



Journal  
of the  
House of Representatives

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
THIRD REGULAR SESSION  
2018 - 2019

**JOURNAL NO. 7**  
**Monday, August 6, 2018**

Prepared by the  
**JOURNAL SERVICE**  
Plenary Affairs Bureau

**JOURNAL NO. 7**  
**Monday, August 6, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Fredenil “Fred” H. Castro 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 observed a minute of silent prayer.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Abaya  
Abayon  
Abueg  
Acharon  
Acop  
Adiong  
Advincula  
Aggabao  
Albano  
Alcala  
Alejano  
Almario  
Almonte  
Alonte  
Alvarez (F.)  
Alvarez (M.)  
Amante  
Amatong  
Andaya  
Antonino  
Antonio  
Aquino-Magsaysay  
Aragones  
Arbison  
Arcillas  
Arenas  
Atienza  
Bag-ao  
Bagatsing  
Banal  
Barbers  
Barzaga

Bataoil  
Batocabe  
Belaro  
Belmonte (F.)  
Belmonte (J.C.)  
Benitez  
Bernos  
Bertiz  
Biazon  
Billones  
Bolilia  
Bondoc  
Bordado  
Bravo (A.)  
Bravo (M.V.)  
Brosas  
Bulut-Begtang  
Calalang  
Calderon  
Calixto-Rubiano  
Caminero  
Campos  
Cari  
Casilao  
Castelo  
Castro (F.L.)  
Castro (F.H.)  
Catamco  
Cayetano  
Celeste  
Cerafica  
Cerilles  
Chavez  
Chipeco  
Co  
Collantes  
Cortes  
Cortuna  
Cosalan  
Crisologo  
Cua  
Cuaresma  
Cueva  
Dalipe  
Datol  
Daza  
De Jesus  
De Vera  
Defensor  
Del Mar  
Del Rosario

---

Deloso-Montalla	Marcoleta
Dimaporo (A.)	Marcos
Dimaporo (M.K.)	Marquez
Durano	Martinez
Dy	Matugas
Elago	Mellana
Enverga	Mending
Erice	Mendoza
Eriguel	Mirasol
Escudero	Montoro
Espina	Nieto
Espino	Nogralas (K.A.)
Eusebio	Nuñez-Malanyaon
Evardone	Olivarez
Fariñas	Ong (E.)
Fernando	Ortega (P.)
Ferrer (J.)	Pacquiao
Flores	Paduano
Fortun	Palma
Fortuno	Pancho
Fuentebella	Panganiban
Garbin	Panotes
Garcia (G.)	Papandayan
Garcia (J.E.)	Pichay
Garcia-Albano	Pimentel
Garin (R.)	Pineda
Gasataya	Plaza
Geron	Primicias-Agabas
Go (M.)	Quimbo
Gomez	Ramirez-Sato
Gonzaga	Ramos
Gonzales (A.P.)	Relampagos
Gonzales (A.D.)	Rocamora
Gonzalez	Rodriguez (I.)
Hernandez	Rodriguez (M.)
Herrera-Dy	Roman
Hofer	Romero
Jalosjos	Romualdez
Khonghun	Romualdo
Labadlabad	Sacdalan
Lacson	Sagarbarria
Lagman	Sahali
Lanete	Salceda
Lazatin	Salimbangon
Leachon	Salo
Lee	Salon
Limkaichong	Sambar
Lobregat	Sandoval
Lopez (M.L.)	Sangcopan
Macapagal-Arroyo	Santos-Recto
Maceda	Sarmiento (C.)
Madrona	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Malapitan	Savellano
Manalo	Sema
Mangaoang	Siao
Mangudatu (S.)	Silverio
Mangudatu (Z.)	Singson

Suansing (E.)  
Suansing (H.)  
Suarez  
Tambunting  
Tan (S.)  
Teves  
Ting  
Tinio  
Tolentino  
Treñas  
Tugna  
Ty  
Ungab  
Unico  
Uy (J.)  
Uy (R.)  
Uybarreta  
Vargas  
Vargas-Alfonso  
Velarde  
Velasco  
Velasco-Catera  
Velo  
Vergara  
Villanueva  
Villaraza-Suarez  
Villarica  
Villarin  
Violago  
Yap (M.)  
Zamora (M.C.)  
Zamora (R.)  
Zarate  
Zubiri

With 231 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See Appendix)

#### **MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE DAZA**

Rep. Raul A. Daza manifested his desire to be recognized.

#### **APPROVAL OF JOURNAL NO. 5**

Considering that copies of Journal No. 5 dated July 31, 2018 had been distributed to the Members, on motion of Rep. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of said Journal and subsequently approved the same.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

Representative Herrera-Dy then acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Reps. Ramon C. Nolasco, Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso, Randolph S. Ting, Michelle M. Antonio, and Seth Frederick P. Jalosjos.

#### **REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

On motion of Representative Herrera-Dy, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Reference of Business.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE DAZA**

Representative Daza manifested that he had objected to the motion to take up the Reference of Business because he would like to seek recognition from the Chair.

#### **REFERENCE OF BUSINESS (Continuation)**

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

#### **BILLS ON FIRST READING**

House Bill No. 7967, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cua

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 7968, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER RESILIENCE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romualdez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

COUNCILS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Savellano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 7969, entitled:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF ONE BILLION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P1,161,710,000) AS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2018 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 7974, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10708, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'TAX INCENTIVES MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY ACT', EXPANDING ITS COVERAGE TO ENHANCE FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Umali

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 7970, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO INSTITUTIONALIZE REWARDS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 32 OF RA 9003, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ECOLOGICAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 7975, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 1 AND 2 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10555 TO INCLUDE AREVALO PLAZA AND FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE”

By Representative Treñas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 7971, entitled:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING TWO HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P200MILLION) FOR THE REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF THE HALL OF JUSTICE IN THE CITY OF VIGAN”

By Representative Savellano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7976, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC RESTROOMS ALONG NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Nieto, Maceda, Martinez, Sandoval, Malapitan, Olivarez, Salo, Montoro and Calixto-Rubiano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 7972, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION/FORMATION OF BARANGAY TOURISM AND INVESTMENTS

House Bill No. 7977, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE (PCSO) TO PRINT THE LOTTO TICKETS ON A NON-THERMAL PAPER OR ANY KIND OF RECYCLABLE PAPER WHICH ENSURES THAT THE PRINTINGS THEREON CANNOT BE EASILY ERASED OR OBSCURED BY SIMPLE SCRATCHES AND CRUMPLES, AND CAN WITHSTAND REASONABLE HEAT, THEREBY REDUCING THE POSSIBILITY OF TICKET SPOILAGE”

By Representatives Nieto, Maceda, Martinez, Sandoval and Malapitan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

#### RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 2031, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PRESIDENT'S EFFORT TO COMBAT RICE SMUGGLING”

By Representative Cua

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Resolution No. 2032, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP FOR THE SUCCESSFUL STAGING OF THE 2018 PALARONG PAMBANSA”

By Representative Savellano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 2033, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS TO CONDUCT AN IN-

QUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, REGARDING THE PROLIFERATION OF ILLEGAL GAMING, CASINOS, COCKPITS AND SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE CITY OF MANILA”

By Representative Lopez (M.L.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2034, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON JUSTICE AND OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING INCIDENTS AT THE NINOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (NAIA)”

By Representative Bertiz

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2035, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS AND GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO INQUIRE IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE STATUS AND UTILIZATION OF THE OWWA FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANDATE, POLICY AND OBJECTIVES OF THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10801, AN ACT GOVERNING THE OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION”

By Representative Bertiz

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2036, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES FOR THE PASSING OF FORMER JUSTICE RICARDO C. PUNO, SR., ON JULY 25, 2018”

By Representatives Nieto, Maceda, Martinez,  
Sandoval, Malapitan, Olivarez, Salo and  
Montoro

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2037, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST  
CONDOLENCES FOR THE PASSING  
OF CARMEN GUERRERO-NAKPIL ON  
JULY 30, 2018”

By Representatives Nieto, Maceda, Martinez,  
Sandoval, Malapitan and Olivarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated July 30, 2018, informing the House  
of Representatives that the Senate on July 24,  
2018 passed the following Senate Bills:

Senate Bill No. 1749, entitled:

“AN ACT TO IMPROVE LAND TRANS-  
PORTATION TERMINALS, STATIONS,  
STOPS, REST AREAS AND ROLL-  
ON/ROLL-OFF TERMINALS, APPRO-  
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

Senate Bill No. 1586, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE  
SOCCSKSARGEN GENERAL HOSPI-  
TAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SU-  
RALLAH, PROVINCE OF THE SOUTH  
COTABATO, AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR”;

