



Journal  
of the  
House of Representatives

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
2017 - 2018

**JOURNAL NO. 76**  
**Monday, March 19, 2018**

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

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**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, Rep. Erlpe John "Ping" M. Amante delivered an invocation.

**ROLL CALL**

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Gerald Anthony "Samsam" V. Gullas Jr., there being no objection, the Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll and the following Members were present:

Abayon  
Abellanosa  
Abu  
Abueg  
Acharon  
Acop  
Acosta-Alba  
Agarao  
Aggabao  
Albano  
Alejano  
Almario  
Almonte  
Alvarez (F.)  
Alvarez (P.)  
Amante  
Amatong  
Antonio  
Aquino-Magsaysay  
Aragones  
Arbison  
Arcillas  
Arenas  
Atienza  
Bag-ao  
Baguilat  
Banal  
Barbers  
Barzaga  
Bataoil  
Bautista-Bandigan  
Belaro  
Belmonte (F.)

Belmonte (J.C.)  
Belmonte (R.)  
Benitez  
Biazon  
Billones  
Bondoc  
Bordado  
Bravo (A.)  
Bravo (M.V.)  
Brosas  
Bulut-Begtang  
Cagas  
Calalang  
Calderon  
Calixto-Rubiano  
Caminero  
Campos  
Cari  
Casilao  
Castelo  
Castro (F.L.)  
Castro (F.H.)  
Catamco  
Cayetano  
Celeste  
Cerafica  
Cerilles  
Chipeco  
Collantes  
Cortes  
Cortuna  
Cosalan  
Crisologo  
Cua  
Cuaresma  
Dalipe  
Datol  
Daza  
De Jesus  
de Venecia  
De Vera  
Del Mar  
Del Rosario  
Deloso-Montalla  
Dimaporo (A.)  
Dimaporo (M.K.)  
Dy  
Elago  
Enverga  
Erice  
Eriguel  
Ermita-Buhain

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Escudero	Montoro
Espina	Nava
Espino	Noel
Estrella	Nolasco
Eusebio	Nuñez-Malanyaon
Evardone	Oaminal
Fariñas	Ocampo
Fernando	Olivarez
Ferrer (J.)	Ong (E.)
Flores	Ong (H.)
Fortuno	Ortega (P.)
Garbin	Ortega (V.N.)
Garcia (G.)	Pacquiao
Garcia (J.E.)	Paduano
Garcia-Albano	Palma
Garin (S.)	Pancho
Gasataya	Panganiban
Gatchalian	Papandayan
Geron	Pichay
Go (A.C.)	Pimentel
Go (M.)	Pineda
Gonzaga	Quimbo
Gonzales (A.P.)	Radaza
Gonzales (A.D.)	Ramirez-Sato
Gullas	Ramos
Hernandez	Relampagos
Herrera-Dy	Revilla
Jalosjos	Roa-Puno
Javier	Rocamora
Kho	Rodriguez (I.)
Khonghun	Romualdo
Labadlabad	Roque
Lacson	Sacdalan
Lagman	Sagarbarria
Lanete	Sahali
Laogan	Salimbangon
Lazatin	Salon
Leachon	Sandoval
Lee	Sangcopan
Lobregat	Santos-Recto
Lopez (B.)	Savellano
Lopez (C.)	Siao
Lopez (M.L.)	Silverio
Loyola	Suansing (E.)
Macapagal-Arroyo	Suansing (H.)
Maceda	Suarez
Madrona	Tambunting
Malapitan	Tan (A.)
Manalo	Tan (M.)
Mangaoang	Tejada
Mangudadatu (Z.)	Teves
Marcos	Ting
Mariño	Tinio
Martinez	Tolentino
Matugas	Tugna
Mending	Tupas
Mercado	Umali
Mirasol	Unabia

Ungab  
Unico  
Uy (J.)  
Uy (R.)  
Vargas-Alfonso  
Velarde  
Velo  
Vergara  
Villanueva  
Villaraza-Suarez  
Villarica  
Villarin  
Yap (A.)  
Yap (M.)  
Yap (V.)  
Yu  
Zamora (M.C.)  
Zamora (R.)  
Zarate  
Zubiri

With 221 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See Appendix)

#### **MOTION OF REPRESENTATIVE GULLAS**

Thereafter, Representative Gullas moved for the approval of Journal No. 75, dated March 14, 2018.

#### **OBJECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE DAZA**

Rep. Raul A. Daza, upon recognition by the Chair, objected to Representative Gullas' motion. He pointed out that he should have been recorded as absent in the sessions on March 12, 13, and 14, 2018 after having notified the Secretariat that he would be in his district on those dates to conduct consultations on certain pending legislative matters.

#### **WITHDRAWAL OF REPRESENTATIVE DAZA'S OBJECTION**

With the clarification by the Majority Leader that the four asterisks before his name in the record of attendance corresponds to having duly notified the Secretariat of his absence, Representative Daza then withdrew his objection.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL**

There being no objection to Representative Gullas' motion, the Body approved Journal No. 75, dated March 14, 2018.

