



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18th CONGRESS, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

Vol. 1

Monday, August 10, 2020

No. 4

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Conrado M. Estrella III called the session to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The session is now called to order. May I recognize the distinguished Lady from the Lone District of Iloilo, Representative Baronda, for today's Invocation.

You are hereby recognized, Representative Baronda, for the Invocation.

Kindly unmute. Please unmute.

Everybody rose for the Invocation.

REP. BARONDA. Okay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). We can hear you.

INVOCATION

REP. BARONDA. Let us put ourselves in the holy presence of our Lord.

Heavenly Father, look gently on the people who are gathered today.

We thank You for all the blessings that You have been showering us. We are thankful for the grace and goodwill You have given the leaders and the members of this assembly, and for lending everyone the strength to serve despite the many challenges and difficulties we face.

We ask You, dear Lord, to send us Your wisdom for us to arrive with fair judgement and sound decisions for the benefit of our constituencies.

During this time of uncertainty, we pray for enlightenment. Inspire us to do Your will. We humbly ask You to be our constant companion

and guide in our thoughts and in our actions. We pray for Your compassion as we navigate through this pandemic.

As we interact with each other in this communal endeavour, grant us, Lord, the grace to acknowledge You in each one of us.

We also pray for Rep. Francisco Datol Jr. of the SENIOR CITIZENS Party-List who has joined our Creator today. We pray for the salvation and forgiveness of his soul. We humbly ask for Your compassion for the loved ones he had left on earth. May they find comfort in knowing that he has reunited with You.

These, we ask, through Your Divine Mercy.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Amen.

Please remain standing for the singing of the National Anthem.

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The Majority Leader.

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members.

ROLL CALL

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Secretary General is hereby directed to proceed with the roll call.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 4, dated August 10, 2020.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 300 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). With 300 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.
Majority Floor Leader.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 3 of August 3 to 5, 2020.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Journal is hereby approved.
Majority Floor Leader.

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we now proceed with the Reference of Business and request that the Secretary General be directed to read the titles of bills and resolutions on First Reading, as well as communications and committee reports.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The Secretary General is hereby directed to proceed with the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

Upon the direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the following House Bills and Resolutions on First Reading, Communications and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 7248, entitled:
"AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE AUTONOMY OF LOCAL

GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 16 AND SECTION 41 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991' "

By Representative Garcia (Jose Enrique)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 7249, entitled:
"AN ACT CREATING THE BORACAY ISLAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY"

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 7250, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PARACELIS, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Dalog
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 7251, entitled:
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE PHILIPPINE LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS INDUSTRY"

By Representative Gatchalian
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 7252, entitled:
"AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 28 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF TANGUB, 2ND DISTRICT, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS 'TANGUB DAY' "

By Representative Oaminal
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 7253, entitled:

"AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 2 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BONIFACIO, 2ND DISTRICT, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS 'BONIFACIO DAY' "

By Representative Oaminal
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 7254, entitled:

"AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 21 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CLARIN, 2ND DISTRICT, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS 'CLARIN DAY' "

By Representative Oaminal
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 7255, entitled:

"AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 28 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUDELA, 2ND DISTRICT, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS 'TUDELA DAY' "

By Representative Oaminal
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 7256, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING THE BORACAY ISLAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Marquez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 7257, entitled:

"AN ACT PROTECTING E-CONSUMERS AND E-MERCHANTS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE E-COMMERCE BUREAU AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Marquez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 7265, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9173, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE NURSING ACT OF 2002, PROVIDING FOR AN ADVANCED NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 7266, entitled:

"AN ACT GRANTING UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION TO SENIOR CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY RA 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010' "

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 7267, entitled:

"AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7268, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT,
PRODUCTION AND FINANCING
PROGRAM, REGULARIZING
ITS APPROPRIATION FOR ITS
IMPLEMENTATION”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 7269, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE RENTAL
HOUSING SUBSIDY PROGRAM,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 7270, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING
TRANSPORTATION SERVICE
CONTRACTING AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Salo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 7271, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE AMOUNT
AND EXPANDING THE USE OF
THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTIONS 25 AND 26 OF REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS ‘THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND
OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995,’
AS AMENDED”

By Representatives Gaité, Zarate, Cullamat,
Castro (France), Brosas and Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS
WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 7272, entitled:

“AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN LAWS
AGAINST THE ILLICIT TRADE
OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND
RELATED RAW MATERIALS BY
AMENDING SECTIONS 3 AND
4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10845,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-
AGRICULTURAL SMUGGLING ACT

OF 2016, AMENDING SECTION 1141
AND CREATING A NEW SECTION
1700-A OF REPUBLIC ACT NO.
10863, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
CUSTOMS MODERNIZATION AND
TARIFF ACT, AMENDING SECTIONS
129, 131, 156, 159, 225, 275 AND 288
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL
REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND
MEANS

House Bill No. 7273, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING BARANGAY
MALICO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
SANTA FE, PROVINCE OF NUEVA
VIZCAYA, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Cuaresma
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 7274, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MEDICAL
RESERVE CORPS, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Daza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7275, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF BATAS
PAMBANSA 881, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE ‘OMNIBUS
ELECTION CODE’, AS AMENDED,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Pimentel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE
AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 7276, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING BARANGAY
LEGODON IN THE MUNICIPALITY

OF ESPERANZA, PROVINCE OF
SULTAN KUDARAT”

By Representative Suansing (Horacio)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 7277, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING BARANGAY
PAG-ASA IN THE MUNICIPALITY
OF KALAMANSIG, PROVINCE OF
SULTAN KUDARAT”

By Representative Suansing (Horacio)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 7278, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF
BIWANG CENTRAL ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BIWANG,
MUNICIPALITY OF BAGUMBAYAN,
PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT
TO DATU MATILONDO GALMAK
CENTRAL SCHOOL”

By Representative Suansing (Horacio)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 7279, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME
OF BIWANG NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BIWANG,
MUNICIPALITY OF BAGUMBAYAN,
PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT
TO DATU MATILONDO GALMAK
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL”

By Representative Suansing (Horacio)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 7280, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE BORACAY
ISLAND DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AND THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ENTERPRISE AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 7281, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN

SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT
9173 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE PHILIPPINE NURSING ACT
OF 2002, PROVIDING FOR AN
ADVANCED NURSING EDUCATION
PROGRAM”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE
& PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 7282, entitled:

“AN ACT MODERNIZING THE
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION,
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND
FUNCTIONS, EXPANDING,
RATIONALIZING, AND FURTHER
PROFESSIONALIZING ITS
ORGANIZATION, UPGRADING THE
COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS OF
ITS OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7283, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE CENTER
FOR DISEASE PREVENTION
AND CONTROL, PROVIDING
MECHANISMS FOR EPIDEMIC
CONTROL, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7284, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE
CITIZENSHIP TO BIENVENIDO
MARAÑÓN MOREJÓN”

By Representatives Romualdez (Yedda)
and Romualdez (Ferdinand)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1105, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND WELFARE TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN
AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE

UNDELIVERED PHILIPPINE VETERANS BANK (PVB) SHARES BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II (BTVWWII) WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPLEMENTING MEASURES THAT WOULD FACILITATE THE PROMPT AND TIMELY DELIVERY OF THESE SHARES TO OUR AGING WORLD WAR II VETERANS”

By Representative Roman
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1106, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF THE LATE HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVE MARISSA MERCADO ANDAYA, FIRST DISTRICT OF CAMARINES SUR”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1107, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING PHILIPPINE GOLFER, BIANCA PAGDANGANAN, FOR PLAYING IN THE DRIVE ON CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE LADIES PROFESSIONAL GOLF ASSOCIATION (LPGA) IN TOLEDO, OHIO, AND WISHING HER THE BEST OF LUCK AS SHE STARTS HER PROFESSIONAL CAREER WITH LPGA”

By Representative Crisologo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 1108, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE QUESTIONABLE TUITION RATES AND OTHER FEES BEING IMPOSED

BY SOME PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION LEVELS DESPITE THE TRANSITION TO ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORMS DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC”

By Representative Pineda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1109, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN URGENT INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION’S GUIDELINES ON ALTERNATIVE WORK ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE PERIOD OF STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAME”

By Representatives Castro (France), Zarate, Gaité, Cullamat, Brosas and Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1110, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO INQUIRE INTO THE APPROVAL OF GMO GOLDEN RICE AND THE DEMONSTRABLY SERIOUS LAPSES IN ITS APPROVAL BY THE BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES AND TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF ENACTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THESE LAPSES”

By Representatives Cullamat, Zarate, Gaité, Brosas, Castro (France) and Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1111, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO PROBE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT’S MEMORANDUM

ON 'KNOWING THE ENEMY'
WEBINAR CONDUCTED BY THE
NATIONAL TASK FORCE TO END
LOCAL COMMUNIST ARMED
CONFLICT"

By Representatives Cullamat, Zarate and
Gaité

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1112, entitled:

"RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE
COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION,
TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED
VARIOUS ACTS OF OPPRESSION
AND HARASSMENT AGAINST THE
EMPLOYEES OF THE NATIONAL
MUSEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES
AND THE NATIONAL MUSEUM
EMPLOYEES ORGANIZATION"

By Representatives Gaité, Zarate and
Cullamat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Resolution of Both Houses No. 6, entitled:

"RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES
PROPOSING AMENDMENTS
TO THE 1987 CONSTITUTION
PARTICULARLY SECTION 9,
ARTICLE VIII"

By Representative Defensor (Lorenz)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated 8 June 2020 of Aurora C. Ignacio,
President and Chief Executive Officer,
Social Security System, providing the
House of Representatives a copy of their
2019 Accomplishment Report.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND
PRIVATIZATION

Letter dated June 24, 2020 of Andres D.
Lacson, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of
Concepcion, Province of Tarlac, informing
the House of Representatives that their
Report on Fund Utilization and Status of

Program/Project/ Activity Implementation
of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and
Municipalities has been posted on their
official Facebook page.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 30, 2020 of Christian Tell A.
Yap, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of
Victoria, Province of Tarlac, submitting to
the House of Representatives their Report
on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/
Project/ Activity Implementation for the
month of May 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant
to Cities and Municipalities.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 30 June 2020 of Reynaldo L.
Catacutan, LLB., DPA, Municipal Mayor,
Municipality of Capas, Province of Tarlac,
submitting to the House of Representatives
their Reports on Fund Utilization and
Status of Program/Project/ Activity
Implementation for the months of April,
May and June 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant
to Cities and Municipalities.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated July 1, 2020 of Chona P. Laxamana,
OIC-Assistant Regional Director, Regional
Office No. III, Commission on Audit,
furnishing the House of Representatives
with copies of the CY 2019 Financial Audit
Reports on the following water districts:

1. Santa Rosa (NE) Water District, Santa
Rosa, Nueva Ecija;
2. Angeles City Water District, Angeles
City, Pampanga;
3. Tarlac City Water District, Tarlac City,
Tarlac;
4. Subic Water District, Subic, Zambales;
5. Balanga Water District, City of Balanga,
Bataan;
6. Baliwag Water District, Baliwag,
Bulacan;
7. Marilao Water District, Marilao,
Bulacan;
8. Concepcion Water District, Concepcion,
Tarlac;

9. Lubao Water District, Lubao, Pampanga;
10. City of San Fernando Water District, City of San Fernando, Pampanga;
11. Dinalupihan Water District, Dinalupihan, Bataan;
12. San Jose Del Monte City Water District, City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan;
13. Calumpit Water District, Calumpit, Bulacan;
14. Cabanatuan City Water District, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija;
15. Cabiao Water District, Cabiao, Nueva Ecija;
16. Limay Water District, Limay, Bataan;
17. Santa Maria Water District, Santa Maria, Bulacan;
18. Guagua Water District, Guagua, Pampanga;
19. Norzagaray Water District, Norzagaray, Bulacan;
20. Angat Water District, Angat, Bulacan; and
21. Hagonoy Water District, Hagonoy, Bulacan.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated July 3, 2020 of Santiago B. Cane Jr., Provincial Governor, Province of Agusan del Sur, submitting to the House of Representatives their Quarterly Physical Report of Operations ending June 30, 2020 and Quarterly Financial Report of Operations for the quarter ending June 30, 2020 on the Local Government Support Fund – Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces for Road Repair, Rehabilitation and Improvement for CY 2018 and CY 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated July 7, 2020 of Nelson C. David, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Limay, Province of Bataan, informing the House of Representatives that their Reports on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the months of April and May 2020 of the Bayanihan

Grant to Cities and Municipalities have been posted in three (3) conspicuous public places in their municipality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Consolidated Annual Audit Report on the Philippine Rice Research Institute for the year ended December 31, 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

CY 2019 Annual Audit Reports on the following water districts:

1. Malaybalay City Water District, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon;
2. Maramag Water District, Maramag, Bukidnon;
3. Manolo Fortich Water District, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon;
4. Damulog Water District, Damulog, Bukidnon;
5. Don Carlos Water District, Don Carlos, Bukidnon;
6. Kibawe Water District, Kibawe, Bukidnon;
7. Valencia City Water District, Valencia City, Bukidnon;
8. Quezon (Bukidnon) Water District, Quezon, Bukidnon;
9. Mambajao Water District, Mambajao, Camiguin;
10. Gingoog City Water District, J.Z. Mercado Avenue, Gingoog City;
11. Talisayan Water District, Talisayan, Misamis Oriental;
12. Claveria Water District, Claveria, Misamis Oriental;
13. Tagoloan Water District, Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental; and
14. Balingasag Water District, Balingasag, Misamis Oriental.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated July 30, 2020 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting two (2) original copies each of the following Republic Acts which were signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte:

1. R.A. No. 11481, entitled:
 “AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO FIRST UNITED BROADCASTING CORPORATION, PRESENTLY KNOWN AS GLOBAL SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES INC., AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8079, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE FIRST UNITED BROADCASTING CORPORATION (FUBC) A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS ANYWHERE IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”; and

2. R.A. No. 11482, entitled:
 “AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO BROADCAST ENTERPRISES AND AFFILIATED MEDIA, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8098 TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES”.