Senate Bill No. 1649, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE BATAAN PRO-  
VINCIAL HOSPITAL IN THE PROV-  
INCE OF BATAAN INTO A LEVEL III  
TEACHING AND TRAINING HOSPI-  
TAL TO BE NOW KNOWN AS THE BA-  
TAAN GENERAL HOSPITAL AND  
MEDICAL CENTER AND APPROPRI-  
ATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES”; and

Senate Bill No. 1654, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE MANDATE  
AND SERVICE CAPABILITY OF THE  
BICOL SANITARIUM IN THE MUNICI-  
PALITY OF CABUSAO, PROVINCE OF  
CAMARINES SUR, TO BE KNOWN AS  
THE BICOL REGION GENERAL HOS-  
PITAL AND GERIATRIC MEDICAL  
CENTER, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE  
FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE IN-  
CREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSON-  
NEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated July 30, 2018, informing the House  
of Representatives that the Senate on even date  
passed Senate Bill No. 1391, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDA-  
TORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE FOR  
ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITY  
(PWDs), AMENDING FOR THE PUR-  
POSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS  
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
THE 'MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS  
WITH DISABILITY', AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated August 1, 2018, informing the  
House of Representatives that on July 31, 2018  
the Senate designated Senators Joseph Victor  
G. Ejercito, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay,  
Grace Poe, Joel Villanueva and Risa Honti-  
veros as conferees to the Bicameral Conference  
Committee on the disagreeing provisions of  
Senate Bill No. 1390, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIP-  
PINE COMPREHENSIVE POLICY OF  
HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VI-  
RUS (HIV) AND ACQUIRED IMMUNO-  
DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)  
PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE,

AND SUPPORT, AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL (PNAC), REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8504, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'PHILIPPINE AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT OF 1998,' AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

and House Bill No. 6617, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) AND ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT, AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL HIV AND AIDS PLAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8504, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'PHILIPPINE AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT OF 1998' ”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated March 14, 2018 of Delfin N. Lorenzana, Secretary, Department of National Defense, submitting to the House of Representatives the monthly report on the implementation of Martial Law in Mindanao covering the period February 1 to 28, 2018, together with the letter dated March 8, 2018 of Salvador Melchor B. Mison Jr., Acting Chief of Staff.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

Letter dated May 28, 2018 of Jose A. Fabia, Commissioner Officer-in-Charge, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the 2017 Annual Audit Reports and Management Letter on the following government agencies:

#### A. Annual Audit Reports for CY 2017

1. Bureau of Communications Services;
2. Climate Change Commission;

3. Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority;
4. Foreign Service Institute;
5. Games and Amusements Board;
6. Governance Commission for GOCCs;
7. Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council;
8. Movie and Television Review and Classification Board;
9. National Anti-Poverty Commission;
10. National Youth Commission;
11. Office of the Vice President;
12. Optical Media Board;
13. Philippine Competition Commission;
14. Philippine Racing Commission;
15. Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM;
16. Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor;
17. Presidential Legislative Liaison Office;
18. Presidential Management Staff; and
19. UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines.

#### B. Management Letter

1. Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines for CY 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 14 June 2018 of Nestor A. Espenilla Jr., Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), submitting to the House of Representatives the BSP Report on Philippine External



Debt as of 31 March 2018 which were noted by the Monetary Board on 14 June 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated 18 June 2018 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson, Commission on Audit, providing the House of Representatives with copies of the CY 2017 Annual Audit Reports on twelve (12) Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations in the National Capital Region enumerated below and a copy of the management letter:

A. CY 2017 Annual Audit Reports

1. Al-Amanah Islamic Investment Bank of the Philippines (AAIIBP) (CYs 2016 and 2017);
2. AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (AFP-RSBS) (CYs 2016 and 2017);
3. Corregidor Foundation, Inc. (CFI);
4. PNOC Shipping & Transport Corporation (PNOC-STC);
5. PNOC Alternative Fuels Corporation (PNOC-AFC);
6. PNOC Development & Management Corporation (PNOC-DMC);
7. PNOC Renewables Corporation (PNOC-RC);
8. Food Terminal, Inc. (FTI);
9. Philippine Sugar Corporation (PHILSUCOR);
10. Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC);
11. Philippine Center for Economic Development (PCED); and
12. Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) (CYs 2016 and 2017).

B. CY 2017 Management Letter

1. Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation (QUEDANCOR).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 18, 2018 of Pelilia C. Veloso, Regional Director, Regional Office No. II, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the CY 2017 Annual Audit Reports on the following water districts:

A. Province of Cagayan

1. Abulug Water District
2. Amulung Water District
3. Aparri Water District
4. Gattaran Water District
5. Lal-lo Water District
6. Metropolitan Tuguegarao Water District
7. Peñablanca Water District
8. Sto. Niño Water District

B. Province of Isabela

9. Angadanan Water District
10. Aurora Water District
11. Benito Soliven Water District
12. Cabagan Water District
13. City of Ilagan Water District
14. Cordon Water District
15. Reina Mercedes Water District
16. Roxas Water District
17. Santiago Water District

C. Province of Quirino

18. Diffun Water District
19. Maddela Water District

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 20, 2018 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson, Commission on Audit, transmitting to the House of Representatives the 2017 Annual Audit Reports on the following government agencies:

1. Bureau of Broadcast Services;
2. Commission on the Filipino Language;
3. Commission on Filipinos Overseas;
4. Film Development Council of the Philippines;
5. Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board;
6. National Archives of the Philippines;
7. National Historical Commission of the Philippines;
8. National Library of the Philippines;
9. National Commission on Indigenous Peoples;
10. National Printing Office;
11. News and Information Bureau;
12. Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency; and
13. Philippine Commission on Women.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 22, 2018 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the CY 2017 Annual Audit Reports on the following government agencies:

1. Department of Energy;
2. Energy Regulatory Commission;

3. Intramuros Administration;
4. National Parks Development Committee;
5. Toll Regulatory Board;
6. Civil Aeronautics Board;
7. Office of Transportation Cooperatives; and
8. Office for Transportation Security.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 22 June 2018 of Ramon L. Abiera, Executive Director III, Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines, submitting the Agency Action Plan and Status of Implementation (AAPSI) on the audit observations and recommendations.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 25, 2018 of Michael R. Bacani, OIC-Regional Director, Regional Office No. 1, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with a copy of the CY 2017 Annual Audit Reports on six (6) state universities and colleges in Region I, to wit:

1. Mariano Marcos State University, Batac City, Ilocos Norte;
2. University of Northern Philippines, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur;
3. Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College, Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur;
4. North Luzon Philippines State College, Candon City, Ilocos Sur;
5. Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, Bacnotan, La Union; and
6. Pangasinan State University, Lingayen, Pangasinan.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 25, 2018 of Ernesto M. Pernia, Secretary, National Economic and Development Authority, submitting the NEDA Secretariat's Report on the CY 2017 ODA Portfolio Review.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Letter dated June 26, 2018 of Gina Perpetua R. Baul, State Auditor IV, Audit Team Leader, Team R10-01, CGS Water Districts and Other CGS Stand Alone Agencies, Regional Office No. 10, Commission on Audit, submitting copies of the CY 2017 Annual Audit Reports on the following water districts:

1. Cagayan de Oro City Water District, Cagayan de Oro City;
2. Gingoog City Water District, Gingoog City;
3. Mambajao Water District, Mambajao, Camiguin; and
4. Talisayan Water District, Talisayan, Misamis Oriental.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 26, 2018 of Edgardo R. Masongsong, Administrator, National Electrification Administration, submitting the comprehensive financial and narrative report on the budgetary adjustments from Capital Outlay (CO) to Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) for FY 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 27, 2018 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson, Commission on Audit, transmitting to the House of Representatives the 2017 Annual Audit Reports on the following government agencies:

1. Department of the Interior and Local Government;
2. National Police Commission;
3. Bureau of Fire Protection;

4. Local Government Academy;
5. Bureau of Jail Management and Penology;
6. Philippine Public Safety College;
7. Philippine National Police;
8. Department of National Defense;
9. National Defense College of the Philippines
10. Office of Civil Defense;
11. Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC);
12. Philippine Veterans Affairs Office;
13. General Headquarters Armed Forces of the Philippines;
14. Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissary and Exchange Service (AFPCEs);
15. Philippine Army;
16. Philippine Air Force;
17. Philippine Navy;
18. Department of Justice;
19. Bureau of Immigration;
20. National Bureau of Investigation;
21. Bureau of Corrections;
22. Parole and Probation Administration;
23. Land Registration Authority;
24. Public Attorney's Office;
25. Office of the Solicitor General;
26. Office of the Government Corporate Counsel; and