#### **REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

On motion of Representative Gullas, 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 and Resolutions, including the Messages from the Senate, Communications, and Committee Reports which were referred to the appropriate Committees as hereunder indicated:

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

House Bill No. 7379, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND FOR SOLO MOTHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 7380, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE LUZON INVESTMENT CORRIDOR AND THE REGIONAL INVESTMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Roman

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 7381, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE REGIONAL INVESTMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION OF CENTRAL LUZON TO FACILITATE THE CREATION OF THE CENTRAL LUZON INVESTMENT CORRIDOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 7382, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES 99, 121 AND 122 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Sagarbarria

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT 10533 OR THE ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2013 WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE SAME”

By Representative Escudero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Bill No. 7383, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE HIGHER EDUCATION CAREER SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Hofer

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 1771, entitled:

“RESOLUTION REQUESTING HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, TO ALLOCATE PHP6 BILLION IN THE FY 2019 BUDGET FOR THE PONDO SA PAGBABAGO AT PAGASENSO (P3) PROGRAM BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THROUGH THE SMALL BUSINESS CORP.”

By Representatives Unabia, Limkaichong, Gonzaga, Abellanosa, Acosta, Panotes, Marquez, Montoro and Villaraza-Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 7384, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SATELLITE OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF INITAO, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Uy (J.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Resolution No. 1772, entitled:

“RESOLUTION REQUESTING HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, TO INCREASE THE BUDGET FOR FY 2019 FOR THE PROGRAMS/PROJECTS FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMEs), SPECIFICALLY THE KAPATID MENTOR ME PROGRAM, THE SHARED SERVICE FACILITIES PROJECT AND THE TRADE FAIRS OF THE BUREAU OF DOMESTIC TRADE PROMOTION”

By Representatives Unabia, Limkaichong, Gonzaga, Abellanosa, Acosta, Panotes, Marquez, Montoro and Villaraza-Suarez

House Bill No. 7389, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MAIMBUNG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX LOCATED IN BARANGAY LAUM, MUNICIPALITY OF PAIMBUNG, PROVINCE OF SULU INTO A NATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE MAIMBUNG NATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (S.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1768, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 1773, entitled:

“RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF FILIPINO FILMMAKING”

By Representative Lanete

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Resolution No. 1774, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO EXCLUDE ANY FOREIGN ENTITY/INDIVIDUAL AS PROVIDER OF GOODS, MACHINES, SERVICES AND/OR TECHNICAL SUPPORT WHICH SHALL BE USED FOR NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS, AND TO INCLUDE IN THE CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY THAT THE PROSPECTIVE BIDDER BE FULLY OWNED BY A FILIPINO ENTITY OR INDIVIDUAL”

By Representative Atienza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Resolution No. 1775, entitled:

“RESOLUTION MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM TO INTENSIFY PROMOTION BY REQUIRING ALL LOCAL COMMERCIAL AIRLINES TO INCLUDE IN THEIR OFFICIAL IN-FLIGHT ANNOUNCEMENTS THE INFORMATIONALS ABOUT THE BEAUTY AND HOSPITALITY OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS AND ITS PEOPLE”

By Representative Atienza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Resolution No. 1776, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGIS-

LATION, ON THE COUNTRY'S IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM AND THE REPORTED MEASLES OUTBREAK IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1777, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE DEMANDING THE IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION OF SANDRA CAM AND THE INITIATION OF CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HER”

By Representatives Teves, Suarez, Barbers, Catamco, Plaza, Gasataya, Del Mar, Cueva, Cagas, Marquez, Abayon, De Vera, Cortuna, Garbin, Relampagos, Billones, Durano, Mirasol, Calderon, Limkaichong, Labadlabad, Bertiz, Cortes, Campos, Datol, Atienza, Calalang, Lopez (M.L.), Bravo (A.), Velasco, L.A., Benitez, Sambar, Yap (M.), Alvarez (F.), Caminero, Acosta, Tupas, Madrona, Vergara, Antonino, Violago, Velarde, Marcoleta, Paduano, Villanueva, Radaza, Sagarbarria and Evardone

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1778, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION (NIA), THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA), THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH) TO INITIATE AND INSTITUTIONALIZE THE CREATION OF A MULTI-SECTORAL LOCAL WATER RESOURCE PROGRAM IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF ILOCOS SUR”

By Representative Savellano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Resolution No. 1779, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF MR. MIGUEL LORENZO BERMUDEZ ROMERO, SON OF THE HONORABLE MICHAEL ODYLON L. ROMERO, REPRESENTATIVE OF 1-PACMAN PARTYLIST”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas and Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated March 12, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1698, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF THE CITIZEN ARMED FORCES OR THE RESERVE FORCE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

Message dated March 12, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 452, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF CRIMINOLOGY PROFESSION IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6506, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'AN ACT CREATING THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR CRIMINOLOGISTS IN THE PHILIPPINES' ”

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated March 12, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1534, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8439, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'MAGNA CARTA FOR SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, RESEARCHERS AND OTHER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT' ” in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Message dated March 12, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed without amendment the following House Bills:

House Bill No. 5002, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE MOLINO-SALAWAG-PALIPARAN ROAD, TRAVERSING BARANGAY TALABA 4 IN THE CITY OF BACOR, AND BARANGAY PALIPARAN 1 IN THE CITY OF DASMARIÑAS, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE, AS BACOR-DASMARIÑAS NATIONAL ROAD”;

House Bill No. 5123, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE MOLINO BOULEVARD TRAVERSING BARANGAY TALABA 4 AND BARANGAY SAN NICOLAS 3 IN THE CITY OF BACOR, PROVINCE OF CAVITE AS BACOR BOULEVARD”;

House Bill No. 1425, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE ACOP, TUBLAY, KAPANGAN – KIBUNGAN – BAKUN – SINIPSIP, BUGUIAS SECONDARY NATIONAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET TO GOV. BADO DANGWA NATIONAL ROAD”;

House Bill No. 5356, entitled:

“AN ACT NAMING THE LINAMON – MATUNGAO – BALOI NATIONAL ROAD TRAVERSING BARANGAY SAMBURON IN THE MUNICIPALITY

OF LINAMON, AND BARANGAY BULAO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALOI, ALL IN THE PROVINCE LANAO DEL NORTE, AS THE METRO ILIGAN REGIONAL AGRO-INDUSTRIAL CENTER (MIRAIC) HIGHWAY”;

House Bill No. 2656, entitled:

“AN ACT NAMING THE DIVERSION ROAD IN SORSOGON CITY, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON AS SALVADOR H. ESCUDERO III DIVERSION ROAD”;

House Bill No. 833, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE MONTEVISTA-CATEEL NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAVERSING THE MUNICIPALITY OF COMPOSTELA, COMPOSTELA VALLEY PROVINCE INTO THE BENIGNO S. AQUINO, JR. NATIONAL HIGHWAY”;

House Bill No. 4782, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE KAY TIKLING-ANTIPOLO-TERESA-MORONG NATIONAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF RIZAL, TRAVERSING THROUGH BARANGAY DOLORES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAYTAY UP TO BARANGAY MAYBANCAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MORONG, AS CORAZON C. AQUINO AVENUE”;

House Bill No. 2708, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE GURELBOKOD-KABAYAN-ABATAN ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET TO CONG. ANDRES ACOP COSALAN ROAD”;

House Bill No. 5643, entitled:

“AN ACT NAMING THE POBLACION-CANIOGAN NATIONAL ROAD TRAVERSING BARANGAY POBLACION AND BARANGAY BARAKANAS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBOD, PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL NORTE AS THE ARSENIO ARCELO QUIBRANZA HIGHWAY”;

House Bill No. 2785, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE WAWA ROAD AT BARANGAY SAN RAFAEL, MUNICIPALITY OF RODRIGUEZ, PRO-

VINCE OF RIZAL AS GENERAL LICERIO I. GERONIMO HIGHWAY”;

House Bill No. 5001, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING GOVERNOR'S DRIVE, TRAVERSING SORO-SORO BRIDGE IN THE CITY OF BIÑAN, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF TERNATE, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, AS JUANITO R. REMULLA, SR. ROAD”;

House Bill No. 4946, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING PANGLAO ISLAND CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD TRAVERSING BARANGAYS TANGNAN, BIL-ISAN, LOOC, POBLACION, DANA-O, TAWALA, BOLOD AND LIBAONG IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PANGLAO AND BARANGAYS TOTOLAN, SONGCULAN, TABALONG, BINGAG, DAO, SAN ISIDRO, BIKING 1, BIKING 2, CATARMAN, MAYACABAC, POBLACION AND UNION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DAUIS, AS ANOS FONACIER CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD (DAUIS-PANGLAO)”;

House Bill No. 4660, entitled:

“AN ACT NAMING THE BY-PASS ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY BENGACAG, CITY OF LAOAG, TO BARANGAY BUYON, MUNICIPALITY OF BACARRA, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE, AS THE RODOLFO G. FARIÑAS, JR BY-PASS ROAD”;

House Bill No. 4947, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE ROAD TRAVERSING BARANGAYS SAN JOSE, TOLENTINO WEST, TOLENTINO EAST, FRANCISCO, SUNGAY WEST, (LEFT SIDE), SUNGAY EAST (RIGHT SIDE), SUNGAY EAST, IRUHIN WEST, IRUHIN CENTRAL, IRUHIN EAST AND DAPDAP WEST IN THE CITY OF TAGAYTAY, PROVINCE OF CAVITE TO ISAAC O. TOLENTINO AVENUE”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated March 13, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate designated the following to the Congressional Oversight Committee on the Philippine Competition Act:



1. Senator Juan Miguel “Migz” F. Zubiri – Chairperson, Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship
2. Senator Win Gatchalian – Chairperson, Economic Affairs
3. Senator Loren B. Legarda – Chairperson, Finance
4. Senator Sonny Angara – Member
5. Senator Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino IV – Minority Member

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated February 19, 2018 of Sofronio C. Apat, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Dagohoy, Province of Bohol, submitting their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter Ended December 2017 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated February 23, 2018 of Ronald Lowell G. Tirol, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Buenavista, Province of Bohol, submitting their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2017 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the 4th Quarter Ended 2017 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund attested by Jacinto B. Naraga, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of San Isidro, Province of Bohol.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Fourth

Quarter of 2017 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund attested by Rainfredo C. Buslon, Sr., Acting Mayor, Municipality of Sierra Bullones, Province of Bohol.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter Ended October 22, 2017 of the Local Government Support Fund attested by Christopher B. Tutor, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Candijay, Province of Bohol.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2017 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund attested by Danilo M. Guivencan, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Dimiao, Province of Bohol.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation as of February 20, 2018 of the Local Government Support Fund attested by Rene B. Borenaga, Acting Mayor, Municipality of Bien Unido, Province of Bohol.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the 4th Quarter Ended 2017 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund attested by Elpren Charles M. Tungol, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Alburquerque, Province of Bohol.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2017 of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local

Government Support Fund attested by Allen Ray Z. Piezas, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Clarin, Province of Bohol.

#### TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated March 5, 2018 of Zenaida T. Tan, Director IV, Assistant Regional Director, Regional Office XI, Department of Public Works and Highways, furnishing the House of Representatives the Monthly Progress Status Report for the month of February 2018, for projects implemented by their office within the First Legislative District of Davao del Norte province.

#### TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Letter dated March 5, 2018 of Eugene U. Caballero, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Manukan, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, submitting their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter Ended December 2017 of the Local Government Support Fund-Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities.

#### TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letters dated 8 March 2018 of Roger E. Dino, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. Circular Letter No. CL-2018-016 dated 2 March 2018;
2. Circular No. 998 dated 1 March 2018; and
3. Circular Letter No. CL-2018-017 dated 2 March 2018.

#### TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Labor and Employment (Committee Report No. 668), re H.B. No. 7402, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING TELECOMMUTING AS AN ALTERNATIVE WORK ARRANGEMENT FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 5630, 5779, 5841, 5843, 6322 and 7349

Sponsors: Representatives Ting, Villafuerte, Tugna, Vargas, Nieto, Sy-Alvarado and Del Rosario

#### TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 669), re H.B. No. 7405, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES FOR BINAN CITY IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill NO. 2746

Sponsors: Representatives Umali, Nograles (K.A.), Veloso, Alonte, De Vera, Sandoval, Cuaresma, Quimbo, Batocabe, Villafuerte and Nieto

#### TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Representative Gullas acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of guests of Reps. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Amante, and Rogelio “Ruel” D. Pacquiao; and guests from the Office of the Solicitor General.

#### APPROVAL ON THIRD READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 7378

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the approval on Third Reading of House Bill No. 7378, printed copies of which were distributed to the

Members on March 15, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the amended Provisional Rules of the House.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Bill, to wit:

“AN ACT POSTPONING THE MAY 14, 2018 SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10952.”

The Chair then directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the amended Provisional Rules of the House, a second Roll Call was made.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SEVERAL MEMBERS**

During the voting, the following Members manifested their intent to explain their votes: Reps. Gary C. Alejano, Jose L. Atienza Jr., Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao, France L. Castro, Emmi A. De Jesus, Raul V. Del Mar, Sarah Jane I. Elago, Antonio L. Tinio, and Carlos Isagani T. Zarate.

The Chair said that they could do so after the voting is finished.

On the other hand, Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon expressed his desire to submit a written explanation of his vote; and the Chair took note of the same.

#### **RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

##### *Affirmative:*

Abayon  
Abu  
Acharon  
Acop  
Acosta-Alba  
Aggabao  
Albano  
Almario  
Alvarez (F.)  
Alvarez (P.)  
Amante  
Antonio  
Aquino-Magsaysay  
Aragones  
Arcillas  
Aumentado

Barbers  
Barzaga  
Bautista-Bandigan  
Belmonte (F.)  
Belmonte (J.C.)  
Belmonte (R.)  
Bernos  
Billones  
Biron  
Bondoc  
Bravo (A.)  
Bravo (M.V.)  
Bulut-Begtang  
Calalang  
Calderon  
Calixto-Rubiano  
Campos  
Cari  
Castelo  
Catamco  
Cerafica  
Chipeco  
Collantes  
Cortuna  
Crisologo  
Cua  
Cuaresma  
Dalipe  
Datol  
de Venecia  
De Vera  
Del Rosario  
Deloso-Montalla  
Dimaporo (A.)  
Dimaporo (M.K.)  
Enverga  
Eriguel  
Ermita-Buhain  
Escudero  
Eusebio  
Fariñas  
Fernando  
Ferrer (J.)  
Fortuno  
Garbin  
Garcia (G.)  
Garcia (J.E.)  
Garcia-Albano  
Garin (S.)  
Gasataya  
Gatchalian  
Geron  
Go (A.C.)  
Go (M.)  
Gonzaga  
Gonzales (A.P.)  
Gonzales (A.D.)  
Gullas

Hernandez  
Herrera-Dy  
Javier  
Kho  
Khonghun  
Labadlabad  
Lacson  
Lanete  
Laogan  
Lazatin  
Lee  
Lobregat  
Lopez (B.)  
Lopez (C.)  
Lopez (M.L.)  
Macapagal-Arroyo  
Maceda  
Madrona  
Malapitan  
Mangaoang  
Mariño  
Martinez  
Matugas  
Mellana  
Mending  
Mercado  
Mirasol  
Montoro  
Nava  
Nieto  
Noel  
Nolasco  
Nuñez-Malanyaon  
Ocampo  
Olivarez  
Ong (H.)  
Ortega (P.)  
Ortega (V.N.)  
Paduano  
Palma  
Pancho  
Papandayan  
Pimentel  
Pineda  
Radaza  
Relampagos  
Roa-Puno  
Rocamora  
Rodriguez (I.)  
Rodriguez (M.)  
Roman  
Romualdo  
Roque  
Sacdalan  
Sagarbarria  
Sahali  
Salceda  
Salon

Sangcopan  
Savellano  
Sema  
Siao  
Silverio  
Suansing (E.)  
Suansing (H.)  
Suarez  
Sy-Alvarado  
Tambunting  
Tan (A.)  
Tan (M.)  
Teves  
Ting  
Tupas  
Unabia  
Ungab  
Unico  
Uy (J.)  
Uy (R.)  
Vargas  
Vargas-Alfonso  
Vergara  
Villanueva  
Villaraza-Suarez  
Villarica  
Violago  
Yap (M.)  
Yu  
Zamora (M.C.)  
Zamora (R.)  
Zubiri

*Negative:*

Abellanos  
Alejano  
Atienza  
Bag-ao  
Baguilat  
Banal  
Biazon  
Bordado  
Cagas  
Caminero  
Casilao  
Castro (F.L.)  
Cerilles  
Cojuangco  
Cortes  
Cosalan  
Daza  
De Jesus  
Del Mar  
Elago  
Erice  
Lagman  
Santos-Recto

Tinio  
Velarde  
Villarín  
Zarate

*Abstention:*

None

With 211 affirmative votes, 29 negative votes, and no abstentions, the Body approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 7378.