TO THE ARCHIVES

Email dated August 4, 2020 informing the House of Representatives that the Province of Zambales has posted on their website the Reports on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the months of May and June 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities, attested by Hermogenes E. Ebdane, Jr., Governor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 402), re H.B. No. 7302, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE DISABILITY PENSION OF VETERANS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948, ENTITLED, ‘AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR BENEFICIARIES,’ AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 700

Sponsors: Representatives Roman, Yap (Eric) and Biazon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 403), re H.B. No. 7320, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO INDICATE THE BLOOD TYPE OF INDIVIDUALS ON THEIR IDENTIFICATION CARDS, CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 688 and 2037

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina), Yap (Eric), Aglipay and Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 404), re H.B. No. 7321, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GENERAL HOSPITAL IN BARANGAY LACARON, MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE DAVAO OCCIDENTAL GENERAL HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4403

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina), Bautista-Bandigan and Yap (Eric)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and

the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 405), re H.B. No. 7322, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE LANAO DEL NORTE PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL, LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAROY, LANAO DEL NORTE INTO A REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE LANAO DEL NORTE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2289

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina), Yap (Eric) and Dimaporo (Khalid)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
The Majority Floor Leader.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, today being a Monday and pursuant to our Rules, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
Is there any objection to the motion? (*Silence*)
The Chair hears none; the Privilege Hour is hereby opened.

Majority Floor Leader.

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, first, I now move that the Gentleman from the Second District of Surigao del Norte, the Hon. Robert Ace Barbers, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
The distinguished Gentleman from the Second District of Surigao del Norte, a veteran lawmaker in the person of Representative Barbers, is hereby recognized.

Please proceed.

REP. BARBERS. Can you hear me, Mr. Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
Yes, but you have a different picture.

REP. BARBERS. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much, Majority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
You look a little bit older. Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BARBERS

REP. BARBERS. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of personal and collective privilege.

Mr. Speaker, recently, I stood before you, strongly suggesting that we revisit the mining industry as a cure to help us repay the massive debt that we have accumulated to fight COVID-19. A few days after that, the country announced its worst quarterly GDP drop at 16.5 percent.

Our two main sources of dollar revenues which kept us afloat in the past two decades are also under threat. The BPOs and the OFW remittances combine for an estimated US\$60 billion annually. If we simulate a 10-percent to 20-percent decline in these two sectors, our net dollar position will suffer by 6 to 12 US dollars.

Before we let the economy spiral down, Mr. Speaker, both in the GDP and dollar reserves, the government will need to have a concerted effort with the private sector to address and really advance and finance this sector. Exploration to production takes time, and we can reap the benefits probably five, 10 years down the line, depending on various stages of exploration between our existing mining companies. If we target, say, Mr. Speaker, a five- to 10-percent share in the GDP, the mining sector can contribute 18 to 36 billion dollars, more than enough to cover the gap that will be created by the reduced OFW remittances and the performance of the BPO sector.

Looking at it from a global perspective, the total value of the top 50 mining companies in the world stood at 957 billion US dollars as of June 30. In comparison, the entire value of our listed companies, lahat po ito, the Philippines, stood at 260 billion US dollars, and I imagine that the mining sector only contributes to a fraction of that. In terms of GDP contribution,

prominent mining countries such as Australia, have mining contributing to their GDP at least a minimum of 6 percent. With Australia's GDP at 1.37 trillion dollars, this translates to 82 billion dollars, almost 38 times the value of our mining output. If we, indeed, Mr. Speaker, believe that our resources are among the best in the world, then the solution is obvious; it's not too far.

Value-added mining is also a concern as the current state of this sector is yet to be fully integrated. We export our nickel, iron core and copper to developed countries which possess the technology to further refine the products to stainless steel and copper wires, among others. Therefore, we sell low-value output, only to import them back in their final form, putting us in a negative foreign exchange position. To optimize the value of our exports, I would strongly consider capital formation with respect to smelters and refineries so that value is enhanced before they leave our shores.

It can go on and on, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker, I think this is a feasible and realistic solution. As mentioned, I shall be reviewing our current laws and attempt to aggressively drive it forward to dramatically allow for increased financing, exploration, production, regulation, with the end goal of increasing our mining's output contribution to our currently threatened economy. While we are months or probably years away from the discovery of a COVID vaccine, our economy urgently and badly needs immediate vaccination. And to my mind, Mr. Speaker, mining is the solution.

So, with that, I'd like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you Majority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
Majority Floor Leader.

REP. PALMA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Robert Ace Barbers to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
Is there any objection to the motion? (*Silence*)

There being none, the motion is hereby approved.

Majority Floor Leader.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, the next to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Hon. Yedda Marie Romualdez of the Party-List TINGOG SINIRANGAN. I move that she be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
The distinguished Representative of TINGOG SINIRANGAN, Hon. Yedda Marie Romualdez, is hereby recognized.

Please proceed.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (Y.). Mr. Speaker, can you hear me? Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
May I ask the distinguished Representative from TINGOG SINIRANGAN to please unmute her system.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (Y.). Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
We cannot hear you.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (Y.). Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, can you hear me now?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
Yes, loud and clear. Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP.
ROMUALDEZ (Y.)

REP. ROMUALDEZ (Y.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed colleagues, I rise today on a question of personal and collective privilege to bring to your attention a matter of crucial importance to the lives and safety of millions of Filipino children.

As the coronavirus disease continues to threaten the health and well-being of Filipinos, a silent pandemic has begun to plague the most vulnerable and helpless in our community, our children. It is a plague no less harmful, a

pandemic no less vicious: the rising threat of online sexual exploitation of children.

As communities in the country are placed under quarantine due to COVID-19, there has been a significant increase in reports of online sexual exploitation involving children, including the sharing and selling of sexually explicit images of children. The Philippines has long been considered the epicenter of online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC). The prevalence of OSEC has been attributed to the widespread poverty that continues to exist in our country. Desperate to bring them out of poverty or to provide for their families, even children are lured or even pressured by their parents into prostitution, pornography and other forms of sexual exploitation and violence using the Internet and other online platforms.

The slowdown of economic activities resulting in the loss of their sources of livelihood and the increase in the unemployment rate has further plunged many of these already struggling families to the point of desperation, pushing parents to peddle their own children to online sexual predators. It is alarming and horrifying that as we try to grapple with the effects of this pandemic, monsters of disturbing sexual obsessions who have been prevented from travelling due to movement restrictions have found a convenient way into our very homes.

Community quarantine measures have confined children to their homes and as a result, they are spending more time on their computers and other digital devices. The surge of online activity has made it more challenging to police the Internet and further scrutinize the nature of digital content being produced and shared online. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, worrying findings of OSEC in the country have already been reported. In 2018 alone, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children based in the United States reported that at least 600,000 child sexual abuse materials from the Philippines were reported to have been shared and sold online. This marks a 1,300-percent increase from the previous year.

As of May 25, the Office of Cybercrime under the Department of Justice received

279,166 cyber tips from March to May 2020, compared to the 76,561 cyber tips over the same period in 2019. That translates to an increase of 264.63 percent. A study by the United Nations Children's Fund shows that one in five Filipino children are vulnerable to OSEC, with boys found to be as vulnerable to sexual exploitation as girls. One in five children is one child too many. It is said that parents are able to turn a blind eye or ignore the danger effects of OSEC, rationalizing that the act is practically virtual and no physical injuries are done to the child. But online sexual exploitation of children is really harmful, resulting in serious psychological trauma that leads them to be emotionally scarred for life. It causes them post-traumatic stress, or even leads to instances of suicide attempts. Over the long term, the sexual abuse of children damages the ability of persons to establish trust and intimacy even years thereafter. Children have become more vulnerable to online predators because they now spend more time online with less parental supervision. In fact, adult predators have become more aggressive in initiating inappropriate interaction and sexual relationships with minors, exchanging sexually explicit images and videos, and at times, even resulting to threats, extortion, manipulation and emotional abuse.

The risk of sexual abuse online happens by starting with seemingly innocuous and harmless casual conversations, and slowly gaining a child's trust by appealing to their vulnerabilities. Sexual predators even make their way into chat rooms and video game sessions, sometimes posing as minors. These online interactions eventually escalate into adults forcing children to send sexually explicit photographs or videos or to perform perverse sexual acts on livestream, oftentimes bribing them with money or exploiting their self-esteem issues. Worse, these images are often later on used to blackmail these children to coerce them to send more sexually explicit materials and force them to keep the abuse a secret, threatening them with publicly sharing these photos if they choose to stop sending them.

Children may also experience other forms of abuse such as online sexual grooming in the creation, production, and distribution of

child sexual abuse and exploitation materials by pedophiles and predators. Unfortunately, shame is what prevents these children from reporting these incidents. Shame is what allows the exploitation to continue in a society where sex is considered a shameful taboo. This crippling fear of being exposed publicly or demeaned by social disapproval forces children to stay silent. Shame thrives on silence. But what is even more shameful is when adults, parents, guardians, teachers, and people in government seem to take lightly and stay silent when this leads to deeply troubling acts of sexual exploitation. The truth is, our indifference or apathy leads children to hide their risky online interaction. We failed to take their side. We failed to assure our children that if ever an adult has made sexual advances against them, it is never, ever, ever their fault. Plus, the greater shame is on us for our failure to protect the most vulnerable members of our community, for allowing poverty to be a convenient excuse for our inaction to counter the continuing spread of OSEC and for not being able to raise awareness among parents and the need to educate children on the risks of online sexual exploitation.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, the shame has to end. The violence against children and their exploitation online have to stop. But as it takes a village to raise a child, it would take an even greater amount of attention and cooperation to protect them. For this reason, I ask Congress to discuss and examine not only the underlying causes but more importantly, the lasting solutions to this menace of online sexual exploitation.

There is an urgent need for the House of Representatives to exercise its oversight mandate to investigate the rising incidence of OSEC in the country and to look into the quality of policy implementation and review existing and related laws to keep up with the complexity of OSEC and the increasing levels of digital technology. I add my voice to that of my colleagues in the House of Representatives who have already raised their concern about this alarming situation of online sexual exploitation and the sudden surge of online sexual predators, especially now, during this COVID-19 pandemic.

As Chairperson of the House Committee on the Welfare of Children, I intend to conduct an investigation in aid of legislation and to invite our partners in the Executive branch to identify and address the gaps that prevent the speedy prosecution of OSEC cases; to ensure full accountability and compliance of Internet service providers, and social media and other online platforms; to assess the capacity of enforcement agencies to respond to and handle OSEC cases; and to propose stronger social protection measures that will empower victims and witnesses to report cases of abuse and exploitation.