27. Presidential Commission on Good Government.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 27, 2018 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson, Commission on Audit, transmitting to the House of Representatives the 2017 Annual Audit Reports on the following government agencies:

1. Agricultural Credit Policy Council;
2. Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries;
3. National Meat Inspection Service;
4. National Mapping and Resource Information Authority;
5. National Water Resources Board;
6. Board of Investments;
7. Philippine Trade Training Center;
8. Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines;
9. Design Center of the Philippines; and
10. Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 27, 2018 of Ma. Corazon S. Gomez, Regional Director, Regional Office No. IV-B, Commission on Audit, submitting to the House of Representatives the 2017 Annual Audit Reports for the following State Universities and Colleges, Other Stand-Alone Agencies and Water Districts:

A. State Universities and Colleges and Other Stand-Alone Agencies

1. Occidental Mindoro State College;
2. Marinduque State College, Boac, Marinduque;

3. Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology;

4. Palawan State University, Puerto Princesa City;

5. Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff, Puerto Princesa City;

6. Romblon State University, Odiongan, Romblon; and

7. Western Philippines University, Aborlan, Palawan.

B. Water Districts:

1. Naujan Water District, Province of Oriental Mindoro;

2. Pinamalayan Water District, Province of Oriental Mindoro;

3. Pola Water District, Province of Oriental Mindoro;

4. Roxas Water District, Province of Oriental Mindoro;

5. Sablayan Water District, Province of Occidental Mindoro;

6. San Jose Water District, Province of Occidental Mindoro;

7. Culion Palawan Water District, Province of Palawan;

8. Roxas Palawan Water District, Province of Palawan;

9. Taytay Palawan Water District, Province of Palawan;

10. Puerto Princesa City Water District, Province of Palawan;

11. Odiongan Water District, Province of Romblon; and

12. Romblon Water District, Province of Romblon.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letters dated June 28, 2018 of Delfin N. Lorenzana, Secretary, Department of National Defense and June 10, 2018 of General Carlito G. Galvez Jr., Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines, submitting their monthly report on the implementation of Martial Law in Mindanao covering the period from 01 to 31 May 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

Letter dated June 28, 2018 of Orlando R. Ravanera, Chairman, Cooperative Development Authority, submitting the 2017 Annual Report of the Cooperative Development Authority.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated June 29, 2018 of Amado Peter A. Garbanzos, State Auditor III, Acting Audit Team Leader, R10-05, CGS-Water Districts and Other CGS-SAA, Region 10, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the CY 2017 Annual Audit Report on the following water districts:

1. Bacolod Water District, Bacolod, Lanao del Norte;
2. Linamon Water District, Linamon, Lanao del Norte;
3. Kapatagan Water District, Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte;
4. Kauswagan Water District, Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte;
5. Kolambugan Water District, Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte; and
6. Tubod-Baroy Water District, Tubod, Lanao del Norte.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 29 June 2018 of Lynn S.F. Sicangco, Regional Director, Regional Office No. III, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the Financial Audit Reports on the following fifty-seven (57) water districts for CY 2016 and 2017 in Region III:

1. Concepcion Water District, Concepcion, Tarlac (CY 2017);
2. Subic Water District, Subic, Zambales (CY 2017);
3. Bongabon Water District, Bongabon, Nueva Ecija (CYs 2016 and 2017);
4. Gen. Natividad Water District, Gen. Natividad, Nueva Ecija (CYs 2016 and 2017);
5. Baliwag Water District, Baliwag, Bulacan (CY 2017);
6. Angeles City Water District, Angeles City, Pampanga (CY 2017);
7. Marilao Water District, Marilao, Bulacan (CY 2017);
8. Mariveles Water District, Mariveles, Bataan (CY 2017);
9. Cabanatuan City Water District, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija (CY 2017);
10. Santa Rosa Water District, Santa Rosa, Nueva Ecija (CY 2017);
11. Bulacan Water District, Bulakan, Bulacan (CY 2017);
12. Hagonoy Water District, Hagonoy, Bulacan (CY 2017);
13. Tarlac City Water District, Tarlac City, Tarlac (CY 2017);
14. Mabalacat City Water District, Mabalacat City, Pampanga (CY 2017);
15. Dinalupihan Water District, Dinalupihan, Bataan (CY 2017);
16. Lubao Water District, Lubao, Pampanga (CY 2017);
17. Balanga Water District, City of Balanga, Bataan (CY 2017);
18. City of San Fernando Water District, City of San Fernando, Pampanga (CY 2017);
19. Guagua Water District, Guagua, Pampanga (CY 2017);

20. Calumpit Water District, Calumpit, Bulacan (CY 2017);
21. Bustos Water District, Bustos, Bulacan (CY 2017);
22. San Jose Del Monte City Water District, City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan (CY 2017);
23. Norzagaray Water District, Norzagaray, Bulacan (CY 2017);
24. Floridablanca Water District, Floridablanca, Pampanga (CY 2017);
25. Orani Water District, Orani, Bataan (CY 2017);
26. Meycauayan Water District, Meycauayan City, Bulacan (CY 2017);
27. Bocaue Water District, Bocaue, Bulacan (CY 2017);
28. San Rafael Water District, San Rafael, Bulacan (CYs 2016 and 2017);
29. Santa Maria Water District, Santa Maria, Bulacan (CY 2017);
30. Dipaculao Water District, Dipaculao, Aurora (CY 2017);
31. Baler Water District, Baler, Aurora (CYs 2016 and 2017);
32. Bacolor Water District, Bacolor, Pampanga (Management Letter - CYs 2016 and 2017);
33. Sasmuan Water District, Sasmuan, Pampanga (CYs 2016 and 2017);
34. Muñoz Water District, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija (CYs 2016 and 2017);
35. Talugtug Water District, Talugtug, Nueva Ecija (CYs 2016 and 2017);
36. Gerona Water District, Gerona, Tarlac (CYs 2016 and 2017);
37. Castillejos Water District, Castillejos, Zambales (CYs 2016 and 2017);
38. Hermosa Water District, Hermosa, Bataan (CYs 2016 and 2017);
39. City of Malolos Water District, City of Malolos, Bulacan (CY 2017);
40. Plaridel Water District, Plaridel, Bulacan (CY 2017);
41. Masantol Water District, Masantol, Pampanga (CYs 2016 and 2017);
42. Macabebe Water District, Macabebe, Pampanga (CYs 2016 and 2017);
43. Cabangan Water District, Cabangan, Zambales (CYs 2016 and 2017);
44. Moncada Water District, Moncada, Tarlac (CYs 2016 and 2017);
45. Porac Water District, Porac, Pampanga (CYs 2016 and 2017);
46. Sta. Rita Water District, Sta. Rita, Pampanga (CYs 2016 and 2017);
47. Talavera Water District, Talavera, Nueva Ecija (CYs 2016 and 2017);
48. Licab Water District, Licab, Nueva Ecija (CY 2017);
49. Orion Water District, Orion, Bataan (CYs 2016 and 2017);
50. San Miguel Water District, San Miguel, Bulacan, (CYs 2016 and 2017);
51. Paniqui Water District, Paniqui, Tarlac, (CYs 2016 and 2017);
52. San Ildefonso Water District, San Ildefonso, Bulacan (CYs 2016 and 2017);
53. Sta. Cruz Water District, Sta. Cruz, Zambales (CYs 2016 and 2017);
54. Limay Water District, Limay, Bataan (CYs 2016 and 2017);
55. San Jose City Water District, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija (CYs 2016 and 2017);
56. Lupao Water District, Lupao, Nueva Ecija (CYs 2016 and 2017); and

57. Ramos Water District, Ramos, Tarlac (CYs 2016 and 2017).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 4 July 2018 of Azucena M. Dyanghirang, Deputy Executive Director, National Nutrition Council, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the ASIN Progress Report for the period 2013-2016.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Letters dated 5 July 2018 of Jose R. Fajardo, Acting Deputy General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. Memorandum No. M-2018-019 dated 11 June 2018;
2. Memorandum No. M-2018-020 dated 22 June 2018;
3. Circular Letter No. CL-2018-045 dated 25 June 2018; and
4. Circular Letter No. CL-2018-046 dated 22 June 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated 17 July 2018 of Jose R. Fajardo, Acting Deputy General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, furnishing the House of Representatives with a duly certified and authenticated copy of Circular Letter No. CL-2018-047 dated 10 July 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the 4th Quarter of 2017 of the Local Government Support Fund of the Municipality of Minglanilla, Province of Cebu, attested by Elanito A. Peña, Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Barbaza Water District, Barbaza, Antique for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Culasi Water District, Culasi, Antique for the year ended December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Jordan Water District, Jordan, Guimaras for the year ended December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Zarraga Water District, Zarraga, Iloilo for the year ended December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority for the year ended December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Ramon Magsaysay Technological University, Iba, Zambales for the year ended December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Mindanao Development Authority, Davao City for the year ended December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Davao Integrated Development Program, Project Management Office, Davao City for the year ended December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa, Sr. Memorial State College of Agriculture and Technology (DEBESMSCAT), Cabitan, Mandaon, Masbate for the year ended December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Consolidated Audit Report on the Official Development Assistance (ODA) Programs and Projects for Calendar Year 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