## EXPLANATIONS OF VOTES

The following Members explained their votes:

1. Speaking in Filipino, Representative Atienza registered his “No” vote. He stressed that it is not correct to postpone the elections because this will weaken the barangays which are the roots of democracy and vehicles for development. He however qualified that those who have abused their office, have pending cases of graft and corruption, and are suspected drug pushers should not be given any term extension.
2. Representative Alejano said he was against the third postponement of the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections because (a) there was no assurance that the plebiscite on federalism will push through in October 2018; (b) the need for time and more resources is a cheap argument vis-à-vis the compelling significance of elections; and (c) barangay officials engaged in the illegal drug trade should be removed. He added that elections are a fundamental requirement of democracy and the Members should protect and not trample on the people’s right to suffrage.
3. Speaking in Filipino, Representative Bordado voted “No” on behalf of the majority of his constituents who are pushing for the barangay and SK elections on May 14, 2018. He opined that it is time to give the people the power to choose or determine who should be their barangay and SK leaders. He emphasized that the right of suffrage is the cornerstone of democracy.
4. Likewise speaking in Filipino, Representative Casilao voted “No” and said that postponing the barangay elections shows disrespect for the constitutionally-guaranteed right of the people to select their leaders. He added that the proposed plebiscite to amend the Constitution was an unacceptable reason for said postponement. He also adverted to the pronouncement of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) that it was ready to conduct the elections.
5. Also speaking in Filipino, Representative Castro (F.L.) held that the postponement of elections deprives the citizens of their right to vote and punishes sincere and dedicated candidates but favors undeserving incumbents. The Comelec had already made necessary preparations, she also pointed out, and the schedule for the plebiscite on federalism was not yet final.
6. Explaining her negative vote, Representative De Jesus expressed agreement with the statements of Representative Castro (F.L.). She added that the proposed postponement of elections would delay the election of local leaders and that such a delay may provide more opportunities for politicking.
7. Representative Del Mar explained that his negative vote was based on the fact that the postponement of elections extends the terms of barangay officials, thus violating the covenant in a representative democracy that officials should serve only a specific time or period that the people voted them for. He said that he will also vote against any provision or law that seeks to extend the term of office of the Members.
8. Representative Elago said that she did not subscribe to the reasons for a postponement of elections, namely, election fatigue, the seepage of drug money into the electoral process, and the synchronization of barangay elections with a plebiscite to amend the Constitution. Voting against the measure, she expressed apprehension that the measure might only be a tool for term extension and political leveraging just as other measures are railroaded towards a looming dictatorship.
9. Speaking in Filipino, Representative Tinio cast a negative vote and stressed that the people want the barangay elections to be held in May 2018. He maintained that the Comelec’s unpreparedness and the plan to synchronize the elections with a proposed plebiscite, were not valid grounds for the postponement of elections. He added that said plebiscite clearly aims to extend the

term of office of incumbent local and national officials as validated in the subcommittee reports of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments.

10. In explaining his “No” vote, Representative Zarate said that the people were against another postponement because this would deprive them of the right to vote their chosen leaders. As regards corrupt or criminal barangay officials, he stressed that they should be removed. On the new election date that would be synchronized with a plebiscite to amend the Constitution, he expressed apprehension that it would enable incumbent officials including the President to perpetuate themselves in power.
11. Representative Erice said that the barangay is at the frontline of providing services to the people; and a third election postponement would mean disrespect for the people’s right to choose their own leaders. He also said that there have been no SK leaders in the last three years; and the reason for holding the barangay elections together with the conduct of a plebiscite, was to postpone the 2019 local elections. He voted against the measure.

#### **RESULT OF THE VOTING ON HOUSE BILL NO. 7378, AS CORRECTED**

At this juncture, the Chair corrected the result of the nominal voting on House Bill No. 7378. Stating that the Secretariat had committed an honest mistake, he announced the correct tally as follows: 164 affirmative votes, 27 negative votes, and no abstentions.

#### **APPROVAL ON THIRD READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 7378**

Thereafter, with 164 affirmative votes, 27 negative votes, and no abstentions, the Body approved on Third Reading House No. 7378.

On motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair recognized Representative Atienza for a manifestation.

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

Representative Atienza said that with the Secretariat’s correction of the voting result on House Bill No. 7378 to 164 affirmative votes, 27 negative

votes, and no abstentions, the Majority was correcting what were obviously manufactured figures that were mentioned earlier. He pointed out that during the voting on the instant measure, there were not more than 170 Members who were on the floor.

He then concluded that the Secretariat has not always been accurate in counting the votes and stressed the need for the latter to be careful, accurate, and vigilant in recording the attendance and voting of the Members.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF MAJORITY LEADER FARIÑAS**

Recognized by the Chair, Majority Leader Rodolfo C. Fariñas stated that it was in the interest of having an accurate record that the Secretariat had made a correction.

The Chair subscribed to the Majority Leader’s manifestation.

#### **APPROVAL ON THIRD READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 7303**

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the approval on Third Reading of House Bill No. 7303, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on March 15, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the amended Provisional Rules of the House.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Bill, to wit:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING ABSOLUTE DIVORCE AND DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE IN THE PHILIPPINES.”