We cannot tarry any longer nor can we delay the end of this creeping pandemic, but we need more than just removing the risk of harmful content, contact, and conduct online. More importantly, we need to change our online behavior towards one that is fully cognizant of the dangers of the Internet. Mindful of our legislative duty, the House Committee on the Welfare of Children will take a closer look into how society can contribute to the development of a safe and empowering online environment for children and young people.

Mr. Speaker, honorable colleagues, we owe it to every Filipino child to ensure their safety and protection, both online and off-line, in their schools and in our homes, and to make the Internet an enabling and empowering space for growth and learning. The true strength of our nation is seen in the smiles of children. The well-being, integrity and safety of our children are the most precious gifts that we can give them.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues. Madamo nga salamat sa inyong tanan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
Thank you, distinguished Representative of
TINGOG SINIRANGAN Party-List.

Majority Floor Leader.

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Second District of Bataan, Hon. Joet Garcia, for his manifestation of support.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).

The distinguished Gentleman from Bataan, the Honorable Garcia, is hereby recognized.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. GARCIA

REP. GARCIA (J). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Majority Floor Leader.

First of all, let me commend the honorable Representative of TINGOG SINIRANGAN Party-List and Chairperson of the Committee on the Welfare of Children for standing up and pursuing a delicate and extremely urgent menace our country's children are exposed to. It is, indeed, appalling to note that cases of online sexual exploitation of children or OSEC in our country are increasing at an alarming rate. It is even more revolting to learn that the Philippines is now tagged as the global epicenter of the OSEC trade. No reasonable and decent man should accept this and let the ill-reviewed label be attached to us a minute longer. Let us put a stop to the desecration of the moral, mental, spiritual, and physical well-being of children by predators and unscrupulous individuals and entities who exploit not only the weakness of the vulnerable but also the seeming gaps in our laws and their implementation. It now behooves upon us to immediately address whatever weaknesses and gaps our laws against exploitation and abuse of children may suffer from.

I am, therefore, manifesting my unconditional support for an investigation in aid of legislation, which Congresswoman Romualdez seeks to pursue, to look into the quality of policy implementation and to further strengthen the relevant laws to ensure that the protection which they afford in favor of children are adequate and effectively and timely dispensed by all concerned.

In due time, I will also file a measure specifically defining and penalizing OSEC and reinforcing the roles and responsibilities of various implementing agencies and local government units to put a more potent strategy towards combating and eliminating OSEC. Meanwhile, I especially urge local government units to step up their efforts in spreading awareness of the evils of OSEC and to carry out the stricter implementation of existing

anti-child abuse, exploitation, and trafficking laws in their respective jurisdictions.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader. Magandang hapon po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Thank you, distinguished Gentleman from Bataan.

The Majority Floor Leader.

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Fourth District of Pangasinan, Hon. Christopher "Toff" De Venecia, for his manifestation of support.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The Gentleman from the Fourth District of Pangasinan is hereby recognized. Proceed, please.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. DE VENECIA

REP. DE VENECIA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues.

First off, let me show my gratitude to and reinforce my support for Congresswoman and Chairperson Yedda Marie Romualdez for her determination and courage in championing the cause of children, not only in the online sexual exploitation of children or OSEC but in all issues concerning that.

As she mentioned in her privilege speech, and as shared to us by the NGO Plan International, an estimated 100,000 Filipino children are brought into prostitution each year, with four out of five of them or 80 percent being prone to online bullying; one out of five children or 20 percent are suffering from sexual abuse and violence at home, in school, and their communities; and the Philippines has appallingly become a source country of children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor, and to some extent, a destination as well.

As of May 2020, the cybercrime office of the Justice Department reported almost 280,000 cybercrime tips, and 20 percent of that translate to a staggering figure of about 56,000 possible consummated sexual exploitation of children in one year. Also reported was a 264.63-percent spike in online

child pornography from March 1 to May 24. Even before COVID-19, as Congresswoman Yedda shared with us earlier, the Philippines already registered a 1,300-percent increase in the production and distribution of child sexual abuse materials in 2018, with at least 600,000 being showed online, as compared to 45,645 in the previous year.

What more now na kulob lahat sa bahay at ang mga kababayan natin ay hirap, hikahos at desperado dahil sa pagbagsak ng ating ekonomiya? Ang kahirapan at ang kultura ng pananahimik sa mga maling gawain ang ilan sa mga nagiging sanhi ng pagtaas ng kaso ng OSEC sa ating bansa. Ibig sabihin, Mr. Speaker, kagaya ng COVID-19, ang OSEC ay isang silent menace, lalo na at nasa advent tayo ng Fourth Industrial Revolution at nasa kalagitnaan ng social media at ng Internet of Things.

With the advent of modern technology, even children as young as five years old are adept in the use of cell phones, iPads, and computers. For children, it starts with games, game sessions and chat rooms. Without proper parental supervision, children are free to navigate and explore various programs and applications. Unwittingly, they open their lines to online predators and pedophiles. It is horrid and downright sickening, with adults, teachers, even the children's own parents becoming the perpetrators themselves. The effects of these forms of violence, and aggression, and malevolence against children—the trauma, fear, pain, and the loss of self-esteem and self-worth—are really beyond measure. Paano pa natin mabibigyang lunas ang mga lasting at devastating effects na ito kung mag-spiral na sila into depression, social isolation or even suicidal attempts, o kung mag-domino effect ito sa kanilang pagtanda?

Our children are the future pillars of our society. We have the paramount duty to protect and save them. While there are various laws protecting children, they have gray areas when it comes to OSEC.

There has to be a coming together, kagaya ng sabi ni Congresswoman Yedda kanina, of government agencies, NGOs, the academe and parents to take a hard look at OSEC, to pinpoint the heart of the problem, propose

solutions, establish safeguards and impose penalties to deter and punish online predators and violators. We need to revisit all the laws covering the protection of children, as reported by the Child Rights Network—the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, the Cybercrime Prevention Act, the Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act of 2009, the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act and other ancillary laws like the Safe Spaces Act—to see if they are still responsive to the changing landscape and if they are being imposed properly so that we could eradicate OSEC in our country once and for all.

My dear colleagues, I urge you to join me and Congressman Joet Garcia from Bataan in supporting Congresswoman Yedda Romualdez in this laudable and urgent endeavor.

Children are #NotForSale, children are our future, and together, let us #shutdownOSEC once and for all.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and once again, congrats to our champion of the welfare of children, Chairperson Yedda Marie Romualdez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Thank you, Gentleman from the Fourth District of Pangasinan.

Majority Floor Leader.

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from GABRIELA Party-List, Hon Arlene Brosas, for her manifestation of support.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The distinguished Representative of GABRIELA Party-List is hereby recognized.

Proceed, please.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. BROSAS

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues.

I manifest my support for the honorable Rep. Yedda Romualdez in the duty to end online sexual abuse and exploitation

of children, especially now in the time of pandemic. Now, more than ever, we need to end this plague that has been damaging the lives of the Filipino children. One in five children is, indeed, one child too many.

It is truly disturbing and worrisome that parents of the children-victims are their own personal abusers and traffickers. But, as Congresswoman Yedda stated, in most cases, poverty is the reason for the continuing spread of OSEC. In the same way that we strive to make their traffickers pay, we also need to address the underlying reasons why children fall victims to the system of OSEC: the rising cases of unemployment, the hunger of families and the inaccessibility of education.

Nito ngang nakaraang buwan ng Hulyo lamang, katulad ng pagkakabanggit ko sa aking nakaraang privilege speech sa observance of World Day Against Trafficking, nakatanggap mismo ang opisina ng Kinatawangs ito ng kaso ng isang 13 gulang na bata na ginahasa kapalit ng smartphone para sa kaniyang online classes.

OSEC is a much bigger system of exploitation than those within the family. OSEC booms because of silence and shame, yes, but also because of impunity. Kailangang matigil na ang kawalan ng pananagutan. We demand the government to have the abusers punished and the victims be given justice. We truly owe every Filipino child safety and protection, both online and off-line. And again and again, we need to protect our women and children and save their future from the silent crime. As quoted nga po sa Salinlahi Alliance for Children's Concerns, Inc. ang #BeatOSEC nila o Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children:

Addressing OSAEC is particularly challenging especially in countries with remarkably high poverty incidence, where many children are forced by circumstances to engage in illicit and risky trades in the hopes of earning money. Such economic misfortune of many families has become an advantage for sexual predators to abuse and exploit children. And we fear that more Filipino children might be put in this vulnerable situation as a result of widespread joblessness, increasing poverty and hunger incidence during the unabated coronavirus spread in the country.

This Representation joins the whole House Committee on the Welfare of Children to discuss and examine the underlying causes of and the lasting solutions to beat and shutdown online sexual abuse and the exploitation of children.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat sa ating Chairwoman of the Committee on the Welfare of Children.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Maraming salamat din po sa inyo, ang Kinatawan ng GABRIELA Party-List.

Majority Floor Leader.

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Third District of Bukidnon, Hon. Manuel Zubiri, for his manifestation of support.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The Gentleman from the Third District of Bukidnon is hereby recognized.

Please proceed.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. ZUBIRI

REP. ZUBIRI. Marami pong salamat, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, I would like to manifest not just my strong support but my super strong support for the resolution of Cong. Yedda Romualdez. This has been long overdue, Mr. Speaker. We need to address the abuse of children immediately.

Now at this day and age, in this time of COVID, mas lalo po ngayong naaabuso po iyong ating mga bata, ating mga anak. More people are in the Net or the so-called World Wide Web, and dependent on this digital age, Mr. Speaker. Mas lalo na po na dadami o dumadami iyong problema natin sa child exploitation. The frequency of the abuse has tremendously increased and should be stopped immediately.

Let us protect our children at all costs. I know the efforts and I congratulate Cong. Yedda Romualdez for her efforts in making this happen. Please make me, Congresswoman Yedda, part of your quest in protecting our children. We are here and we will protect our children all the

way through. And please, you can count on us on this all the time, Congresswoman.

Congratulations and I would just like to manifest my full and strong support for your efforts.

Marami pong salamat, Mr. Speaker, and mabuhay po kayo, Cong. Yedda. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Thank you very much, distinguished Gentleman from the Third District of Bukidnon.

Majority Floor Leader, please.

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the First District of Samar, Hon. Edgar Sarmiento, for his manifestation of support.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The distinguished Gentleman from Samar is hereby recognized. You may proceed.

REP. SARMIENTO. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader. I am hoping that the (*inaudible*). Hello, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). There seems to be a problem with the — there seems to be a technical problem with the Gentleman from Samar.

REP. SARMIENTO. Mr. Speaker, good afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Good afternoon. Please, kindly proceed.

REP. SARMIENTO. Mr. Speaker, may I ask the honorable Chairperson of the Committee on the Welfare of Children if she will allow a short interpellation from the Gentleman of the First District of Samar?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). If the distinguished Chairperson will allow it, then please proceed.

REP. SARMIENTO. Again, I cannot hear the Chairperson of the Committee on the Welfare of Children, whether she will allow me to or if she will yield to some questions.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Is the distinguished Lady, the Lady from TINGOG Party-List, willing to yield to some questions?

I think the Gentleman from Samar — there is a technical difficulty that we are experiencing now.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (Y.). Please proceed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Majority Floor Leader, please.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, due to some technicalities with our Internet connection, may I respectfully advice the Gentleman from Samar to end his manifestation, to wrap up his manifestation, so that we can proceed with our questions.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. SARMIENTO

REP. SARMIENTO. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader. Since there seems to be a problem with the system, I just want to manifest my support to the Chairperson. In fact, I am willing to be part of whatever there is in Congress, I am willing to be part of it, if ever she will need my assistance or help because I do believe, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader, that the way — before, there were already issues in Cebu, pertinent again to child pornography, an online sexual problem which we want to address.

So, again, congratulations, Mr. Speaker, to the Chairperson of the Committee on Welfare of Children for the timely message she delivered pertinent to the problem we have in this country, child pornography.

That's all, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader. Thank you so much, my dear colleagues.

Good afternoon, everyone.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Thank you, Gentleman from Samar. Majority Floor Leader.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable Edgar Sarmiento for acceding to my request.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Hon. Yedda Marie Romualdez, including the manifestations, to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Is there any objection to the motion? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is hereby approved.

