, 2016, dubbed as the “Kidapawan Massacre,” perpetrated by elements of the Philippine National Police (PNP) – to the Committee on Human Rights;

24. House Resolution No. 212, on the required level of ancillary services necessary to support the transmission of capacity and energy from resources to loads while maintaining reliable operation of the transmission system – to the Committee on Energy;

25. House Resolution No. 216, on the viability and disaster vulnerabilities of the Jalaur River Multipurpose Project Stage II (JRMP), to be situated on top of the West Panay fault which is an active fault—to the Committee on Natural Resources;
26. House Resolution No. 217, on the Social Security System (SSS) computer glitch affecting hundreds of thousands of SSS member contributions and remittances—to the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization;  

27. House Resolution No. 218, on the reported irregularities in the sale of houses and lots by real estate developer Pro-Friends—to the Committee on Housing and Urban Development;  

28. House Resolution No. 220, on the P530-million fraud involving the Embassy of Kuwait and a private company known as Winston Q8 Certification Solutions, Inc. with Kuwait-bound OFWs as victims—to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;  

29. House Resolution No. 221, on massive flooding in the City of San Fernando and adjoining municipalities of the Province of Pampanga on August 7, 8 and 9 of 2016—to the Committee on Public Works and Highways;  

30. House Resolution No. 235, on the dismal, unsanitary and neglected condition of the existing facilities of Bahay Pag-asa, and on the alleged detention and inhumane treatment of children in conflict with the law inside the said facilities—to the Committee on Justice;  

31. House Resolution No. 236, on the policy of the Department of Health prohibiting deliveries assisted by traditional birth attendants (TBA) dubbed as the ‘No Home-Birthing Policy’—to the Committee on Women and Gender Equality;  

32. House Resolution No. 237, on why telecommunication providers should have the privilege to keep their legislative franchises despite the poor service provided to the Filipino people—to the Committee on Legislative Franchises;  

33. House Resolution No. 239, on the violent demolition of an urban poor community in Apollo St., Brgy. Tandang Sora, Quezon City—to the Committee on Housing and Urban Development;  

34. House Resolution No. 240, on the performance of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) — to the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization;  

35. House Resolution No. 241, on the effectiveness of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act — to the Committee on Justice;  

36. House Resolution No. 244, on the reported increased cash out and substandard hemodialysis services for service patients in the National Kidney and Transplant Institute — to the Committee on Health;  

37. House Resolution No. 247, on the sale of water by CE Casecnan Water and Energy Corporation, Inc. to the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) — to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;  

38. House Resolution No. 250, on the actions taken by the Department of Foreign Affairs to address the plight of stranded OFWs in Saudi Arabia — to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;  

39. House Resolution No. 252, on the insufficient funding for the construction, management and operation of Bahay Pag-asa facilities — to the Committee on Justice;  

40. House Resolution No. 253, on the propriety and legality of Napolcom’s withdrawal of deputation of Mayor Tomas R. Osmeña of Cebu City — to the Committee on Local Government;  

41. House Resolution No. 254, on the current validity period for prepaid load credits — to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology;  

42. House Resolution No. 256, on the noncompliance of the Bureau of Internal Revenue with the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008 — to the Committee on Cooperatives Development;
43. House Resolution No. 258, on the reported case of 177 Indonesians using Philippine passports to participate in the hajj pilgrimage – to the Committee on Foreign Affairs;

44. House Resolution No. 260, on the implementation of Section 33 of R.A. No. 9211 or the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 – to the Committee on Trade and Industry;

45. House Resolution No. 264, on the case of the eight Filipino seafarers who went missing after they were commissioned to man and participate in the conduction operation of M/T Rokku Maru from Busan, Republic of Korea to the Philippines – to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;

46. House Resolution No. 266, on the use and distribution of the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) funds in fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012 – to the Committee on Appropriations;

47. House Resolution No. 267, on the prohibitive, unconscionable, deceptive, unfair and opportunistic pricing of domestic air carriers specifically on the purchase of tickets that would fly on the same day – to the Committee on Transportation;

48. House Resolution No. 270, on the alleged possession of Philippine passport by 117 Indonesians bound to Medina, Saudi Arabia for the Hajj pilgrimage – to the Committee on Foreign Affairs;

49. House Resolution No. 273, on the existing laws with provisions which are considered as discriminatory to women – to the Committee on Women and Gender Equality;

50. House Resolution No. 275, on the status of the audit on the funds and operations of the Board of Trustees of the veterans of World War II by the Commission on Audit pursuant to Resolution No. 206 adopted by the House of Representatives in the Sixteenth Congress – to the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare;

51. House Resolution No. 280, on the participation of foreigners in the ownership and operations of the National Grid Corporation – to the Committee on Energy;

52. House Resolution No. 281, on the implementation of the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP) – to the Committee on Transportation;