The Chair then directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the amended Provisional Rules of the House, a second Roll Call was made.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SEVERAL MEMBERS**

During the voting, Reps. Alejano, Atienza, Bordado, Mercedes “Didi” C. Cagas, Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr., Del Mar, Erice, and Manuel F. Zubiri manifested their desire to explain their “No” votes; while Reps. Biazon and Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr. manifested their desire to submit written explanations of their “No” votes. Rep. “Kuya” Jose

Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado manifested his negative vote by stressing that divorce ran counter to the Constitution.

On the other hand, Reps. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr., De Jesus, and Rosanna “Ria” Vergara manifested their intent to explain their “Yes” votes; while Rep. Casilao manifested his desire to submit a written explanation of his “Yes” vote.

## RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

### *Affirmative:*

Abu  
Acharon  
Acop  
Acosta-Alba  
Aggabao  
Albano  
Almario  
Alvarez (F.)  
Alvarez (P.)  
Amante  
Antonio  
Aquino-Magsaysay  
Aragones  
Arcillas  
Bag-ao  
Baguilat  
Barzaga  
Batocabe  
Belaro  
Belmonte (F.)  
Belmonte (J.C.)  
Benitez  
Bernos  
Billones  
Biron  
Bondoc  
Bravo (M.V.)  
Bulut-Begtang  
Calalang  
Calixto-Rubiano  
Campos  
Casilao  
Castelo  
Castro (F.L.)  
Catamco  
Cayetano  
Cerafica  
Cojuangco  
Collantes  
Cortuna  
Cosalan

Crisologo  
Cua  
Datol  
De Jesus  
de Venecia  
De Vera  
Defensor  
Del Rosario  
Deloso-Montalla  
Dimaporo (A.)  
Dimaporo (M.K.)  
Dy  
Elago  
Enverga  
Eriguel  
Ermita-Buhain  
Estrella  
Fariñas  
Fernando  
Ferrer (J.)  
Garbin  
Garcia (G.)  
Garcia-Albano  
Garin (R.)  
Garin (S.)  
Gasataya  
Gatchalian  
Go (A.C.)  
Gonzales (A.P.)  
Gonzales (A.D.)  
Hernandez  
Herrera-Dy  
Javier  
Khonghun  
Labadlabad  
Lacson  
Lagman  
Lanete  
Laogan  
Lazatin  
Lobregat  
Lopez (B.)  
Madrona  
Malapitan  
Mangaoang  
Mariño  
Martinez  
Matugas  
Mending  
Mercado  
Mirasol  
Nava  
Nieto  
Noel  
Ortega (V.N.)  
Paduano  
Palma  
Panganiban

Papandayan  
Pimentel  
Pineda  
Revilla  
Roa-Puno  
Rodriguez (I.)  
Roman  
Romualdo  
Roque  
Sagarbarria  
Sahali  
Salceda  
Sangcopan  
Savellano  
Sema  
Siao  
Singson  
Suansing (E.)  
Suansing (H.)  
Tan (A.)  
Tan (M.)  
Teves  
Tinio  
Umali  
Unabia  
Uy (J.)  
Uy (R.)  
Vargas  
Vergara  
Villarica  
Villarin  
Yap (M.)  
Yu  
Zamora (M.C.)  
Zarate

*Negative:*

Abayon  
Abellanosa  
Alejano  
Amatong  
Atienza  
Aumentado  
Banal  
Bautista-Bandigan  
Biazon  
Bordado  
Bravo (A.)  
Cagas  
Calderon  
Caminero  
Cari  
Cerilles  
Chipeco  
Cortes  
Del Mar  
Erice

Fortuno  
Garcia (J.E.)  
Go (M.)  
Gonzaga  
Kho  
Lee  
Lopez (C.)  
Lopez (M.L.)  
Maceda  
Mellana  
Nolasco  
Nuñez-Malanyaon  
Ocampo  
Olivarez  
Ong (H.)  
Ortega (P.)  
Pancho  
Radaza  
Relampagos  
Rocamora  
Rodriguez (M.)  
Sacdalan  
Salon  
Santos-Recto  
Silverio  
Suarez  
Sy-Alvarado  
Tambunting  
Tugna  
Tupas  
Ungab  
Unico  
Velarde  
Villanueva  
Villaraza-Suarez  
Violago  
Zubiri

*Abstention:*

Gullas  
Pichay

With 134 affirmative votes, 57 negative votes, and two abstentions, the Body approved House Bill No. 7303 on Third Reading.

**MANIFESTATION OF  
REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA**

At this point, Representative Atienza stated for the record that there were only 160 Members inside the Session Hall as opposed to the total count of votes that had just been announced by the Secretariat. He said that the latter's count was erroneous.

The Chair took note of the same.