Secretary General, please take note.
Majority Floor Leader.

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). There is a motion to terminate the Privilege Hour. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is hereby approved.

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Majority Floor Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The session is suspended for two minutes.

It was 4:01 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:02 p.m., the session was resumed with Speaker Alan Peter "Compañero" S. Cayetano presiding.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Speaker Alan Peter "Compañero" Cayetano will now address the Body.

THE SPEAKER. Thank you, Majority Leader.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land," 2 Chronicles 7:14.

As we humble ourselves before the Almighty God, we ask for His grace, for His mercy, for His forgiveness; we ask for the healing of our people and of our land, not just from the virus, but from the conflicts that continue to divide our country, from moral decay and from all that ail us as a people and as a nation. May we find common cause in His love to stand together, and to heal and to recover as one.

The purpose of government is to do good and to prevent evil.

In a few minutes, we are going to vote on Bayanihan 2. We pass laws that enable and empower the Executive Department to fulfill its duties. Historically, as in the present case, the government is almost only able to react to the changing situation as we work to save the lives and livelihoods of people. That's why we're always reminded that you cannot have old solutions to new problems. But if we are to have a better future, we need to do more than just aim for survival. Madalas po natin sabihin dito na maganda po iyong programang Pantawid, pero hindi puwedeng habambuhay pantawid na lang. Kailangan tulungan natin makaahon ang ating mga kababayan.

The government must and will lead the way in adapting, innovating and managing every aspect of this public health and economic crisis. And we need the cooperation of everyone to act to make it work.

We appeal to our fellow Filipinos – let us act as one. We, the Members of the House of the People, stand before you today, humbled by the enormity of the task that history and circumstance have laid before us – to bring our nation back from the brink of public health and economic ruin brought about by this global pandemic.

Wala po sa atin noong tumakbo noong 2019 ang nag-isip na mararanasan natin itong pandemya na ito. Wala po sa atin dito ang may plataporma or may solusyon o may programa on how to deal with this public health crisis.

As we communed with our constituents — opo, during the pandemic, umikot po kami sa amin pong mga kababayan, ang mga party-lists sa kanilang mga sector, at ang mga district Congressmen sa kanilang distrito, at iyong House leadership ay nakipag-ugnayan sa iba't ibang sektor, sa leaders po ng industriya, sa ekonomiya, sa atin pong mga health professionals — nakita po namin, we have seen the pain and suffering in their eyes. We are acutely aware of the responsibility that lies heavily on our shoulders.

Like all of you, we have knelt in prayer and pleaded with the Lord to lift this trial, na sana matapos na ang pagsubok na dala ng COVID-19, but at the same time acknowledging that changing our ways and working hard for the welfare of others are our greatest offerings to God and the nation. We have thus rolled up our sleeves and worked relentlessly with the Executive branch of government, with the Senate, with the media, and our constituents to craft legislations, come up with programs that will work, try to find solutions to short- and long-term problems, so that we can help alleviate the effects of COVID-19, as well as the other challenges our people were already facing before this pandemic hit.

Opo, marami nang problema bago pa nagkaroon ng COVID-19. Hindi po maaari na iso-solve natin ang mga problemang idinudulot ng COVID-19 pero hahayaan natin na walang solusyon ang problema before COVID-19. Katulad po ng trabaho, totoo po iyon, isang daang libong OFWs ang bumabalik at kailangan nating tulungan. Pero kaya nga po sila umalis eh dahil kulang ng trabaho, ng quality na trabaho sa ating bansa. Dati na pong maraming Pilipino ang walang trabaho, at lalo pa pong dumami ngayon.

These efforts na ginawa po natin dito sa Kongreso have borne fruits. Yet, we shall not talk now about these fruits or the many of the sleepless nights of debates, dialogues, discourse, Zoom meetings among your Representatives, members of the Cabinet, policy and health experts, and frontliners because our people are still suffering. Kahit anong pag-usapan natin ngayon na nagawa ng Kongreso o resulta, alam naman natin po ang sasabihin ng constituents natin: kulang, tulong

pa rin, tulong na maibsan po ang mapait na karanasan sa pang-araw-araw just to survive because our people are still suffering. Simply put, we just have to do better. We have to do more. We have to deliver, tayong lahat po sa gobyerno.

While we have seen this pandemic bring out the best in us as individuals and as a people, allow me also to address the pressing issues of vanishing common sense, discipline and concern for the welfare of our neighbors that are in no small part responsible for the escalating spread of the virus among various communities.

Up to a few months ago, millions of Filipinos in Metro Manila and surrounding provinces, and other highly urbanized places like Metro Cebu and Metro Davao woke up every morning to take part in the daily travail of commuting in a mega city. Packed in trains, cars, mga puno na jeepneys, na buses and all other manner of wheeled vehicles which were themselves stacked bumper-to-bumper in a slow-moving river of mechanized humanity. This migration was repeated every single working day. While many Filipinos have grown used to this daily metropolis-wide exodus which often results in monstrous traffic jams at all times of the day — dati rush hour lang, pero madalas sa Metro Manila, sa Metro Cebu, buong araw na — to the untrained observer, it is completely and utterly devoid of order and rules. Para bang wala ng batas. Even the environment, which is protected by stringent laws and rules, has not been spared. Grabe po ang damage sa ating ecology at environment before COVID-19. However, ang katotohanan po ay may batas. The truth is, there are rules. Just like every other part of our life, even the chaotic traffic of Metro Manila has its rules and law and order. After all, the bedrock of any functioning society is law and order, is having rules, having laws, We all give part of our freedom to be able to follow these rules so that we can have more in life and more freedoms.

Often, the most simple guidelines govern the most complex human interaction. When to speak, how long do we have to make eye contact, do we have to shake his hand or bawal ba kamayan, where to sit, how closely do we

stand near each other, do we raise our voice or not, do you whisper or do you shout – none of us thought how much all of these rules were so important just a few months ago. Now we do. In fact, we must. Familiarity with these rules can mean the difference between living with the effects of this virus for weeks, months or years and of economic recovery or economic ruin. It could be a matter of life or death for many of us or for people we love.

Let me put it this way: all that the government has done or can do will be for nothing if we, as individuals, as Filipinos, fail to do our part. No amount of laws, executive orders, fines, kahit anong pananakot po na gawin ng pulis o ng IATF, kahit anong guidelines po ng IATF or ng WHO, these cannot take the place of four very simple, common-sense rules – wear a mask properly, wash your hands frequently, observe social distancing, and avoid unnecessary crowded places. May mga simple lang po na ‘pag sinunod po natin lahat, lubusan mababawasan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19.

Sadly, the continued disregard for these rules forces us to reexamine our society. We need to ask ourselves, have we, as a nation, so completely lost our sense of patriotism, our common decency, our concern for our neighbors, even for our loved ones, that we need the police to enforce something so basic and so simple? Madalas po marinig na, “Bakit may pulis diyan?” Pero puwede po nating ibalik iyong tanong, bakit nga eh kung lahat naman po tayo sumusunod? Tingnan n’yo po sa Subic Bay, ‘di ba, madalas po wala kang makikitang pulis o traffic enforcer kasi lahat tayo sumusunod sa traffic laws doon sa lugar na iyon.

Korea, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam – madalas mabanggit na the success of these countries or the relative success of these countries in dealing with COVID-19 is owed partly to the response of their government, leadership always matters, but more to the readiness of their people to do their part and make sacrifices for the common good. This is the lesson we have to learn and apply but the government cannot do this for us; we have to do it for ourselves. I know we have struggled, but I still have faith in the Filipino, that we

will find the discipline and the spirit of unity that are necessary to save our lives and our livelihoods, buhay at kabuhayan. Bayanihan is alive in all of us. Yes, we may disagree on many controversial, political, legal issues, pero pagdating sa paglaban sa COVID, puwede po tayong magkaisa.

Today, as the whole world struggles with the effects of the new coronavirus or COVID-19, governments are working double time to come up with legislation and policies that would hedge us from disaster, all the while not knowing exactly where the danger will be or what form it may take months or years from now. And as each new research reveals another terrifying fact about the virus and its effects, our common resolve to overcome these challenges must also grow stronger.

Araw-araw po, we learn something new, something more terrifying o balita. Sa atin lang po, sino ang hindi na-shock sa atin noong sinabi po na hindi na natin makakasama physically si Congressman Datol, na isang magandang halimbawa na Kongresista, na kahit sabihin nating senior ka na, huwag ka muna mag-attend physically, ay nagsabi na “Hindi, trabaho ko ito”? So, somehow, every time that there is something negative, something that worries us, something that shocks us, we must find the strength to also find hope. So, I will find hope in Congressman Datol’s spirit, his fighting spirit and his attitude to work harder for our people, to work harder with you, my dear colleagues.

The Bayanihan to Recover as One Act is the Filipinos’ loud and clear shot across the bow of this climate of uncertainty and despair. Kailangan malinaw po iyon na itong Bayanihan to Recover as One or Bayanihan 2 ay magbibigay ng pag-asa sa marami pong nawalan ng trabaho at sa marami pong negosyo na nagsasara. We will not give up. We are prepared for the long haul and we will win this war. As we learn to adapt, innovate and manage in this time of COVID-19, let us use this moment to proactively plan and implement a roadmap to a new and better Philippine society.

Sa lahat po sa inyo na nag-attend ng session, nag-a-attend araw-araw, sa ating

Majority Leader na nag-lead ng Defeat COVID-19 *Ad Hoc* Committee, sa ating economic team na gumawa ng economic stimulus, sa ating finance at appropriation team dito sa Bayanihan 2, sa lahat po sa inyo, nandito sa harap ko ang Committee on Agriculture at talagang gusto niyang i-fast-track ang lahat ng kailangan sa agriculture, sa Committee on Health, sa Committee on Tourism, sa Basic Ed – hindi ko po maiisa-isa ngayon po, pero kayo po ay nagbibigay ng pag-asa dahil po kayo ay naghahanap ng lunas sa mga problema, one that is built on the ideals set forth in our Constitution’s Preamble. Simply put, we want to put up a kind of society where we can all say, “We love the Philippines, we love being Filipino.” That is why we need a proactive plan.

And, ano po ang paradigm noong plano na ito? One that is built on the ideals set forth by our Constitution’s Preamble. Simple lang po nakalagay dito, of a “just and humane society that will promote the common good, conserve and develop our patrimony, and secure to our self and our posterity the blessings of independence and democracy under the rule of law, a regime of truth, justice, freedom, love, equality and peace.” Lahat po ng Pilipino, naiintindihan ito at lahat ng Pilipino, ito po ang gusto.

In order to achieve this, Congress has made Bayanihan 2 more than just a reaction to the ravages of COVID-19; it is a response to the bigger challenge of remaking our society and spreading the wealth. Problema po lang, hindi lang po natin problema ang poverty, problema din po natin na kakaunti lang ang sobrang yaman sa ating bansa at maliit pa rin ang middle class natin. Nakita po natin na iyong marami sa middle class natin po ay galing sa pera ng OFW, at kapag nagkaroon ng ganitong problema, limited ang pagtulong natin sa mga OFWs na umuuwi.

Our challenge of bringing out wealth from our overcrowded cities, hindi lang po iyong personal wealth o kung sino ang mas mayaman sa hindi, iyong disparity din po ng ating pinakamayaman na mga siyudad sa mga pinakamahirap natin na municipalities. Matagal na po nagsasalita, nagpaparinig, sumisigaw, bumubulong ang

ating countryside, ang rural areas, “Pansinin ninyo naman po kami.” We should make the areas that have been neglected and underdeveloped into fertile hills and valleys of our 7,100 islands that we can be proud of.

Bayanihan to Recover as One is only one step but it is a huge step. But many, many, many more steps are needed in this journey and many, many more to bring our people to the welcome shores of safety and security. These are steps that we need to take together as partners in change, sharing the same vision of peace, progress, and prosperity.

We have to put the people, their lives and livelihood, buhay at kabuhayan first, in this law. At its center, we have placed public health; micro, small, and medium enterprises; OFWs; our athletes; the creative industry; mga performing artists na lahat nawalan ng trabaho; social amelioration; mga teachers po natin na nawalan ng trabaho; mga pastor po natin na patuloy po na nagmi-minister sa flock nila; mga pari pero wala din pong pumapasok na pambayad po ng kuryente o pambayad ng mga gastusin sa simbahan, and many many more po na hindi ko nabanggit.