NTRC Tax Research Journal, Volume XXX.2, March-April 2018, A Review of Excise Taxation of Sin Products and Discussions on the Features of Various Tax Amnesty Proposals.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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

Consolidated House Bill No. 6475 and Senate Bill No. 1717, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIC LAW FOR THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6734, ENTITLED 'AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN ORGANIC ACT FOR THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO,' AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9054, ENTITLED 'AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND THE ORGANIC ACT FOR THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO' ”

(Now Republic Act No. 11054)

TO THE ARCHIVES

2017 Annual Audit Reports on the following water districts:

1. Tukuran Water District, Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur;
2. Sindangan Water District, Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte;
3. Kumalarang Water District, Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Sur;
4. Liloy Water District, Liloy, Zamboanga del Norte;
5. Rizal Water District, Rizal, Zamboanga del Norte; and
6. Polanco Water District, Polanco, Zamboanga del Norte.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2017 Annual Audit Reports on the following water districts:

1. Claveria Water District, Claveria, Misamis Oriental;
2. Tagoloan Water District, Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental;
3. Balingasag Water District, Balingasag, Misamis Oriental;
4. Malaybalay City Water District, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon;
5. Manolo Fortich Water District, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon;
6. Maramag Water District, Maramag, Bukidnon;
7. Quezon Water District, Quezon, Bukidnon;
8. Valencia City Water District, Valencia City, Bukidnon;
9. Damulog Water District, Damulog, Bukidnon;
10. Don Carlos Water District, Don Carlos, Bukidnon; and



11. Kibawe Water District, Kibawe, Bukidnon.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2017 Annual Audit Reports and 2016-2017 Biennial Audit Report on the following State Universities/Colleges and water districts:

1. Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University (CY 2017);
2. Butuan City Water District, Butuan City (CY 2017);
3. Surigao Metropolitan Water District, Surigao City, Surigao del Norte (CY 2017); and
4. Sibulan Water District, Sibulan, Negros Oriental (CYs 2016-2017).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

#### COMMITTEE REPORT

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 807), re H.B. No. 8006, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE OROQUIETA AGRO-INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL (OAS) IN THE CITY OF OROQUIETA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A STATE COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL STATE COLLEGE (MOSC), REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4941, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 241

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE DAZA

Upon recognition by the Chair, Representative Daza noted that the session started at three o'clock that afternoon after the Body amended during the previous session Section 10 of the amended Provi-

sional Rules of the House. Although this did not affect him personally because he was already at the Session Hall when the Roll Call was called at three o'clock, he however would like to speak on behalf of the 63 Members who were absent that day and might not have been informed of the amendment to the Rules. In the interest of fairness to those Members who were not able to come at three o'clock, he appealed that a second call be made at four o'clock.

#### REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE MARCOLETA

With the permission of the Chair, Representative Marcoleta recalled that it was the Majority Leader who made the motion to commence the daily plenary sessions at three o'clock in the afternoon starting that day. He said the Body approved the motion without any objection.

Representative Daza said that he was aware of the motion but was speaking on behalf of the Members who were not present when the Rule was amended during the previous session and was appealing to the discretion of the Chair to conduct a second roll call at four o'clock.

Representative Marcoleta pointed out that a notice had been sent to notify the Members of the amended time of the session, as shown by the 231 Members who responded to the Call.

Reiterating his appeal, Representative Daza however said that if the Majority Leader would not want to accede to his request that a second Roll Call be made at four o'clock, he would like to put on record that said request has been turned down by the Majority.

#### REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

The Chair stated that the Members who will come in late can approach the Secretariat so that they would be marked as “present,” and not “absent.”

At this juncture, Representative Marcoleta rose on a question of privilege.

#### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REPRESENTATIVE MARCOLETA

Representative Marcoleta recalled that on July 30, 2018, the Majority Leader recognized Rep. Danilo E. Suarez as the Minority Leader which act was questioned on the floor and gave rise to what appeared to be a three-cornered fight for the position of Minority Leader.

Unfortunately, he noted that the internal squabble which was picked up, feasted on, and being hyped by the media was directly affecting the integrity and reputation of the House and its Members. Considering that the action taken by the Majority Leader was legally tenable and must be explained, he cited two instances why the House votes for a Speaker as clearly provided under the first paragraph of Section 11, Rule III of the amended Provisional Rules of the House: first, at the commencement of each Congress and second, whenever a vacancy exists.

He stressed that during their inaugural session two years ago, the Members who voted for the winning Speaker, former Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez, constituted the Majority and it was necessary to draw the line because the House had to be organized. He however emphasized that what happened two weeks ago was a different matter when they needed to vote again for another Speaker since the office of the incumbent was declared vacant.

He said that the House had to vote again for a Speaker not because it needed to organize but because there was a need to fill up a vacancy, and that the Rules provide that the prospective Speaker must get a majority vote of all the Members in order to be elected. He noted that the House Rules do not state that those who voted to elect a new Speaker has formed a new set of Majority. He disclosed that the argument of Reps. Romero “Miro” S. Quimbo and Eugene Michael B. De Vera that Members who vote for the winning candidate for Speaker shall constitute the Majority by invoking Section 8 of the House Rules cannot be applied when Members vote in order to fill up a vacancy. He explained that their reasoning only applies during the commencement of each Congress at which time the Body has to organize. On the other hand, the change in leadership that took place two weeks ago did not require the House to organize again. He said that if they follow Section 8, there will never be an instance where a Minority Leader can participate in ousting an incumbent Speaker.

#### **POINT OF ORDER OF REPRESENTATIVE ERICE**

Upon recognition of the Chair, Rep. Edgar R. Erice inquired whether Representative Marcoleta was talking as a Representative or as a Majority Leader because the Chair had not yet recognized the latter’s question of privilege.

The Chair then recognized Representative Marcoleta for his question of privilege.

#### **QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REPRESENTATIVE MARCOLETA**

(Continuation)

To continue, Representative Marcoleta cited that if they follow the argument of Representatives Quimbo and De Vera, there will never be an instance where a Minority Leader can participate in ousting an incumbent Speaker without losing his position. He said that he had the chance to ask Representative Quimbo whether there was any other way for Representative Suarez to formally manifest his desire to change the House Members’ leadership without voting for the candidate who eventually won and his reply was that he should have abstained. He then argued that if Representative Suarez abstained from voting, it would obviously mean that he had not conveyed his wish to change the Speaker because if he abstained, he practically did nothing. He said that he also had a chance to ask Representative De Vera what could have happened if Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo did not get the majority vote required to be elected and his reply was to nominate another candidate.

With all due respect, he opined that the answer was inaccurate, and cited the position of the Majority Leader that if Representative Suarez, together with his team in the Minority, chose to abstain from voting like what the group of Representative Quimbo did, and Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo failed to get the majority vote, the motion to vacate would have been defeated, and former Speaker Alvarez would have stayed as the Speaker of the House. He maintained that if Speaker Alvarez regains his position under such scenario, Representatives De Vera and Quimbo will say that the group of Representative Suarez indirectly supported the Majority and following the argument based on Section 8, Representative Suarez will still lose his Minority post for virtually supporting the incumbent Speaker to retain his position.

He said that this “damn if you do, damn if you don’t” dilemma was never intended by the Rules insofar as the post of Minority Leader was concerned. He maintained that the Rules never contemplated a situation that the Minority Leader will stay as a lame duck or relegated to the status of a disinterested bystander at a time when a crucial shift in the House leadership was taking place.

He pointed out that Section 8 should not be interpreted in a way that could lead the Members not only to absurdity but also to a serious inconvenience

that a proposed interpretation may cause which, under a legal maxim, is a serious reason to discard it.

He said that when Representative Suarez opted to support and vote for Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, all he wanted was a change in leadership; a right that he can exercise as a Member of the House when vacancy arises in House speakership considering that the Rule states “all Members”, without any distinction as to Majority or Minority. He maintained that Representative Suarez did not have to change his color because such political exercise is color blind; and pointed out that clearly, the Minority belt was never disputed as the champion on record is still Representative Suarez.