**EXPLANATION OF VOTES**

The following Members explained their votes:

1. Representative Alejano said that he voted against House Bill No. 7303 because it will further open the floodgates to failed marriages and adversely affect women, families, children, and the entire Filipino society. He explained that despite having been primarily forwarded as a piece of legislation that was pro-women, it would benefit men the most and would expose children of troubled marriages to a divorce process that would affect their mental state.
2. Representative Atienza registered a "No" vote. He opined that some progressive countries with existing divorce laws are already suffering from the disarray brought about by broken homes and families. He stressed that the proposed measure was against the Constitution which considers marriage as inviolable and was against the will of God. He urged his countrymen to think and act like Filipinos.
3. Representative Baguilat said that he would defend the family as the basic unit of society and moral foundation in the country. However voting in the affirmative, he said that the measure was a means of recognizing and legitimizing the traditional practice of divorce among indigenous peoples in order to serve the greater good. He added that it was an extreme and viable solution to end domestic violence and abuse among women as he stressed that the State should also preserve the health and safety of its citizens.
4. In explaining his negative vote, Representative Bordado said that aside from the fact that the majority of his constituents are against divorce, he was also keen on upholding the Constitution which recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation. He explained that he was in favor of maintaining the sanctity of the family and promoting the welfare of children in troubled marriages.
5. Voting "No," Representative Cagas said that the State should strengthen families by promoting healthy marriages and the community should support couples in unhappy marriages and forewarn them of the consequences of breaking apart a sacred bond. Citing studies showing the effect of parenthood on the healthy growth of children, she stressed that children of divorced couples face years of emotional upheaval. She pointed out that by approving the measure, Congress does not adhere to its mandate of protecting the country's social and sacred institutions.
6. Speaking in Filipino, Representative Chipeco said that he was representing the voice of his constituents, 90 percent of whom were not in favor of the Bill. He said that he would submit a written explanation of his negative vote, containing the reasons behind the same.
7. Speaking in Filipino, Representative De Jesus stressed that the State should also recognize the rights of couples to end the contract of marriage when factors such as love, respect, safety, and security are gone. She said that parents and children both experience injustice within troubled marriages and cited socioeconomic factors which exacerbate such crises. She asked her colleagues to help those who want to be free of the bondage of marriage.
8. Representative Del Mar stated that he was voting against the Bill because (a) it violates Sections 1 and 2, Article XV of the Constitution; and (b) contrary to its declaration of principles, it does not provide limited grounds but 21 grounds for securing divorce. He said that there are existing remedies to failed relationships such as legal separation and annulment, and that Congress only needs to introduce amendments to make the annulment process shorter and less expensive.
9. As he cast a negative vote, Representative Erice said that there is nothing wrong with marriage; and stated his firm belief in God's infallibility and in the sanctity of the sacrament of marriage. Instead of passing the instant measure, he said, Congress could craft laws to protect couples inside abusive marriages and punish those who violate the sacrament of marriage.
10. While Representative Vergara said that she recognized the sanctity and inviolability of marriage and the duty of the State to uphold it, she voted in favor of the measure in order

to free couples in failed and unhappy marriages. She cited the rules for Church annulment which Pope Francis overhauled in 2015. She stressed that the Bill provides the grounds to ensure that divorce is not resorted to nonchalantly.

11. Voting “No,” Representative Zubiri maintained that marriage is sacred and comes with the responsibility of making the marriage bond work especially during tough times and of protecting it at all cost. He added that approving the Bill would send wrong signals to children of divorced parents and to the youth. He remarked that irreconcilable differences occur even when marriage is not present.
12. Rep. Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr. voted “No.” He adverted to Sections 1 and 2, Article XV of the 1987 Constitution and stressed the need to protect and strengthen the family as the foundation of the country and marriage as an inviolable social institution.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

Rep. Christopher V.P. de Venecia, at this point, acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of guests of Representatives Gullas and Del Mar.

#### **MOTION OF REPRESENTATIVE GULLAS**

Representative Gullas moved that the Body resume consideration of House Bill No. 7376.

#### **QUESTION OF QUORUM**

Representative Atienza however moved to call the Roll, saying it was obvious that there was no more quorum.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Gullas, the Chair suspended the session at 6:42 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 6:44 p.m.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 658 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 7376**

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 7376, as contained in Committee Report No. 658 and reported out by the Committees on Justice, Appropriations, and Ways and Means.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Bill, to wit:

“AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL (OSG) BY INCREASING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND REDEFINING, EXPANDING, AND RATIONALIZING ITS ORGANIZATION, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9417, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2327, AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NOS. 1 AND 2, S. 1986, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.”

Representative Gullas stated that the parliamentary status was that the Bill was in the period of sponsorship and debate; and upon his motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Vicente “Ching” S.E. Veloso, Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Justice, to sponsor the measure, and Representative Tinio to interpellate thereon.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TINIO**

To Representative Tinio’s queries, Representative Veloso pointed out that one of the goals of House Bill No. 7376 is to rightsize the bureaucracy by eliminating redundant, duplicative, and overlapping functions such as in the case of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) and the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel. With the abolition of said offices, he said, the government can save millions of pesos as it would be the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) that would now do the work of the PCGG.

The Members thereafter discussed the advantages of transferring the powers and functions of the PCGG to the OSG, including the recovery of ill-gotten wealth such as what former President Ferdinand E. Marcos had allegedly amassed. Representative Veloso explained that the government will cut

on expenses and the OSG can handle legal work more than the PCGG. Representative Tinio expressed apprehension about the recovery of the alleged Marcos wealth by the OSG in view of the Duterte Administration's attempts to restore power to and change history as regards the Marcoses.

After Representative Tinio maintained that the PCGG has not fully achieved its goals as evidenced by the fact that it has several cases pending in the courts and still has to remit billions of pesos for the funding of the agrarian reform program and reparation of martial law victims, he sought clarification on Section 5 of the measure. In general, he and the Sponsor discussed what powers are granted to the OSG by said provision and in what way is this superior to the powers granted to the PCGG by existing laws. In particular, they analyzed whether the OSG can perform tasks such as sequestration of assets and issuance of hold orders and subpoenas.