Jobs, jobs, jobs – kailangan po ng trabaho. We want Bayanihan 2 to be a living piece of legislation that will empower our industries and revitalize sectors of society that have been decimated by the virus or were otherwise forgotten and neglected in the past, such as agriculture and tourism, sectors that are essential to our economy. Grabe po ang multiplier effect ng trabaho dito. Sabi nila, for every two to three tourists, isang trabaho ang naki-create. Sa agriculture naman, sabi po nila, two out of three jobs in the country are related to agriculture. So, can you imagine po if agriculture grows during this time and we can prepare for the return of tourism? Pero let’s not fool ourselves. If Thailand was number one sa ASEAN before the pandemic and we do nothing, how do you expect that we will be number one or maggo-grow ang tourism? It has been growing but it can grow in a much faster pace if we prepare, we build and we take the necessary actions to build, you know, the industry or create the ecosystem for people to be able to invest in the industry

and for it to be very attractive to foreign and local tourists. So, too, will the manufacturing industry which, with the right elements to create the right ecosystem or environment wherein manufacturers will return and thrive, will form the third leg in the triumvirate. These three sectors will form the spear tip of our recovery effort and underlie our key philosophy of putting people back to work so that we all can get back on our feet.

ATM, lahat po tayo ngayon, lalo po kung kailangan ng pera sa bangko alam iyong "ATM," pero hindi po automated teller machine ang ATM na pinag-uusapan ng Kongreso—Agriculture, Tourism, Manufacturing. Sa buong mundo po ngayon, nagre-reevaluate lahat ng bansa. Bakit tayo pumayag na mawala ang manufacturing sa ating bansa at mag-focus ito sa China, Vietnam at iba pang lugar na attractive? While the laws of economics have not changed and some countries will still be better and more attractive for manufacturing, some key elements or products have to be manufactured in your country. Example po diyan is pharma or pharmaceuticals and iyong PPEs. Kaya po noong naging worldwide iyong pandemic, kung sino po man ang may factory o nagma-manufacture sa kanilang bansa got ahead. Pero doon po sa nagre-rely, kahit na sabihin mong Filipino-owned company iyan, kung nasa Vietnam o nasa China, may difficulties in getting it here. We have to set the tone, we have to prepare the environment na payagan at maging attractive sa mga manufacturers na bumalik sa Pilipinas.

It takes more than just a law to get things going. We need both a roadmap for familiar places, and we need to go and to blaze a trail out of the wilderness that we have lost. We need a pragmatic plan that can be funded and implemented immediately and effectively. And once we have this, we need everyone to be onboard carrying their weight. Nothing we do can succeed without the most crucial ingredient of national unity, and no challenge will be insurmountable if we face it bowing our heads to God and acting in unison.

At the end of the day, Bayanihan 2 is more than just an enumeration of benefits to certain sectors and industries, or an aggregation of budgets to help our kababayans, or a

list of programs of different agencies. It is a reaffirmation of the spirit of cooperation and community that our race is famous for. Bayanihan is about Filipinos helping Filipinos, na sarili mong trabaho, sarili mong gawain, sarili mong interes ay itatabi mo sandali para tulungan ang kapitbahay mo in the spirit ng Bayanihan. It is about reaching out, reaching across the geographic and political divide. It is about hope in the darkest moments and most desperate places. It is about faith in God and ourselves as His children.

Finally, it is sad but true that during these times of difficulties and despair, there are still those who call themselves "Filipinos" but wish nothing more than this government to fail. Wala pong problema sa nagki-criticize. In fact, marami sa nagki-criticize nakakatulong. Tingnan n'yo po iyong PhilHealth. Kung hindi n'yo po na-criticize, hindi natin madi-discover ang napakalaking problema diyan at iyong mga anomalya. Pero meron pong iba hindi nagki-criticize para magbago; meron pong iba na gustong bumagsak ang gobyerno. That could be political fair game during non-crisis times, 'di ba, kasi ang politics naman is whoever gets the power to be able to implement a better platform. So, whether elections iyan or other constitutional means of getting power, that's part of politics. But during a crisis, ang pagbagsak ng gobyerno causes thousands of deaths and maybe tens of thousands of deaths and for some, it may appear that their dark desires are coming to fruition. So, pag nakikita na nagra-rally po at lumalabas ang tao sa Amerika, parang "Oy, puwede din sa atin dito." Tingnan n'yo po ang resurgence ng COVID-19 sa Amerika. Let's pray for them for their social cohesion, for their problems including hate and racism. Pero iyong gusto nating gayahin, sapagkat tingnan n'yo, ito ay magdudulot ng pagbabago, sakit lang po ang idudulot nito sa atin.

It is easy to pick out the inevitable mistakes in a crisis. Yes, this government is not perfect. When you pick out these mistakes and make them part of the nature, and hold them up as an example, of a larger systematic collapse, hindi na po criticism ito to help, but that is a mistake, a big mistake. Filipinos will never give up, nor will we ever give in to the

hopelessness that they want us to embrace. It is a mistake for people to think na puwedeng pabagsakin ang gobyerno just because meron pong imperfection.

We will continue as one nation to struggle, true to ourselves, but also to strive, not just for survival, but for greatness amidst tribulation. Parati po iyan. 'Pag may crisis, may great challenges, danger, but may great opportunities din. At iyon po ang paghamon sa atin sa Eighteenth Congress: how do we see, how do we view these challenges and how can we put into legislation, into programs ito pong mga solusyon that will leapfrog us ahead of others after the crisis?

And as we speak of greatness, we are reminded of what the Bible says, that "no greater love is there than when one lays down his life for another." Let us take our inspiration and motivation not from the fear of our people or of individuals, not from the adversity of some people na hindi natin kapanalig sa politika but from the sacrifices of our frontliners, our medical and health workers, our police officers, soldiers, local government officials, governors, mayors, vice governors, vice mayors, councilors, bokals, barangay health workers, nutrition scholars, kagawads, kapitans, tanods, teachers, artists, those who prepare to deliver our food, the farmers in the field, the priests, the pastors, the imams who continue to minister to us and the countless nameless Filipinos who keep our bodies and souls nourished. It's our opportunity to tell you, no greater love is there than one who is willing to lay down his life.

Thank you, maraming salamat po na you're risking your life everyday para po sa amin, para po sa Filipino. (*Applause*) Let's give a hand sa ating frontliners.

May our contribution to our recovery do justice to all of your sacrifices, and be worthy offerings to the Lord. We give you our word that we will continue working and we will continue to do better.

At this point, I'd also like to thank the Minority. You have pointed out our inadequacies, you have pointed out kapag may mali sa legislation, you have helped make it better and you have acted with us in one

spirit. So, together, the Majority and Minority have produced good laws pero we have to do better. We have to do it faster.

May God heal our land and may God bless the Philippines. (*Applause*)

Majority Leader.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Maraming salamat, Speaker Alan Cayetano, and thank you for your leadership.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). I move to suspend the session.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

It was 4:30 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:33 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Conrado M. Estrella III presiding.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The session is resumed.

Majority Floor Leader.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6953 ON THIRD READING

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider on Third and final Reading House Bill No. 6953 and I request that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the said measure and, thereafter, call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Is there any objection to the motion? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Secretary General may proceed.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on August 7, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6953, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY INTERVENTIONS AND PROVIDING MECHANISM TO ACCELERATE THE RECOVERY AND BOLSTER THE RESILIENCY OF THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Majority Floor Leader.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we direct the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Is there any objection to the motion? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Secretary General may proceed.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 4, dated August 10, 2020.*

REP. GAITE. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Yes, the Honorable Gaité. What is the pleasure of the distinguished Gentleman?

REP. GAITE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, “No” ang vote ng Kinatawag ito at ipapaliwanag ko ang dahilan ng aking pagboto sa panahon na tama. Salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). We will call the distinguished Gentleman from Bayan Muna later after the result of the voting. Please proceed, Mr. Secretary General.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, I will explain my vote later.

REP. ZARATE. My vote is “No” and I will explain my vote later.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6953 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). With 242 affirmative votes, six negative votes, and zero abstention, House Bill No. 6953, AN ACT PROVIDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY INTERVENTIONS AND PROVIDING MECHANISM TO ACCELERATE THE RECOVERY AND BOLSTER THE RESILIENCY OF THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY, PROVIDING FUNDS, THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES is hereby approved on Third and final Reading.

Majority Floor Leader.

ROLL CALL FOR EXPLANATION OF VOTES

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we allow the Members who intimated upon the Majority Leader that they will explain their votes to give their explanation. We already have the list of the Representatives who wish to make a manifestation or explanation of their votes. Mr. Speaker, however, I would like to inform the Body who are in the Zoom platform that we are experiencing technical difficulties. We will allow them, we will call the names of the Members who wish to explain their votes. However, we would like to ask for the indulgence of the Members that if and when their explanation suffers technical difficulties, we would request them instead to file a written manifestation or explanation of their votes. But we assure, Mr. Speaker, that we will call the names of these people who manifested that they will explain their votes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

May we request the Secretary General to call the names of those Members who wish to explain their votes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The Secretary General.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, *reading*:
Honorable Abante.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker, may I be allowed to explain my vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Yes. Please proceed, distinguished Minority Floor Leader.

REP. ABANTE EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker, I voted “Yes” on the measure. In fact, I have manifested my co-authorship to the measure.

First of all, I would like to commend the Speaker. I’d like to commend the principal sponsor of the measure and the leadership of the House for approving this bill, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to appreciate the Sponsor of the bill for allowing us to go back to the interpellation so we could at least scrutinize and manifest, Mr. Speaker, some questions that needed to be answered concerning the measure to the satisfaction of the Minority rather than our own consternation.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the amount that has been approved in the measure is not enough. The P162 billion, Mr. Speaker, that we have approved for this measure is not even close to what we would like to achieve, considering that the effectivity of this measure would be until December 31. I am praying, Mr. Speaker, and hoping that this pandemic will not last until December because I know that if this pandemic will not last until December, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the amount that we have put into the Bayanihan 2 would be quite sufficient.

And also, Mr. Speaker, the request that I would like to make is this: We have given a P20-billion budget to the DOH. I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker, perhaps this can be discussed in the bicameral committee, that part of the budget that was given to the DOH would also be given to the DOST because they have been having clinical trials, Mr. Speaker, on some of the herbal medicines that could address the coronavirus. Sila po ngayon, Mr. Speaker, ang DOST, ay nagtatanghal o nag-e-experiment ng mga herbal medicines na makakatulong po sa mga apektado ng coronavirus. Gayundin, Mr. Speaker, sana po ay makita rin po natin ang pangangailangan ng TESDA sapagka’t

habang mayroon po tayong pandemic, this will be until December 31, ay dapat po ay hindi humihinto ang TESDA sa kanilang pag-training upang magkaroon po ng trabaho ang mga nawawalan po ng trabaho, ng training lalo na po sa ating mga OFW na libo-libong nagbalik, para sila po ay makapagtrabaho uli dito sa ating bansa.

I would like to commend, Mr. Speaker, the P50 billion given to the MSMEs. Ibig sabihin niyan, mayroon na pong pondo upang ipahiram sa ating mga maliliit na negosyante habang mayroon tayong pandemic na ito.

Ito lang po, Mr. Speaker, ang mga ilan na nais kong balangkasin at I would like to emphasize, once again, I want to thank the leadership for allowing us to have this Bayanihan 2 measure, Mr. Speaker.

Maraming, maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The Chair would like to thank the distinguished Minority Floor Leader.

The Secretary General may call on the others who wish to explain their votes, but may I remind the Members to please limit their explanation to only three minutes.

Please proceed, Madam Secretary General.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, *reading*:
The Honorable Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Proceed please, Honorable Belmonte.

REP. BELMONTE EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. BELMONTE. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, colleagues, the Sixth District of Quezon City votes “Yes” to the Bayanihan Bill with much hesitation.

I hesitate not because I feel that it should not be passed, but because I feel that it is not enough. The ARISE Bill drafted by the best economic minds in Congress and worked on by most of us over the past six months during the height of the pandemic lays down plans to protect our economy by pushing for a stimulus plan and recovery package that

proposes an infusion of P708 billion for this year alone to protect our small- and medium-scale enterprises, jumpstart our economy and protect jobs.