#### **MOTION OF REPRESENTATIVE MARCOLETA**

Representative Marcoleta then moved that the Body vote to confirm the act of the Majority Leader of recognizing Representative Suarez as the Minority Leader.

#### **OBJECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES DAZA, ERICE, AND QUIMBO**

Before the Chair could act on the motion, Representatives Daza, Erice, and Quimbo simultaneously objected to the motion.

#### **REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE ERICE**

Representative Erice remarked that the Majority Leader has no business to determine who the Minority Leader is because it would only bring them to a suspicion that the Minority is the Majority’s favorite.

At this point, the Chair recognized Representative Quimbo.

#### **OBJECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE QUIMBO**

Citing the parliamentary status, Representative Quimbo expressed the belief that a privilege speech cannot ripen into a motion. He noted that the proper action is whether or not Representative Marcoleta is willing to be interpellated or his speech is to be referred to the appropriate committee. He then objected to the motion for being out of order.

#### **QUERY FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair inquired whether Representative Marcoleta was open to interpellations.

#### **REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE MARCOLETA**

Representative Marcoleta said that he was willing to respond to an interpellation but the parliamentary status was that there was a motion to confirm the action taken by the Majority Leader in recognizing Representative Suarez as Minority Leader. He said that there should be a division of the House.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE QUIMBO**

Recognized by the Chair, Representative Quimbo stated that the Body should first proceed according to the Rules of the House, which the Chair sustained and thereafter recognized Representative Daza for his interpellation.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE DAZA**

On Representative Daza’s concerns regarding Section 8 being the gist of the Supreme Court decision in the case of *Baguilat vs. Alvarez*, Representative Marcoleta stated that he was now trying to make a distinction between the time when Congress started to organize and elect a Speaker and the time when the Members elected a Speaker when the position was declared vacant.

He said that during the inaugural session of the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress, three candidates then vied for the speakership which former Speaker Alvarez (P.) won and that those who voted for the winning candidate constituted themselves as members of the Majority pursuant to Section 8 of the House Rules. He recalled that then Majority Leader Rodolfo C. Fariñas qualified that all those who abstained and did not vote will automatically become members of the Minority.

However, Representative Marcoleta underscored that it was not the case when the position of Speaker was declared vacant two weeks ago because all they needed was a majority vote of all the members to elect a new Speaker. He maintained that as they were still organizing two years ago, they needed to identify who the Majority and the Minority members would be at that time.

Representative Daza then expressed belief that the Supreme Court did not make any distinction in the case he mentioned compared to what happened two weeks previously by quoting Section 1, Rule III

of the House Rules which states that there is no distinction between the election of the Speaker during the commencement of each Congress and whenever there is a vacancy on the position of Speaker. He averred that it was only Representative Marcoleta who was making the distinction. He therefore maintained that he was objecting to the motion for the House to render formal recognition to the so-called Minority status of Representative Suarez and his group.

Thereafter, the Chair recognized Representative Fariñas for his interpellation.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE FARIÑAS**

Representative Fariñas initially inquired where the Majority Leader got the power to recognize the Minority Leader as such last July 30, and whether the Majority Leader was aware of the jurisdiction of the Committee on Rules.

Representative Marcoleta replied that the plenary power of the Majority Leader came from the Body. He said the recognition of the Minority Leader was laid down by the Speaker and approved by the Body as no Member objected thereto.

Stating however that there was no positive motion or statement on said matter, Representative Fariñas pointed out the first jurisdiction of the Committee on Rules pertains to all matters relating to the Rules of the House. He said that it is the Committee on Rules, and not the Majority Leader, that should determine whether or not a matter needs an interpretation.

Representative Marcoleta replied that the presumption of regularity exists whenever a pronouncement comes from the Majority Leader because the latter chairs the Committee on Rules.

Adverting to the recently conducted meeting of the Committee on Rules, Representative Fariñas asked whether the said Committee has already convened as he stated that under the House Rules, each committee must have a proportional representation between the Majority and the Minority. He questioned how the Committee on Rules was able to convene and conduct its business without first deciding as to who is the duly constituted Minority. He further stressed that it is common practice for each House committee to meet with representation from the Minority. He averred that the Body cannot

even hold plenary sessions without the presence of the Minority more so in the conduct of committee meetings.

Representative Fariñas said he was told that the committees were instructed to continue functioning. He thereupon asked anew who was the Minority recognized during the meeting of the Committee on Rules last Tuesday, July 31, 2018, as he was informed that it was not an all-member meeting, and was allegedly a per invitation only meeting.

In reply, Representative Marcoleta mentioned Reps. Jose L. Atienza Jr. and Alfredo A. Garbin Jr. among the members of the Minority who were present in said Committee meeting.

Representative Fariñas recalled that at the start of the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress, he and his colleagues from the Committee on Rules could not meet until the issue of who should be the Minority shall have been decided with finality. He said that the Committee on Rules was duly constituted only after the Minority had nominated and elected on the floor their members and that until such time that the Minority had nominated and made the proper manifestations on the floor, no committee was able to perform its functions. He then quoted the provision of Section 8 of the House Rules which he said he had authored and stressed that the definition and sole criterion for becoming a Majority member is for one to have voted for the winning candidate for the Speakership. He also held that any Member who did not vote for the winning candidate—whether he voted for another candidate, abstained, or did not want to vote at all—will belong to the Minority because such action was not included in the definition of Majority.

Further, Representative Fariñas commented that it was strange for Representative Marcoleta to be arguing in behalf of the Minority Leader because it should be the Minority or the person claiming to be the Minority Leader who should advance and support this case as he concurred with the observation of Representative Daza that they have an existing jurisprudence on the matter. He then cited that in the case of *Baguilat vs. Alvarez*, the Supreme Court categorically stated that the group of Suarez was the duly-constituted Minority in the House of Representatives and that the petitioners, Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. and his Group of Seven opted to become independent by not aligning themselves with the Majority or the Minority. He said that last Monday's proceedings was anomalous because they were arguing that the Minority can participate in the election of a Speaker.

He also held that since the definition of the Minority covers those who did not vote for the winning candidate, then there is an existing Minority bloc which was validly constituted precisely by the Minority Members who did not vote for then Speaker Alvarez (P.). He emphasized that whatever change that happens in the speakership is a concern of the Majority and does not involve the Minority.

Representative Fariñas pointed out that when the former Minority Leader decided to join a new group and elected a new Speaker, this was called the new Majority in the House. He said pursuant to the Rules and to the decision of the Supreme Court, those who did not vote for the new Speaker, Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, should now form part of the Minority. He stated that he and former Speaker Alvarez (P.) were ousted by the new Majority from their positions upon the adoption of House Resolution No. 2025 which gave them enough reasons pursuant to the House Rules, to apply to the duly constituted Minority headed by Representative De Vera, who immediately accepted them. He even informed the Body that they elected Representative De Vera as the Minority Leader in an organizational meeting held last Friday, August 3, 2018.

In addition, Representative Fariñas expounded on the election of the Minority Leader as provided for under Section 8 of the House Rules and reiterated that the identification of the Minority Leader is the business of the Minority. He said it would be anomalous for the Majority Leader to ask the Body to vote on who will be the Minority Leader; otherwise, they would be stating that the choice of a Minority Leader is up to the Majority, which is a clear violation of the Rules of the House.

For his part, Representative Marcoleta countered Representative Fariñas' statements. The former said he was simply trying to confirm the action taken by the Majority Leader when he recognized the Minority Leader last July 30, and qualified that it was not an act of supporting the Minority Leader. He begged the indulgence of the Body if he sounded like he was supporting the Minority Leader and stressed that whichever position they take, the Body must be able to resolve the issue at hand.

Representative Marcoleta explained that there were contending parties to the Minority leadership, and this should not continue that way. While it was the sole business of the Minority to thresh out the issue among themselves, he stated that it was the position of the Majority Leader that the work of the

House of Representatives should not be compromised because the seeming squabble by the protagonists was directly affecting the integrity, reputation, and probably even duties of the individual Members of this House. He added that it was understandable if their interpretation of the Rules of the House was not acceptable to a certain group, but stressed that it is within the power of the Body to resolve every dispute by dividing the House.

Representative Fariñas thereupon asked if his colleague will pursue his motion for the Body to affirm or vote on the recognition made by the Majority Leader of Representative Suarez as the Minority Leader because he wanted a definitive action on the matter. He explained that when he was the Majority Leader in the First and Second Regular Sessions, the success of the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress was his success, its failure likewise his failure and insisted that the Body should do things properly. He said that when the Body approved on Third Reading more than 20 measures the previous week, there was still a cloud of doubt who was the recognized Minority.