Thereupon, Representative Tinio pointed out that the instant Bill should be dismissed considering that (1) transferring the powers of the PCGG to the OSG would only weaken the case of the government against the alleged Marcos wealth, and (2) the Solicitor General himself is a known Marcos loyalist. For his part, Representative Veloso asked that they do not inject political innuendoes into the discussion of House Bill No. 7376 which is designed to enrich the wealth of the Filipino people.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 7376**

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 7376.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 639 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 7302**

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 7302, as contained in Committee Report No. 639 and reported out by the Committee on Appropriations.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Bill, to wit:

“AN ACT TO REFORM THE BUDGET PROCESS BY ENFORCING GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY IN PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (PFM), PROMOTING FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY, STRENGTHENING CONGRESS' POWER OF THE PURSE, INSTITUTING AN INTEGRATED PFM SYSTEM, AND INCREASING BUDGET TRANSPARENCY AND PARTICIPATION.”

On successive motions of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the period of sponsorship and debate; and the Chair recognized Reps. Joey Sarte Salceda and Lagman to sponsor the measure and interpellate thereon, respectively.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN**

At the outset, Representative Lagman asked what public calamity or emergency would the instant bill address considering that President Rodrigo Roa Duterte had earlier certified it as an urgent measure. His colleague cited a Supreme Court ruling that the test of a bill's urgency is the substantial, significant, urgent, and critical benefits it would provide to society; but he maintained that the need to enact a budget reform law cannot be equated with any public calamity or emergency and proposed the Supreme Court to revisit its ruling.

The two Members subsequently discussed how the use of savings diminishes the congressional power of the purse, as they agreed that the Bill should strengthen such power.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

At 8:15 p.m., the session was suspended upon Representative Salceda's motion.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 8:17 p.m.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN (Continuation)**

They also discussed how Executive Order No. 292 authorizes constitutional offices to utilize savings and augment any item under their respective appropriations. Representative Salceda presented data on all savings generated and amounts expended and committed to provide the data requested by Representative Lagman thereon.

To Representative Lagman's subsequent queries, Representative Salceda replied that savings cannot be used for new projects, programs, and activities and had not been done so in the current Administration. He also assured his colleague that he will find out if there has been any deviation from a very sacred tradition of funding projects only through legislation.

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Salceda, the Chair suspended the session at 8:26 p.m.

### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 8:29 p.m.

### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 7302**

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 7302.

### **ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Additional Reference of Business.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the titles of the following Committee Reports which were referred to the appropriate Committee hereunder indicated:

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Report by the Committee on Justice (Committee Report No. 670), re H.B. No. 7163, entitled:

“AN ACT PENALIZING THE ACT OF THROWING HARD OBJECTS AT MOTOR VEHICLES”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Umali, Fariñas and De Vera

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education (Committee Report No. 671), re H.B. No. 7422, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE INTEGRATION OF THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AS ONE OF THE MAJOR SUBJECTS IN THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE COURSES IN CIVIL ENGINEERING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, SANITARY ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE AND ITS INCLUSION AS A TOPIC IN THE LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS FOR THESE COURSES”

recommending its approval substitution of House Bill No. 5908

Sponsors: Representatives Hofer and Gonzales (A.D.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Youth and Sports Development (Committee Report No. 672), re H.R. No. 1793, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE UNDER ITS NEW LEADERSHIP”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 1746

Sponsors: Representatives Estrella and Roa-Puno

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

### **DESIGNATION OF HOUSE CONFEREES ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6782 AND SENATE BILL NO. 108**

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body designated the following Members as House conferees to the Conference Committee to reconcile the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 6782 and Senate Bill No. 108, declaring April 27 of every year as a special non-working holiday in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu: Reps. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Aileen C. Radaza, Ferdinand L. Hernandez, and Eugene Michael B. De Vera.

**DESIGNATION OF HOUSE CONFEREES  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 5745 AND  
SENATE BILL NO. 1233**

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body designated the following Members as House conferees to the Conference Committee to reconcile the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 5745 and Senate Bill No. 1233, on the proposed Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Trust Fund Act: Reps. Jose T. Pangiban Jr., CPA, LLB, Sharon S. Garin, Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Celso L. Lobregat, Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Lagman, Angelina "Helen" D. L. Tan, M.D., Conrado M. Estrella III, and Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez.

**RATIFICATION OF THE  
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 7054 AND  
SENATE BILL NO. 1461**

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Body considered and subsequently ratified the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 7054 and Senate Bill No. 1461, both institutionalizing the Electric Cooperatives Emergency and Resiliency Fund.

**SENATE TRANSMITTAL  
OF HOUSE BILLS**

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Chair directed the Secretary General to immediately transmit to the Senate, copies of the House Bills that had just been approved on Third Reading.

**ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO  
CERTAIN COMMITTEES**

On motion of Majority Leader Fariñas, there being no objection, the following Members were elected to the Committees/Special Committee hereunder indicated:

Committee on Government Reorganization

(as Members)

Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo  
Rep. Maria Valentina G. Plaza  
Rep. Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada  
Rep. Manuel F. Zubiri

Committees on Housing and Urban Development,  
Metro Manila Development, and National  
Defense and Security

Rep. Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III as  
Member

Committee on Ways and Means

Rep. Franz E. Alvarez as member

Special Committee on Peace,  
Reconciliation, and Unity

Rep. Amihilda J. Sangcopan as Vice Chairperson

**ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Gullas, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until four o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

It was 8:34 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

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(Sgd.) **ATTY. CESAR STRAIT PAREJA**  
Secretary General

Approved on March 20, 2018.

Congress of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Philippines

**MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE***Journal No. 76***Monday, March 19, 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 )