Under the ARISE Bill, we are projecting a budget of P1.3 trillion for three years. The Bayanihan 2, on the other hand, only provides for a budget of P162 billion, which is way below the proposed amount in the ARISE Bill. It is unfortunate that our financial managers are only willing to allot this little to protect our economy. Having said that, I feel that while I am not too satisfied with the package that is being offered, it is still better than nothing.

And with the budget deliberations coming up soon, I look forward to a national budget for 2021 that provides a clearer and more substantial plan for our recovery as a nation, above all else, and for a concrete plan that is designed for our public funds to be used to ensure that we focus on our healing and on leaving absolutely no one behind. We have proven that regardless of our party or personal politics, Members of Congress are ready to come together to respond to the needs of our constituencies during this pandemic.

The Sixth District of Quezon City casts its "Yes" vote on the Bayanihan 2 Bill with the fervent hope that it will be enough to empower us in the next few months, and looks forward to the concrete plans for a better 2021 for our nation.

Thank you very, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Thank you, distinguished Gentleman from the Sixth District of Quezon City.

The Secretary General may proceed, please.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, *reading*:
The Honorable Bordado.

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Yes, please proceed.

REP. BORDADO EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. BORDADO. Mr. Speaker, there is

no denying that this pandemic has forced the world to change its course. Our day-to-day activities have been altered such that all our efforts are now geared towards responding to this health emergency. Our planned activities contained in the General Appropriations Act can no longer be pursued as usual. The focus has shifted to addressing the issues brought about by this pandemic.

At the outset, Mr. Speaker, I questioned the granting of additional powers to the President, underscoring the need for our leader to focus on the problem at hand and not to be distracted by matters already handled by various departments and instrumentalities under his authority. I never objected and will never object to the Social Amelioration Program.

It is my conviction, Mr. Speaker, that our people, particularly the marginalized ones, must be extended financial and material assistance in order to survive the hazards, complexities and rigors of the COVID-19 pandemic. I also welcome the creation of the Accelerate Recovery to Intensify Solidarity and Equity Incorporated, otherwise known as "ARISE Incorporated," aimed at assisting businesses and industries affected by the pandemic.

In my view, however, Mr. Speaker, we need a reprogramming of our 2020 Budget to redirect the focus on health emergency response. The shift in spending priority must not only be contained in another law but must be reflected in the national budget. Moreover, the identification of new sources of revenue necessitates the crafting of a supplemental budget to specify the items where these funds will be spent.

Notwithstanding such misgivings, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the interventions laid down in the proposed measure are badly needed by our countrymen at this very critical stage.

I am, therefore, voting "Yes" to the passage of the Bayanihan 2 Bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Thank you, distinguished Representative Bordado.

Madam Secretary General, please proceed.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, *reading*:
The Honorable Brosas.

REP. BROSAS EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, hangad namin sa GABRIELA Women's Party ang kumpletong tugon sa mga batayang kahilingan ng kababaihan at mamamayan ngayon sa ilalim ng pandemya at malubhang krisis. Subalit hindi taglay nitong Bayanihan to Recover as One Act or BARO ang hinihinging tugon sa hamong hinaharap natin ngayon.

BARO scrimps on cash aid, and it is vague on the much-needed health interventions, and perpetuates the failed neoliberal model of economic recovery through loan finance infrastructure and foreign investments. Sa madaling salita, binibihisan lang ng BARO ang kapos, militarista, at tagilid na tugon ng rehimeng Duterte sa pandemyang COVID-19.

Sa ilalim ng BARO, walang katiyakan na popondohan ang pagtataas ng kapasidad ng ating public health care system kahit pa umaapaw na ng mga pasyente ang ating mga ospital at lampas 110,000 na ang positibo sa COVID-19. Gaya ng Bayanahin to Heal As One Act o BAHO 1, wala pa ring pangpondo para sa libreng mass testing—hindi nakatitiyak at garantiya na magkakaroon ng libreng mass testing na sinasabi, maayos na contact tracing, at isolation, at treatment na siyang pinakakailangan ngayon para maagapan ang lalong pagkalat ng COVID-19.

Walang naging paghilom sa Bayanihan to Heal As One kaya paano natin aasahan ang recovery sa panukalang ito. Higit sa lahat, walang kongkretong tugon ang panukalang ito sa panawagan ng mga manggagawa at magsasaka na siyang pinakaapektado ng pandemya at krisis pang-ekonomiya. Kailangang pondohan ang paid quarantine leaves at magkaroon ng mas komprehensibong solusyon, protection programs sa impormal na sektor at sa mga nawalan ng trabaho. Sinabi na ipinagbabawal ang phaseout ng jeepney pero hindi naman nila inilahad kung paano

sa aktwal gagarantiyahan ang pagbabalik pasada ng libo-libong tsuper na ngayon ay namamalimos para maibsan ang gutom.

Kailangang paglaanan ng pondo ang mga programang magtitiyak ng seguridad ng pagkain habang sinasaklolohan ang ating mga magsasaka: NFA palay procurement, agricultural subsidies, post-harvest facilities development program, at paglinang ng sistemang irigasyon. Sa ganitong paraan, hindi tayo magiging palaasa sa agricultural imports lalo pa't hindi predictable ang trade policies ng karatig bansa dahil sa pandemya at pagbibigay prayoridad nila sa kanilang food security.

Kailangan nating tingnan ang agricultural development bilang mahalagang salik ng economic recovery sa halip na umaasa sa pagtutuloy ng mga napurnadang Build, Build, Build projects na magtataboy sa mga mahihirap na komunidad.

With a P162-billion appropriations tag, BARO hardly reflects the billions in foreign borrowings made by the Duterte regime supposedly for the COVID-19 response. This is, embarrassingly, a very small amount that hoists a false sense of recovery amid the nosedive of the local economy. In fact, sa ilan pong mga pag-uusap namin, sinasabi namin na ang talagang pangunahin is to strengthen the public health system, expand social protection, and build the national economy. Ang example po ng pag-strengthen ng public health system ay free mass testing fund, Epidemiology Bureau Public Health Program, to intensify COVID-19 contact tracing program, mass hiring of health personnel, ensuring the PPEs' supply, COVID-19 testing facilities, pre-COVID-19 treatment program, COVID-19 vaccine development research program, UP NIH research grant, and free cremation service for COVID-19 related cases.

So, Mr. Speaker, hindi ang panukalang batas na ito ang tugon sa kagyat na pangangailangan ng ating mga kababayan. Ilang buwan nang lugmok ang pangkabuhayan. Ang kailangan nating tugunan ay ang pangangailang pangkalusugan, ayuda at kabuhayan at pagtanggol, hindi ang pagyurak sa karapatan. Ito ang hiling ng kababaihan at ng taumbayan.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
Marami pong salamat sa inyo, Kinatawan ng
GABRIELA Women's Party-List.
Proceed, please.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, *reading*:
The Honorable Castro, France.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.).
EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I vote a resounding "No" on House Bill No. 6953. Last March, Mr. Speaker, this Congress gave the President tremendous powers purportedly to address the various issues brought about by COVID-19.

Today, this Chamber is posed to give the President what he wants. Again, this is despite the fact that he and his IATF, the main body for the COVID response, have failed to show that he had indeed used his powers to address COVID-19 and alleviate the sufferings of our people.

The President and the IATF have failed to implement the medical strategies to stop infection and the spread of COVID-19, foot-dragging on mass testing, nearly zero contact-tracing capacity, insufficient testing isolation and treatment facilities and centers. They have failed to deliver pertinent financial, food and non-food aid to millions of families who struggled for over five months, living without jobs and income. And far from beating down the coronavirus, Mr. Speaker, this administration is using a penal provision of the law to beat down the people, stifling free public discourse and dissent.

Bakit higit sa 130,000 Filipinos na ang infected with COVID-19 at higit 2,000 na ang namamatay? Bakit "tip of the iceberg" lang ito gawa ng kawalan ng mass testing? Bakit higit na 5,000 frontliners na ang nagpositibo, 40 na ang namatay at higit na napakabagal ng kompensasyon para sa kanila? Bakit ang sitwasyon ng Pilipinas ay isa sa pinakamalala sa rehiyon, maging sa buong mundo? Bakit mabagal at tinitipid ang ayuda? Saan napunta ang bilyones na hinugot mula sa 2019 and 2020 budgets? Saan napunta ang bilyong inutang?

With great emergency powers come great responsibility, 'ika nga sa komiks, pero mandato rin ito ng ating batas at Konstitusyon. May great responsibility ang Ehekutibo na sagutin ang mga tanong na ito, na kailangan nating tapatan dito sa Kongreso ng great responsibility, na ipapasa lamang ang panukala matapos matiyak na tinupad ng Ehekutibo ang responsibilidad niya.

Ngunit, Mr. Speaker, sa tindi ng nais ng Kongresong ito na ibigay muli ang hilig ng Pangulo, sinarhan ang pinto ng accountability. Kapag simpleng guro, katakot-takot na hirap at sandamakmak na dokumento ang kailangang ipasa bago mabigyan ng PBB at iba pang mga benepisyong at bonuses. Dapat niyang patunayan na deserving siyang makatanggap ng benepisyong dapat na karapatan at awtomatikong ibibigay sa kaniya. Ngunit pagdating sa Presidente, hindi natin idinadaan sa katulad ng proseso ng pananagutan kahit bilyones na pera ng taumbayan at buhay at kaligtasan ng milyong Pilipino ang nakataya. Congress should never give sanction to a great irresponsibility such as this.

Dagdagsalahatng ito, Mr. Speaker, walang sinabi ang panibagong pinaaprubahang batas ng Pangulo, ang House Bill No. 6953, ukol sa pagbuhos ng sapat na pondo para palakasin ang public health system. Bibigyan ba ang mamamayan ng free treatment, free mass testing, seryosong contact tracing at iba pang medical solutions? Magkakaroon ba ng bago at sapat na ayuda bukod sa dati nang programang AICS, TUPAD, cash for work at iba pa? May kasiguruhan na ba na hindi mauwi ang social amelioration sa pork barrel at patronage politics kung hindi sa mas makatotohanang programa laban sa mga lumalalang malawakang unemployment?

Ang sagot ng House Bill No. 6953, Mr. Speaker, ay wala. Kaya ang Kinatawang ito ay bumoboto ng "No" sa House Bill No. 6953.

Marami pong salamat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
Maraming salamat din po sa inyo, ang ating mahal na Kinatawan ng ACT TEACHERS Party-List.

Proceed please, Madam Sec. Gen.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, *reading*:
The Honorable Elago.

REP. ELAGO EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. ELAGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Indeed, there is a pressing need to act with a sense of urgency to pass a recovery plan but we must also ensure, as Representatives of the people, that we are able to take steps in the right direction. Kaya po naninindigan ang KABATAAN Party-List, Ginoong Speaker, na kinakailangan po muna natin ng full accounting sa Bayanihan to Heal As One Act.

Total releases related to COVID-19 on Bayanihan 1 balloon to more than P370 billion. With more borrowings to fund the pandemic response and the recovery plan, government debt has reached the P9 trillion mark. Unemployment rose to a record high as the economy dipped to its lowest in history amid the community quarantine, one of the longest in the world.

Ito po ang ating magiging gabay upang matiyak na ang ating mga susunod na hakbang ay magiging epektibo sa paglaban sa COVID-19 habang sinusupportahan ang pangangailangan ng ating mga kababayan. Ito po ay upang maiwasan rin ang (*inaudible*) TRABAHO Act kung saan ito po ay mabilis nang naipasa, nagdagdag ng emergency powers, na kahit wala pang komprehensibong plano, kaya't hindi rin ito nagbunga ng mabilis na aksyon.

Hindi lang po naging mabagal ang pamamahagi ng ayuda sa ilalim ng Social Amelioration Program, naging puno rin ito ng anomalya. Nababaon po sa utang ang ating bayan habang lumalalim rin ang pasakit ng gutom at kahirapan dulot ng milyon-milyong nawalan ng trabaho, kabuhayan at mga negosyong puwersahang nagsara. Imbes na bumagal at mapigil ang virus, kumalat pa po ito at dumami pa ang aktibong kaso. Nagbigay rin po tayo ng suporta sa panawagan ng ating Human Resources for Health na hindi lang magkaroon ng timeout; ang kinakailangan ay recalibration pagdating sa kabuuan na pandemic response na pinamumunuan ng ating gobyerno, kasama po ang mga mamamayang Pilipino.