He urged the House leadership to take a definitive action on the matter, which he said he and his colleagues would respect in the same way that they would be accorded the same respect should they decide to bring the matter to the proper forum like what Representative Baguilat's group did that resulted in a Supreme Court ruling that serves as a guide to future Congresses.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative Marcoleta, the Chair recognized Representative De Vera for his interpellation.

## **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE DE VERA**

To the initial questions of Representative De Vera, Representative Marcoleta replied he was aware of 1) the constitutional provision allowing both Houses of Congress to promulgate their own Rules as to how to conduct their proceedings; and 2) the Preamble of the Rules of the House which enjoins the Members to promulgate and pledge faithful obedience to these Rules. Representative Marcoleta also admitted to having remembered his colleague telling him that the latter was elected as Minority Leader and that he had accepted the application of several Members from the former Majority to become members of the Minority, which he subsequently named.

Thereafter, Representative De Vera raised the following issues: 1) why as the designated Deputy Minority Leader and *ex-officio* member of the Committee on Rules, he was not invited by Representative Marcoleta in the July 31 meeting of the Committee on Rules; 2) whether the issue of choosing a Minority Leader is governed by Sections 8, 11 and 13 of Rule II of the amended Provisional Rules of the House; 3) whether Representative Marcoleta was aware of the facts that transpired in 2016 in the selection of Representative Suarez as the Minority Leader, as well as the Supreme Court ruling in the case of *Baguilat vs. Suarez*; and 4) whether the provisions of Sections 11 and 13 of the House Rules pertain only to how the post of the Speaker could be declared vacant and the manner by which the new Speaker should be elected, and do not relate to membership at all.

*At this point, Deputy Speaker Castro (F.H.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Mercedes K. Alvarez.*

In response, Representative Marcoleta admitted to lapses in mechanisms and procedures in the organizational tasks in view of the emergence of a new Speaker of the House. He however opined that this does not mean that there is no regularity in the process that the present dispensation is undergoing, this as he stressed that on record, the Minority Leader is still Representative Suarez.

He agreed with Representative De Vera that the Rules of the House should be read in its entirety but that at some point, a particular rule will apply. He however said that Section 8 cannot be applied in all situations when a Speaker is elected. He explained that during the organizational stage, the Majority is constituted by the Members who voted for the winning Speaker, or when a Member of the Minority writes formally to the Majority that he wishes to be accepted therein. He added that it always happens that a Member from the Majority transfers to the Minority, and vice versa by writing the proper communication. He recalled that in 2016, after the election of the Speaker, a certain group wrote to the Minority Leader and they were accepted as members of the Minority. He pointed out that the rest of Section 8 is silent on whether a Member who abstained from voting automatically belongs to the Minority, but by implication, it provides that those who voted for another candidate as supported by precedence in previous Congresses become members of the Minority.

Representative Marcoleta subsequently affirmed that he was aware 1) of the recognition of

the Suarez group as the Minority group in 2016; 2) that Representative Suarez voted for Representative Alvarez (P.) as Speaker, but applied to the Minority and won as Minority Leader; and 3) that the Supreme Court denied the petition of Representative Baguilat because Representative Suarez followed the provisions of Section 8 of the Rules of the House. He however qualified that the application of Section 8 is only during the inaugural session of Congress and cannot be applied outside of it because the particular provisions relate to the need of the House to organize. He added that in 2016, there was neither Majority nor Minority, unlike what happened two weeks ago when the House was organized when it declared a vacancy in the speakership.

Furthermore, Representative Marcoleta emphasized that Section 11 of Rule III on the filling up of a vacancy in the post of any of the officers of the House is different from electing a Speaker at a time when there is a need to organize. He also referred to Section 13 which states that when a vacancy is declared, it is the duty of the House to elect a new Speaker. He averred that there was only one candidate for Speaker two weeks ago when the members of the Majority and the Minority were already clearly defined.

Representative Marcoleta also stated that Representative Suarez did not know then that Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo would be able to get the majority votes when he signed the manifesto and that the latter was the only person that can explain his motive for doing so. He opined that there was no need to change membership as the procedure only called for a replacement of a new Speaker and that invoking Section 8 of the amended Rules would not be legally supported.

Representative De Vera pointed out however that Sections 11 and 13 did not provide for membership status of whether a Member belongs to the Majority, Minority or the independent group because it was already provided for in Section 8.

Disagreeing thereto, Representative Marcoleta reiterated that there was no membership distinction in Section 11, Rule III because the process was to vote for a new Speaker and that Section 8 can be applied only during the inaugural session of each Congress.

At this point, Representative De Vera requested that he be given time for his interpellation as he was trying to convince his colleagues that he is the Minority Leader of the House. He then explained the

distinction between Rules II and III wherein the former provides for membership status while the latter governs the election of the officers of the House. He said that they should obey the application of the House Rules as provided for in its Preamble.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Alvarez (M.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Castro (F.H.).*

Representative Marcoleta stated that the issue was not about the election of officers of the House but only the vacated post of the Speaker and that Rule III does not distinguish between Majority and Minority as the Members were not required to change their membership status as they only needed to vote in order to fill up said vacancy. He added that Section 8 was for organizational procedure only.

Representative De Vera maintained that it is very clear than when the issue of membership is in question, Rule II should apply. He stressed that they have to differentiate Rule II from Rule III as far as the election of officers particularly on vacancy is concerned as it would affect the membership status of each Member of the House. He then manifested that under the amended Provisional Rules of the House, he is the Minority Leader of the House.

In reply, Representative Marcoleta stated that the opinion of Representative De Vera was as good as the opinion of the other Members including himself.

Thereafter, the Chair recognized Representative Quimbo for his interpellation.

## **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE QUIMBO**

At the outset, Representative Quimbo raised his concern on the rationale of having a Majority and Minority coalition at the beginning of each Congress and the determination of Majority and Minority status under Section 8 of the House Rules.

Representative Marcoleta replied that in a democracy, the voice of the Minority is needed in every legislative body in order to deliberate and discuss every piece of legislation and to maintain check and balance in the institution. He added that those who voted for the winning Speaker comprise the Majority while those who voted for the losing candidate comprise the Minority. He surmised that those who did not vote for the winning Speaker probably did not agree with his/her agenda and decided to go with the Minority.

As to the issue of Representative Suarez voting for the winning Speaker, Representative Quimbo asked how come that Section 8 of Rule II could only be invoked upon commencement of each Congress and not in the middle of their terms considering the theory of Representative Marcoleta that being part of the Minority is when he/she did not vote for the winning Speaker. He stressed that the Minority serves as a check and balance and therefore could not vote in favor of the winning Speaker.

Referring to Section 8 as the most basic guideline, Representative Quimbo sought explanation as to how the Minority Leader would be able to perform his function of checks and balances as an essential part of democracy, if he actually voted for the winning Speaker.

Although in agreement with Section 8 providing that those who voted for the Speaker constitutes the Majority, Representative Marcoleta alluded to Rule I of the House Rules on the convening and organizing of the House as he further explained that the recent election of a new Speaker was not done during an organizational or inaugural session which required a majority vote of all Members through a Roll Call vote and thus can easily determine who belongs to the Majority or Minority groups. He also pointed out that said Rule does not have categorical declaration about automatic membership in the Minority group even if one Member abstained from the election for Speaker. This, as he adverted to Rule III, Section 11 which only requires participation in the election but would not compromise any membership.

Representative Marcoleta also contended that he can neither speculate nor judge whether Minority Leader Suarez had already lost his ability to fiscalize or lead the Minority only because he voted for the winning Speaker.

Representative Quimbo however maintained that Section 8 covers all forms of reconstitution of the House and changing of the Speaker and that any Member who voted for the winning Speaker can no longer be part of the Minority. He even compared the issue at hand to a basketball setting where a referee functions for checks and balances and therefore cannot easily change courts whenever he feels like it, and that such act is tantamount to a question of loyalty and confidence. He thereafter said that at least three sections in the Rules clearly provide that the election of the Speaker is different from an ordinary nominal voting in the approval of measures,

as well as specify what is necessary in order to determine who shall form part of the Majority or Minority groups.

In addition, he lamented that it is quite unacceptable and absurd to have a Minority Leader who did not only vote but more so campaigned for the winning Speaker and expressed reservation that if permanency of positions at the time of constitution would be applied, there would also be a Majority Leader who does not truly represent the Majority, who will be obstinate, and can block the agenda of the new Speaker.