53. House Resolution No. 282, on the implementation of R.A. No. 9184, or the Government Procurement Reform Act – to the Committee on Appropriations;

54. House Resolution No. 289, on the rape and subsequent death of OFW Irma Edloy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;

55. House Resolution No. 292, on the illegal practices in the Bureau of Immigration – to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability;

56. House Resolution No. 296, on the capacity of the Commission on Higher Education to effectively regulate increases in tuition and other school fees imposed by higher educational institutions – to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;

57. House Resolution No. 299, on the continuing harassment through the filing of trumped up charges against the farmers who protested for rice subsidy and calamity aid and the members of non-government organizations (NGOs) who supported such legitimate calls in Kidapawan City last April 1, 2016 – to the Committee on Human Rights; and

58. House Resolution No. 304, on the extent of the presence of ISIS in the Philippines – to the Committee on National Defense and Security.

RECONSIDERATION OF THE REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 61

On motion of Rep. Noel, there being no objection, the Body reconsidered the referral of House Resolution No. 61 and subsequently referred it to the Committee on Rules.
RESUMPTION AND EXTENSION OF THE PRIVILEGE HOUR

On motion of Rep. Noel, there being no objection, the Body approved the resumption of the Privilege Hour and its extension by one more hour.

On motion of Rep. Noel, the Chair then recognized Rep. Eric L. Olivarez from the First District of Parañaque City for his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. OLIVAREZ

Speaking as a veteran educator, Rep. Olivarez stressed the need to strengthen voluntary accreditation among higher education institutions (HEIs) in order for the country to cope with global competitiveness. He cited facts and figures on the number of HEIs in the country and their student population, the low passing rate in licensure examinations, the small percentage of master’s degree-holders among college faculty, and the warning among the business community on the economic impact of inadequately trained and prepared graduates. He enumerated the problems in accreditation including the competition between private and state colleges, the cost of education, and the many number of accredited agencies. He also discussed Memo Order No. 1 (2005) of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) on the policies and guidelines on accreditation and described what was being done about accreditation in the context of the ASEAN community.

As there is an urgent need for the realization of a relevant and timely Philippine quality education, Rep. Olivarez stated that he would file a measure to strengthen voluntary accreditation in the Philippines by institutionalizing its existing policies and practices and providing financial assistance therefor.

REFERRAL OF REP. OLIVAREZ’ PRIVILEGE SPEECH

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Benhur B. Lopez Jr., there being no objection, the Body referred the privilege speech of Rep. Olivarez to the Committee on Rules.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Rep. Lopez (B.) acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of guests of Reps. Arthur C. Yap and Jose Antonio "Kuya Jonathan" R. Sy-Alvarado.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. MATUGAS

Rep. Matugas initially discussed the sport of surfing and its popularity in the island of Siargao which became internationally known as the surfing capital of the Philippines and ranked by many local and international surfers as the best surfing spot in the world. In this regard, he then informed the Body that the island of Siargao would be hosting the 22nd International Surfing Competitions which would determine the qualifiers for the World Surf League world tour.

As the International Olympic Committee had announced that surfing would be included in the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, Rep. Matugas expressed belief that surfing would be the sport where the Philippines can excel and finally earn an Olympic gold medal. As such, he enjoined his colleagues to support the Filipino surfers so they could do well in the qualifying rounds leading to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and appealed to the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) to consider the inclusion of surfing as a “focus sport” and as one of the priorities for its grassroots program for development.

In conclusion, Rep. Matugas presented to the Body a video on surfing at Cloud 9 in Siargao Island showing homegrown surfers making waves around the world and a young Siargan boy considered to be a prodigy in surfing by international surfers.

TERMINATION OF THE PRIVILEGE HOUR

On another motion of Rep. Lopez (B.), there being no objection, the Body terminated the Privilege Hour.
ELECTION OF MAJORITY MEMBERS
TO COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

On motion of Majority Leader Rodolfo C. Fariñas, there being no objection, the Body elected the following as members of the Committee on Justice, representing the Majority:

(as Members)

2. Rep. Rodel M. Batocabe
5. Rep. Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Noel, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until four o’clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, September 20, 2016.

It was 7:02 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

(Sgd.) ATTY. CESAR S. PAREJA
Secretary General

Approved on September 20, 2016.
MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

Date: September 19, 2016

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VILLARIN
VIOLAGO
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YAP (M.)
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ZAMORA (M.C.)
ZAMORA (R.)
ZARATE
ZUBIRI

* Appeared before/after Roll Call
** On official mission
*** Attended meetings of CA/HRET/Conference Committee/Committee meetings authorized by Committee on Rules
**** Officially notified the House, through the Secretariat, of their absence
***** Absent without notice

(Subject to correction/s that may appear in the Annual Journal)