Kailangang gugulin ang pondo nang tama at naaayon sa pangangailangan ng krisis sa kalusugang pampubliko, gayundin po ang lahat ng apektadong sektor.

Ang Representasyon na ito ay naging aktibo sa pagbibigay liwanag at pagtutulak ng mga kinakailangan pong hakbang pagdating sa edukasyon. Mayroon po tayong nasa P600 million na education subsidy para sa basic at higher education, ngunit nababahala po tayo doon sa pondong ito na wala pang tiyak na breakdown kung paano po ang magiging hatian sa panahon na marami na pong nag-aalala kung paano sila makakapag-fulfill ng mga kinakailangan nila para sa blended learning modalities sa darating na pasukan na August 24. Nasa higit six million pa po ang hindi nakakapag-enroll. Kung paano sila matutulungang tiyak na makapagpatuloy ng pag-aaral sa gitna ng pandemic, malaki po sana ang maitutulong kung nailinaw natin ang breakdown, gayundin ang kapupuntahan ng pondo na ating nilalaan.

There can be no clear path forward in the fight against COVID-19 without openness, transparency, and respect for human rights. Thus, Mr. Speaker, we reiterate our call to include the youth, our students, learners, our representatives of the society, organizations in pushing for a humane, effective, comprehensive, and participatory approach to COVID-19. And as for the education sector, Ginoong Speaker, kinakailangan po ang ating inclusive na educational alternatives dahil po sa itinutulak na blended distance learning modalities, ang suporta para sa Internet connectivity at sa gadget ay dapat malinaw na nakakaabot sa pinakanangailangan. Bigyan din ng diin ang pagkakatuto, higit pa sa pagbibigay ng grado. Malaki po ang magiging epekto kung paano ba nagiging mabisa ang probisyon pagdating sa paglaban sa profiteering, tuition at other school fees sa ating mga eskwelahan. Pangalawa ay ang pagkakaroon ng accessible na education. Ang pagtitiyak ng libreng edukasyon sa mga pampublikong paaralan at pagpapalawak pa ng naaabot ng ating mga tulong pangpinansyal sa mga estudyante, guro at kawani sa edukasyon. Ito po ay ang assistance sa personnel at schools. Noon po, sa mga unang bersyon ng batas ay may

malinaw na P10,000 na assistance, ngunit ito po ay hindi na nabigyan ng malinaw na pigura sa ating naipasa na batas. Pang-apat ay ang paggagarantiya ng democratic right and welfare ng bawat member sa community, mula sa mga magulang, teaching at non-teaching personnel, pagsuporta sa pangangailangang pangkalusugang pangkatawan, pangkaisipan, at pandamdamin ng mga estudyante, guro, at kawani. At panlima ay ang paghahanda para sa safe reopening ng schools, ang pagpapatupad ng minimum health standards sa mga paaralan, pagpapatupad ng libreng mass testing, ang pagtitiyak ng pagkakaroon ng klinika na may sapat na kagamitan, supply ng gamot at health and sanitation personnel, at pagbibigay po ng pondo para sa dagdag na silid-aralan, palikuran, kantina, at mga pasilidad sa paaralan.

Dahil, Ginoong Speaker, tayo po ay humaharap sa krisis ng kalusugan, sa palagay ko, napakatindi rin po ng epekto sa karapatan sa edukasyon. Kaya hangad po ng Representasyon na ito ang pagkakaroon ng tunay na komprehensibo, epektibo, demokratiko, at participatory na approach sa paglaban sa COVID-19.

Maraming salamat, Ginoong Speaker

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
Maraming salamat din po sa inyo, sa ating bunsong Kinatawan ng ating Kamara.

Thank you.

Madam Secretary General.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, *reading*:
The Honorable Cullamat.

REP. CULLAMAT EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. CULLAMAT. Maraming salamat, Ginoong Speaker.

“No” ang boto ng Kinatawan ito sa Bayanihan 2 dahil nangunguna ang ating bansa sa Timog-Silangang Asya pagdating sa dami ng mga kaso ng COVID. Ito ay sa kabila ng malawak na quarantine measures na ipinatupad sa iba’t ibang anyo at pangalan. Gayundin, ito ay sa kabila ng napakalaking pera na inilalaan ng Kongreso sa Bayanihan 1, kakambal ng dagdag kapangyarihan para

sa Pangulo. Isa lang ang ibig sabihin nito, isang malaking kabiguan ang Bayanihan 1 at isang malaking kamalian ang pagbibigay ng malaking pera at dagdag kapangyarihan kay Pangulong Duterte doon sa Bayanihan 1. Bakit pa ito dadagdagan ng Part 2 kung malaking sablay naman ang Part 1? Ang tamang solusyon ay pundamental na pagbabago sa oryentasyon ng ating pagtugon sa pandemya, hindi ang pagpapatuloy ng dating kabiguan.

Nagdudumilat ang saligang problema na naging tugon ng administrasyong Duterte sa pandemya, pangunahing militarista, at pagwawalang-bahala sa buhay, sa kalusugan ng nakakaraming masa. Walang mass testing, inutil na contact tracing, makupad at napakaliit na ayuda para sa masa at militarisadong pagtugon sa pandemya. Ganito ang Bayanihan 1 at ipagpapatuloy lamang ng Bayanihan 2 o baka mas malala pa.

Malaking kabiguan lamang ang hinaharap ng Bayanihan 2 sapagkat wala itong nilalaman na kakakitaan ng pundamental na pagbabago sa oryentasyon ng ating pagtugon sa pandemya, at napakaliit pa nga ng pondo ang inilaan para sa pangangailangan ng medikal at ayuda. Paano nito tutugunan ang ngayon ay napakalawak at napakaraming kaso ng COVID at sa ngayon ay lumalawak pa na gutom ng nakararaming Filipino? Wala ring binanggit sa Bayanihan 2 sa pagpapatalsik ng mga militar at mga walang kakayahan na pamunuan ang mga ahensya ng pamahalaan laban sa pandemya.

Sa Bayanihan 2, kung ang gagawin ni Pangulong Duterte ay ang paingong militaristang tugon sa pangunguna ng mga heneral, patuloy lamang na magmamatyag ang bawat Pilipino na nakapiring ang mga mata tungo sa tiyak na kapahamakan. Kaya “No” ang boto ng Representasyong ito sa Bayanihan 2 na ito.

Ito lamang Ginoong Speaker, mga kapwa kinatawan, magandang hapon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
Maraming salamat po sa inyo, at higit sa lahat, maraming salamat po sa pagtupad sa inyong oras.
Madam Secretary General.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, *reading*:
The Honorable Gaite.

REP. GAITE EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. GAITE. Mr. Speaker, sa ating mga kapwa Mambabatas, sa ating mga kapwa manggagawa sa gobyerno, at ang ating mga mamamayang Pilipino.

(Inaudible) ... sa tinuntungan ng Bayanihan to Recover as One Bill o BARO, o Bayanihan 2 ay papunta na sa tinaguriang “recovery,” ito iyong phase ng pandemyang ito. Sang-ayon ang Kinatawang ito sa magandang recovery mula sa panghambalos ng COVID-19 sa ating ekonomiya. Sang-ayon ang BAYAN MUNA sa hangaring ito, recovery mula sa laksa-laksang trabaho, sa kabuhayang nawala para sa mahigit pitong milyong mamamayan at dumarami pa. Sang-ayon ang Kinatawang ito na dating unyonista sa direksyong nais tahakin, sa recovery ng ating health system na sadyang dinumog sa dami ng kaso ng COVID-19 liban pa sa non-COVID na sakit. Ngunit, ngunit nabalawah ang paghihilom at malayo at maliit ang planong recovery sa reyalidad.

Patuloy pa ring tumataas ang mga kaso ng COVID sa ating bansa sa kabila ng militarized na lockdown na hindi lamang kumitil sa kabuhayan ng manggagawang Pilipino kung hindi nilabag pa ang ating mga karapatang pantao. Sa kabila ng mga panawagang solusyong medikal at sa trilyong pisong inutang ng administrayong Duterte, hindi pa rin napaunlad ang kapasidad ng ating health care system sa antas na kayang ma-accommodate sa pagdagsa ng mga severe o critical cases.

Overworked at underpaid pa rin ang ating mga health care workers, na hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa rin sapat ang pinaka-basic na PPEs. Kulang na kulang ang bilang ng health care workers na kinukuha ng ating pamahalaan. Hindi rin nila nakukuha ang karampatang mga benepisyong naaayon sa kanila, kahit ang mga hazard pay at risk allowances na nakasaad na sa Bayanihan to Heal As One Act. Wala pa ring mass testing at kulang pa rin ang contact tracing na siyang mga pinakamabisang hakbang upang ma-contain ang pandemya batay sa karanasan ng mga bansang nagtagumpay dito, tulad halimbawa ng New Zealand, Vietnam, at Thailand. Dagdag pa ang mabilis na pagbulusok ng

ating ekonomiya ngayon na umaabot mahigit sa -16 percent na bagsak ng ating GDP or gross domestic product growth mula sa positibong teritoryo noong nakaraang taon.

Sa madaling salita, nasa gitna pa rin tayo ng medikal at ekonomiyang krisis kahit na isinabatas na ang naunang Bayanihan to Heal As One Act noong Marso 2020. Ito ay habang nakakaahon na nang bahagya ang iba nating karatig na bansa sa ASEAN na humarap din sa kahalintulad na krisis at sila ay naglaan ng hindi hamak na mas malaking pondo para sa kanilang COVID response. Kung gayon, ang pinakawastong hakbang sana ay, una, maglaan ng sapat na pondo para sa mass testing at pagpapataas ng kapasidad ng ating health care system. Halimbawa, sa halagang P34 billion lamang ay kaya na sanang makapag-testing ng humigit-kumulang sampung milyong Pilipino batay sa testing rates mismo ng PhilHealth. Katiting lamang ito kung ikukumpara sa kabuuang pondong hinihingi ng bill na ito, kumpara sa P50-billion na nakalaan para sa credit stimulus at capital infusion sa mga bangko at mga GFIs. Kaugnay nito, ang perang nakalaan para sa treatment of COVID-19 cases ay dapat nang idiretso sa mga ospital lalo’t batbat ng katiwalian at korapsyon ang PhilHealth. Pangalawa, kailangan ng full accounting mula sa mga gastos at ginugol ng pamahalaan para sa Bayanihan to Heal As One Act. Napakaakma ang kasabihang “Aanhin pa ang damo kung patay na ang kabayo” sa napakabagal na pamamahagi ng ayuda. Ni hindi pa tapos ang pamamahagi ng SAP second tranche na kung tutuusin ay dapat natapos na noong Mayo pa nitong taong ito. Wala pa ring accounting sa estado ng DOLE-AKAP na para sana sa libo-libong mga OFWs na nawalan ng trabaho at nais ng makabalik sa bansa. Pangatlo, kailangang mas mataas sa pondo na ayuda, lalo kung pinangangatawanan ng administrasyong ito na nasa recovery ang ating bansa. Sadyang kapos na kapos ang pondong nakalaan para sa SAP, AICS, at TUPAD na nasa P18 billion lamang. Hindi rin sapat na magmistulang pork barrel ang social amelioration na siyang pinagmumulan rin ng matinding korapsyon at katiwalian. Panghuli, kailangang bigyan pansin ang unemployment benefits para sa manggagawang Pilipino lalo’t

umabot na sa record high na 17.7 percent ang kawalang trabaho sa ating bansa. Dapat itaas ang unemployment benefits sa antas na nakabubuhay at sasapat sa pangangailangan ng manggagawang Pilipino. Dapat din mabigyan hindi lamang ang manggagawa sa pribado at pampublikong sektor kung hindi ang informal sector workers na patuloy na nananawagan ng P10 bilyong kada buwan na subsidyo mula sa gobyerno.

Mr. Speaker, mga kasamahan ko sa Kongreso, hindi kailanman puwedeng gamiting dahilan ang pandemya o anumang uri ng national emergency upang bitawan ng pamahalaan ang pananagutan nitong protektahan ang karapatan at kabuhatan ng mamamayan. Unahin natin ang kapakanan ng mga mahihirap at inaapi, mga magsasaka't manggagawa upang umangkop ang mga polisiyang ipinatutupad natin sa Kongresong ito.

Maraming salamat po at magandang hapon sa ating lahat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Maraming salamat po, ang Kinatawan ng BAYAN MUNA Party-List.