Stating that they would continue to remind the Body about the proper thing to do, Representative Quimbo clarified that he does not intend to badger or prevent the Body from working but rather for it to succeed and understand the real situation.

In response to the main contention of Representative Quimbo that Minority Leader Suarez' act of voting for the new Speaker had affected his ability to fiscalize, Representative Marcoleta explained that the intent of the Rules of the House was not to constrict Members in choosing memberships but rather give them freedom to take which alliance they are most comfortable with as he agreed with the argument of Majority Leader Rolando G. Andaya Jr. that taking part in a change of leadership does not mean sacrifice or compromise of positions.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA**

Upon recognition by the Chair, Representative Atienza at first applauded Representative Marcoleta for initiating the debate in Congress being the proper forum to discuss the issue, and not any form of social media. He then underscored that the Rules of the House should be followed and not misinterpreted, distorted and mangled in any form other than what it was intended for, which is to put order in the deliberations of the House of Representatives by providing an efficient procedure in making laws.

Representative Atienza said that the Rules of the House organized the House of Representatives on July 25, 2016 making it function efficiently for the past two years, and instituted and defined both the Majority and Minority whose terms shall expire on June 30, 2019.

Representative Atienza thereafter asked whether Representative De Vera's abstention from the voting on the speakership was acceptable, when

the call of duty to decide thereon came. He expressed disagreement with the positions of Representatives De Vera and Quimbo as he stressed that (1) the former was not the only one who abstained from the voting, and (2) he was happy and effective with his role in the Minority as a fiscalizer in the Chamber.

Stressing that the Body should be the one to decide on the issue at hand, he also opined that there is no vacancy in the Minority leadership and that Sections 11 and 13 are very clear in requiring a majority vote of all the Members in order to declare a vacancy.

Representative Atienza subsequently said that Representative Suarez was effective as a Minority Leader, as he relayed how he himself had been performing his role as a fiscalizer in the past two Congresses especially in preventing the passage of the Aquino Administrations' fraudulent, unconstitutional, and treasonous version of the Bangsamoro Basic Law. He pointed out that one's closeness to the Speaker should not be the basis for deciding on who was the Minority Leader.

He also emphasized that the Body should instead tackle the rising price of rice, inflation, and other economic problems and that the Majority should be the one to interpret the Rules of the House especially on the matter of a vacancy in the Minority leadership. He expressed hope that after this issue is decided on, the Members will buckle down to work towards improving the life of suffering Filipinos.

Seeking indulgence for not making any other comment, Representative Marcoleta said that he respected the opinion of Representatives Atienza, De Vera, and Quimbo.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE VILLARIN**

On motion of Representative Herrera-Dy, the Chair next recognized Representative Tom S. Villarín who asked whether the theme of Representative Marcoleta's speech was to defend the Minority Leader whom the Majority had decided on without the benefit of a process.

Representative Marcoleta replied that he merely wanted to explain why the Majority Leader recognized Representative Suarez as the Minority Leader last July 30 and did not intend to side with the latter. He added that he also wanted to protect



the Majority's reputation and integrity including its duty to buckle down to work on important bills such as the 2019 General Appropriations Bill. He stressed that it was not and will never be his position, as Senior Deputy Majority Leader, to meddle into the affairs of the Minority.

Representative Villarin then sought clarification on Section 8 of the House Rules regarding the characterization of House Members. He first said that records show that 184 members had voted for Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, said number includes the 14 Members led by Representative Suarez, and 108 Members did not vote for the new Speaker. He also asked Representative Marcoleta to define who constitutes the members of the Independent group.

Representative Marcoleta said that Section 8 states that during the organizational session, the Members who voted for the winning Speaker shall constitute the Majority and by implication, those who voted for the losing candidates become members of the Minority. He said that the Rule was silent on whether or not there was an automatic membership in the Minority in cases of those who abstained from voting or did not vote at all. He added that the Independents were the ones who decided not to belong to the Majority or the Minority.

Furthermore, Representative Marcoleta said they have to wait for the process to be completed to determine the status of the Members who voted for or against the new Speaker or abstained from voting, because the Rules of the House also provides that the Members may decide to shift to the Majority or vice versa, on the assumption that the Majority or the Minority will accept them. He cited for instance that if a member from the Majority decides to transfer to the Minority or vice-versa, the Rules provides that said Member has to write the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader, whichever is the case; and if accepted, then he or she can become a Member of the Majority or Minority. He however said that according to the Rules, those Members who decide not to go either way will remain to be Independents.

Representative Villarin said that during the election of the new Speaker, more than 50 Members could be considered Independent because they belong neither to the Majority or the Minority and that these Members decided to write to the Majority. Inasmuch as Representative Suarez voted for the Speaker, he said that he should have resigned from the Majority and had written the Minority and followed the proper process provided for under Section 8.

Representative Marcoleta said that such rule only applies when a Member votes for the Speaker during the inaugural session. He said that he needed the proper records to explain the correct numbers who switched positions and until this time, he cannot speculate on the names of the Members who decided to stay as Independent.

Representative Villarin pointed out that the issue on numbers is significant and relevant on the reorganization of the Majority, Minority, and Independents during the installation of a new Speaker.

Representative Marcoleta said that the decision of an individual Member was also important and that there is no automatic membership to the Majority when a member votes for the winning Speaker in times of vacancy. He said that time is needed to complete the process in order for all the Members to decide whether or not they want to go to either side and to finally determine who are the Independents.

On whether the House leadership already knows who are the Majority and the Minority, Representative Marcoleta said that it was still not final because the process is ongoing. He said that he would inform Representative Villarin once they were able to determine the correct number.

On another query, Representative Marcoleta said that he was acknowledging a process because Representative Villarin cited Section 8 and they cannot discount the possibility that Members could still go on either side. He said that he was only trying to respond to the scenarios that the latter was creating.

At this point, Representative Villarin cited a Journal of the House wherein the Majority Leader stated that last week that based on records, 260 Members constituted the Majority and asked how they could still not determine with finality the members of the Majority and the Minority.

Representative Marcoleta said that the number does not remain static because the Rules provides situations where Members can switch sides.

Representative Villarin then asked whether Representative Marcoleta could still not determine the Majority or the Minority despite the claim of Representative De Vera that he has 14 members on his side in the same way that Representative Quimbo has 26 confirmed members in his group. Representative Marcoleta explained that he is not in a position to tell so because they are still waiting for

the process to be completed but stressed that based on the Rules of the House, his group is still the Majority.

On whether the Minority refers to the 14 Members who are with Representative Suarez and voted for Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo, Representative Marcoleta clarified that he did not say that the group of Representative Suarez switched positions or not. In his speech earlier, he said that the color or the positions were not sacrificed or not compromised whenever a Member votes for a new Speaker with the intention of filling up a vacancy and should not be taken out of context. He said that every Member has an equal right to vote, adding that in case of a vacancy, a Member can vote for a Speaker, without necessarily taking sides or getting into another side.

At this point, Representative Villarin read page 5 of Journal No. 4 dated July 30, 2018 under the heading "Remarks of Majority Leader Andaya," on his question regarding who comprises Majority and Minority. He pointed out that there were already the numbers but if Representative Marcoleta states that they are still undergoing a process, then the Majority should not recognize a Minority Leader in the person of Representative Suarez precisely because they are still undertaking a process.

Representative Marcoleta said that he does not dispute the records as written in the Journal of the House. He said that there is a process because Representative Villarin was referring to Section 8. He said that he was only responding when asked to define who the members of the Majority are, and the members of the Minority, including the members of the Independents, who chose not to take sides. Although, he said, these numbers were already in the Journal, it does not mean that they will not change because there were instances when Members switch sides.

On whether there was switching of sides during the election of a new Speaker, Representative Marcoleta said that it was already decided and ruled and the numbers are evidenced in the Journal. He said that they need not debate on it. He also said that if only one Member switches to the Minority, and the Majority number is 260, that does not change the fact that the Majority still holds the number.

On the hypothetical situation when there is one or two differences in membership between the Majority and the Minority, Representative Marcoleta said that it does not settle the issue of the Minority.

He also claimed that it was the position of the Majority Leader to recognize Representative Suarez based on record and on the numbers reflected in the Journal as cited by Representative Villarin.

Representative Marcoleta further said that they had just talked about the ongoing process of constituting the Majority and Minority according to the Rules of the House.

Representative Villarin said that he has raised the issue because the election of the new Speaker, in the person of Speaker Macapagal-Arroyo who garnered 184 votes, was important considering that in 2016 when they constituted the House, the former Speaker garnered 260 votes after eight Members joined the Majority which was a big difference between 184 and 252 votes.

As there are now 40 Members who signified that they did not want to be with the Majority, Representative Villarin expressed apprehension on how the issue of Minority would be resolved considering that there are two groups who are vying for the Minority post with one group electing Representative Quimbo and the other electing Representative De Vera as their Minority Leader. Representative Marcoleta stated that what he explained earlier was only in relation to the act done by the Majority Leader in recognizing Representative Suarez as the Minority Leader. He said that under the Rules, one has to write a formal letter if they want to be identified either with the Majority or Minority.

On the election of the Minority Leader, Representative Marcoleta adverted to the process under Section 8 of the House Rules to which Representative Villarin said they have already complied with. As the Minority Leader can be changed anytime, Representative Marcoleta maintained that one has to be a member of the Minority before they can proceed with the process recognized by the House.

As regards Representative Suarez and his group, Representative Villarin opined that they have to decide if they wish to join the 40 House Members who had expressly manifested to be with the Minority, and discuss and decide among themselves who should be the Minority Leader.

Representative Villarin then stated that for the sake of democracy and the people, it is high time that the Majority recognizes a critical and independent Minority and be given a chance to discuss matters of policy that reflects their own thinking oppo-

site to that of the Majority. However, Representative Marcoleta underscored that there is still the need to resolve the recognition of Representative Suarez as the Minority Leader.

Representative Villarín recalled that during the previous week, the Majority Leader likened the fight for the Minority Leader with that of the various claimants of the West Philippine Sea, as well as a fight between the so-called *dilawan* and *pulahan*. He however concluded that the struggle does not end with this.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA**

At this point, Representative Atienza sought recognition from the Chair.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Marcoleta, the Chair suspended the session at 6:19 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 6:20 p.m.

#### **SUSPENSION OF INTERPELLATIONS ON THE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE MARCOLETA**

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Marcoleta, there being no objection, the Chair suspended the interpellations on the former's speech.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

Representative Marcoleta thereupon acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guest of Rep. Vincent "Bingbong" P. Crisologo.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Marcoleta, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, August 7, 2018.

It was 6:21 p.m.

-----  
I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

(Sgd.) **MR. DANTE ROBERTO P. MALING**  
Acting Secretary General

Approved on August 8, 2018.

Congress of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Philippines

**MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE***Journal No. 7***Monday, August 06, 2018**

ABAYA	*****	BELMONTE (R.)	DE VERA
ABAYON	***	BENITEZ	** DEFENSOR
* ABELLANOSA		BERNOS	DEL MAR
***** ABU		BERTIZ	DEL ROSARIO
** ABUEG	**	BIAZON	DELOSO-MONTALLA
** ACHARON		BILLONES	DIMAPORO (A.)
** ACOP	*****	BIRON	DIMAPORO (M.K.)
***** ACOSTA		BOLILIA	***** DUAVIT
* ACOSTA-ALBA		BONDOC	DURANO
** ADIONG		BORDADO	DY
ADVINCULA		BRAVO (A.)	ELAGO
***** AGARAO		BRAVO (M.V.)	ENVERGA
AGGABAO		BROSAS	ERICE
***** AGLIPAY-VILLAR		BULUT-BEGTANG	ERIGUEL
** ALBANO	*****	CAGAS	* ERMITA-BUHAIN
ALCALA		CALALANG	ESCUDERO
ALEJANO		CALDERON	ESPINA
ALMARIO		CALIXTO-RUBIANO	** ESPINO
ALMONTE		CAMINERO	* ESTRELLA
** ALONTE		CAMPOS	EUSEBIO
ALVAREZ (F.)	****	CANAMA	*** EVARDONE
ALVAREZ (M.)	**	CARI	FARIÑAS
***** ALVAREZ (P.)		CASILAO	FERNANDO
*** AMANTE	***	CASTELO	FERRER (J.)
AMATONG		CASTRO (F.L.)	**** FERRER (L.)
** ANDAYA		CASTRO (F.H.)	***** FERRIOL-PASCUAL
* ANGARA-CASTILLO	**	CATAMCO	* FLOIRENDO
ANTONINO		CAYETANO	FLORES
ANTONIO	***	CELESTE	FORTUN
AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY		CERAFICA	FORTUNO
** ARAGONES		CERILLES	** FUENTEBELLA
** ARBISON		CHAVEZ	** GARBIN
ARCILLAS		CHIPECO	GARCIA (G.)
ARENAS	**	CO	GARCIA (J.E.)
ATIENZA	*****	COJUANGCO	GARCIA-ALBANO
* AUMENTADO		COLLANTES	GARIN (R.)
BAG-AO		CORTES	**** GARIN (S.)
BAGATSING		CORTUNA	GASATAYA
* BAGUILAT		COSALAN	***** GATCHALIAN
BANAL	***	CRISOLOGO	GERON
** BARBERS	**	CUA	***** GO (A.C.)
*** BARZAGA	***	CUARESMA	GO (M.)
** BATAOIL		CUEVA	*** GOMEZ
** BATOCABE		DALIPE	GONZAGA
***** BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN		DATOL	GONZALES (A.P.)
BELARO		DAZA	GONZALES (A.D.)
** BELMONTE (F.)		DE JESUS	GONZALEZ
BELMONTE (J.C.)	*****	DE VENECIA	**** GORRICETA

*****	GULLAS	*****	OCAMPO		SILVERIO
**	HERNANDEZ		OLIVAREZ		SINGSON
	HERRERA-DY		ONG (E.)		SUANSING (E.)
	HOFER	*	ONG (H.)		SUANSING (H.)
	JALOSJOS		ORTEGA (P.)		SUAREZ
*	JAVIER	*	ORTEGA (V.N.)	*	SY-ALVARADO
*****	KHO		PACQUIAO		TAMBUNTING
	KHONGHUN		PADUANO	*****	TAN (A.)
	LABADLABAD	**	PALMA	*****	TAN (M.)
	LACSON		PANCHO	**	TAN (S.)
	LAGMAN		PANGANIBAN	*****	TEJADA
	LANETE		PANOTES	**	TEVES
*	LAOGAN	**	PAPANDAYAN	*****	TIANGCO
	LAZATIN	**	PICHAY		TING
***	LEACHON	**	PIMENTEL	***	TINIO
	LEE		PINEDA		TOLENTINO
	LIMKAICHONG		PLAZA		TREÑAS
**	LOBREGAT	**	PRIMICIAS-AGABAS	***	TUGNA
*****	LOPEZ (B.)		QUIMBO	*	TUPAS
*	LOPEZ (C.)	*****	RADAZA		TY
	LOPEZ (M.L.)		RAMIREZ-SATO	*****	UMALI
*	LOYOLA		RAMOS	*	UNABIA
**	MACAPAGAL-ARROYO		RELAMPAGOS		UNGAB
	MACEDA	*	REVILLA		UNICO
	MADRONA	*	ROA-PUNO		UY (J.)
	MALAPITAN	*	ROBES		UY (R.)
	MANALO		ROCAMORA		UYBARRETA
	MANGAOANG		RODRIGUEZ (I.)		VARGAS
**	MANGUDADATU (S.)	**	RODRIGUEZ (M.)		VARGAS-ALFONSO
**	MANGUDADATU (Z.)		ROMAN		VELARDE
	MARCOLETA		ROMERO		VELASCO
	MARCOS	**	ROMUALDEZ		VELASCO-CATERA
*****	MARIÑO	**	ROMUALDO		VELOSO
	MARQUEZ	****	ROQUE		VERGARA
	MARTINEZ	**	SACDALAN	*****	VILLAFUERTE
	MATUGAS	**	SAGARBARRIA		VILLANUEVA
	MELLANA	**	SAHALI		VILLARAZA-SUAREZ
**	MENDING		SALCEDA		VILLARICA
**	MENDOZA		SALIMBANGON		VILLARIN
*****	MERCADO		SALO		VIOLAGO
	MIRASOL		SALON	*	YAP (A.)
	MONTORO		SAMBAR		YAP (M.)
*	NAVA		SANDOVAL	*	YAP (V.)
	NIETO	**	SANGCOPAN	*	YU
*****	NOEL		SANTOS-RECTO		ZAMORA (M.C.)
**	NOGRALES (J.J.)		SARMIENTO (C.)		ZAMORA (R.)
**	NOGRALES (K.A.)		SARMIENTO (E.M.)	***	ZARATE
*	NOLASCO		SAVELLANO		ZUBIRI
*****	NUÑEZ-MALANYAON	**	SEMA		
*****	OAMINAL		SIAO		

\* Appeared after the Roll Call

\*\* On official mission

\*\*\* Attending 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 )