Madam Secretary General.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, *reading*:
The Honorable Zarate.

REP. ZARATE EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, maraming salamat, Ginoong Speaker, magandang hapon ho sa ating lahat.

Bumoboto ng "No" ang Kinatawan ng ito sa House Bill No. 6953 o Bayanihan to Recover as One dahil naniniwala ang Kinatawan ng ito na bigo ang panukalang batas na ito na dinggin ang panawagan ng ating mamamayan. Sinasabi na ang panukalang batas na ito, Ginoong Speaker, ay kadugtong ng Bayanihan to Heal As One Act. Kung tayo ay magbabalik-tanaw kung ano ang ginawa ng RA 11469 nitong nakalipas na mga buwan, iisa lang ang ating masusuma—bigo ang Bayanihan to Heal As One Act para paghilumin ang bansa sa krisis na pinalala ng pandemya ng COVID-19. Wala pa ring libreng mass testing,

napakabagal ng contact tracing, ayudang buwan nang naantala at hindi protektado ang mga health care workers, lalong-lalo na ang ating mga frontline health care workers. Ang plano ng administrasyong Duterte ay hindi gumawa ng plano laban sa krisis—sa pandemya at maghintay na lamang ng bakuna galing sa ibang bansa. Ang malala pa ay iniasa ng pamahalaan ang mass testing at pagpapagamot sa ating mga mamamayan sa isang corrupt na institusyon na tulad ng PhilHealth imbes na idiretso sa mga ospital ang pondo. Sa kabilang banda, militarismo, panunupil, at paninisi ang itinugon ng administrasyong Duterte sa pandemya. Imbes na doktor at mga eksperto ang mangunguna sa pagtugon sa national health crisis na ito, pinagpupugaran ng mga dating militar at mga heneral ang IATF at ang mga ahensya ng ating pamahalaan.

Ginoong Speaker, simula pa lamang ng pandemyang ito ay hindi na pinakikinggan ng administrasyon ang taumbayan at maging ang mga eksperto sa medisina at siyensya. Magpahanggang ngayon, dumadami ang mga Pilipinong nagkakasakit at namamatay dahil sa COVID-19 at sa kapabayaang ng ating pamahalaan. Mistulang mas pinahahalagahan pa rin ng administrasyon ang ekonomiya kaysa sa buhay at kalusugan ng mamamayang Pilipino. Pinatutunayan rin, Mr. Speaker, ng aksyon ng administrasyon nitong nakalipas na mga buwan na hindi naman talaga kailangan ang kapangyarihang i-reprogram, i-reallocate, at i-realign ang item sa General Appropriations Act of 2020 na ibinigay ng Kongreso sa pamamagitan ng Republic Act 11469 at ngayon ay gusto pa nga nating i-extend sa pamamagitan ng panukalang batas na ito.

Sa katunayan ay kalakhan naman ng pondo na ginamit sa nagdaang limang buwan ay nagmula sa pooled savings ng mga nakalipas na mga taon. Hindi ginamit ang kapangyarihang ito upang ihinto pansamantala ang mga proyekto at programa upang matugunan nang lubos ang malalalang krisis na ito na pinalala pa nga ng pandemiya ng COVID-19. Mayroong sapat na pondo ang Pilipinas pero pinili ng Duterte administration na ilubog ang mamamayang Pilipino sa utang.

Sinabi rin, Ginoong Speaker, ng mga nagpapanukala ng batas na ito na ang layunin ng Bayanihan to Recover as One ay hindi patungo sa better normal, kung hindi mag-bounce back lamang sa luma at nabubulok na normal. Hindi nito kinikilala na matagal nang bumabagsak ang ekonomiyang nakaasa sa dayuhang pamumuhunan at remittances ng ating mga overseas Filipinos at pinabilis lamang ng pandemya ng COVID-19 ang pagbulusok nito.

Kaya bilang panghuli at muli, Ginoong Speaker, inirerehistro ng Kinatawang ito na dapat dinggin ang panawagan ng bayan: free mass testing, ngayon na; ayuda, ibigay na; solusyong medical, hindi militar.

Maraming salamat po at magandang hapon sa lahat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Thank you. Maraming salamat po, ang ating Representante ng Bayan Muna.

Majority Floor Leader.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up the Additional Reference of Business and request that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of measures on First Reading as well as communications and resolutions.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Proceed.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

Upon the direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the following House Resolutions on First Reading, Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1113, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED

RAMPANT CORRUPTION AND MISMANAGEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH) THAT MAY LEAD TO ITS FINANCIAL COLLAPSE TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE AND OUR FIGHT AGAINST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1114, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED CORRUPTION AND FUNDS MANAGEMENT CONTROVERSIES THAT HOUND THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH) WITH THE END VIEW OF INSTITUTING NECESSARY REFORMS FOR THE EFFECTIVE AND TRANSPARENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM”

By Representatives Villanueva (Eduardo) and Rivera
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1115, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT TO ACCOMMODATE APPROPRIATIONS AMOUNTING TO ONE HUNDRED BILLION PESOS (P100,000,000,000.00) FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF COVID-19 VACCINES”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Resolution No. 1116, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON

THE DEMISE OF FORMER SENATOR
AND MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO
'FRED' SIOJO LIM"

By Representative Lopez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1117, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONVEYING THE
DEEPEST SYMPATHIES OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES TO THE REPUBLIC
OF LEBANON AND THE VICTIMS OF
THE CATASTROPHIC EXPLOSIONS
THAT OCCURRED IN ITS CAPITAL
CITY OF BEIRUT ON 04 AUGUST
2020"

By Representative Hofer
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Legislative
Franchises (Committee Report No.
406), re H.B. No. 7332, entitled:

"AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER
TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE
FRANCHISE GRANTED TO
MINDANAO ISLAMIC TELEPHONE
COMPANY, INC., PRESENTLY
KNOWN AS DITO TELECOMMUNITY
CORPORATION, UNDER REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 8627, ENTITLED 'AN ACT
GRANTING THE MINDANAO
ISLAMIC TELEPHONE COMPANY,
INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT,
ESTABLISH, INSTALL, MAINTAIN
AND OPERATE WIRE AND/OR
WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES' "

recommending its approval in substitution
of House Bill No. 6917

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (Franz)
and Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and
Technical Education and the Committee
on Appropriations (Committee Report No.
407), re H.B. No. 7336, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING
AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN
THE CITY OF MAASIN, PROVINCE
OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, TO BE
KNOWN AS THE MAASIN CITY,
SOUTHERN LEYTE TESDA
TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT
CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR"

recommending its approval in substitution
of House Bill No. 6062

Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark), Yap
(Eric) and Mercado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and
Technical Education and the Committee
on Appropriations (Committee Report No.
408), re H.B. No. 7338, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A
TECHNICAL EDUCATION
AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING
AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF BANNA,
PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE,
TO BE KNOWN AS THE BANNA,
ILOCOS NORTE TESDA TRAINING
AND ASSESSMENT CENTER,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR"

recommending its approval in substitution
of House Bill No. 5950

Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark), Yap
(Eric) and Barba

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
Majority Floor Leader.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6756
ON THIRD READING

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that
we consider on Third and final Reading
House Bill No. 6756 and request that the
Secretary General be directed to read the title
of the measure and, thereafter, call the roll for
nominal voting.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Is there any objection to the motion? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Secretary General may proceed.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on August 7, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6756, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE PROGRAM FOR DESERVING STUDENTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 4, dated August 10, 2020.*

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, my vote is "Yes," and I will reserve my right to explain my vote later.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6756 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). With 245 voting in the affirmative, zero negative and zero abstention, House Bill No. 6756, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE PROGRAM FOR DESERVING STUDENTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR," is hereby approved on Third and final Reading.

The Secretary General, I think, may call on those who would wish to explain their votes.

ROLL CALL FOR EXPLANATION OF VOTES

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, *reading*:

Explanation of votes on House Bill No. 6756.

The honorable Representatives:
Elago.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). The distinguished Lady from KABATAAN Party-List is hereby recognized.

REP. ELAGO EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Ginoong Speaker.

Ang KABATAAN Party-List, kasama po ng Makabayan bloc, ay bumoto sang-ayon sa House Bill No. 6756, ang pagtatatag ng medical scholarship at return service program para sa mga estudyante ng medisina.

Napapanahon po ang hakbang na ito upang palawigin ang access sa medical education sa kalagayan na walo lamang po sa ating state universities and colleges ang nagga-grant ng med education, ng degree sa Medisina, gayon rin po ang kalakhan ng mga estudyante sa medisina, nakapasok po sa pribadong paaralan kung saan nasa 100,000 hanggang 200,000 po ang tuition at other school fees kada semestre. At ito po ang isa sa nagiging balakid para hikayatin ang mas marami pang mga estudyante, mga kabataan at kababayan natin na magpunta sa professional na career sa medisina.

Sa ating pong pagsuporta, hangad din po natin sa pagpapatuloy na pagpapaunlad ng bill na ito, as this Representation reiterates, the need to harmonize all existing scholarships for medicine. We need to ensure the continuity of the cash grant for medical students in state universities and colleges.

Sa kasalukuyan po ay libre ang mga med students natin sa eight medical schools at nababahala po sila na ang pagpasa nito ay ang pagpigil noong cash grant na ito sa mga SUCs. Kaya kinakailangan po natin iyong tiyak, Ginoong Speaker. Ang pangalawa po ay ang pagkakaroon ng hiwalay pa at dagdag na return service na kaiba pa doon sa kasalukuyan nang return service agreement ng mga state medical schools, katulad ng UP Manila na mayroon na nito. Pangatlo, Ginoong Speaker,

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

ay ang pagsasama sa residency training bilang parte ng Return Service Program. Mayroon na po tayong mga medical schools na isinasapraktika ito kaya mainam na pag-aralan po nating mabuti iyong kanilang modelo para ma-encourage din iyong mas marami pang application dito sa Med Scholarship at Return Service Program. Pang-apat ay hinggil po sa mga probisyon tungkol sa disqualification ng mga scholar-doctors. Naninindigan po tayo na sapat na ang mga admission at retention requirements at policies na mayroon ang kaniya-kaniyang mga medical educational institutions para sang-ayon po sa kanilang values, academic freedom at mandato ng pangpubliko at pangpribado man na med school. Ang panlima po ay ang pagtitiyak ng security of tenure sa ating mga scholar-doctors. Bagamat nakalagay po sa bill ang role ng Department of Health sa pagbubuo ng pangkabuuang plano para sa human resources for health at paggawa ng mga plantilla positions, kailangan po na mas palakasin natin ang probisyon na ito para tiyak na ang ating mga scholar-doctors ay makakapagpatuloy ng kanilang serbisyo sa mga komunidad kung saan po sila naka-assign. At panghuli, Ginoong Speaker, ay ang pagpapalagay rin ng probisyon para po sa safety and security, at protection po ng rights at mekanismo bilang suporta dito para sa mga doctor at scholar-doctors. Ito po ay isa sa dahilan ng mga bilang ng mga pamamaslang sa hanay ng mga municipal health doctors. Tayo po ay parte ng panawagan ng hustisya at pananagutan sa mga nangyaring ito at kailangan nating gawin lahat para hindi na po ito maulit pang muli.

Maraming salamat, Ginoong Speaker, at nawa'y ito po ay magbunga ng mas marami pang hakbang sa pagpapalakas ng ating public health care system, proteksyon at tamang kompensasyon sa ating mga health care workers, sa lahat ng mga medical at health professionals.

Maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella).
Maraming salamat din po sa inyo.

Majority Floor Leader.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6864 ON THIRD READING

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider on Third and final Reading House Bill No. 6864 and request that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the measure and, thereafter, call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Is there any objection to the motion? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; motion is hereby approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on July 14, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6864, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS AND SAFEGUARDS FOR THE BETTER NORMAL IN THE WORKPLACE, PUBLIC PLACES AND COMMUNITIES TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY FROM THE CORONA VIRUS DISEASE-19 (COVID-19) PANDEMIC.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 4, dated August 10, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6864 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). With 242 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6864, AN ACT ESTABLISHING PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS AND SAFEGUARDS FOR THE BETTER NORMAL IN THE WORKPLACE, PUBLIC PLACES AND COMMUNITIES TOWARD

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

A SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY FROM THE CORONA VIRUS DISEASE-19 (COVID-19) PANDEMIC, is hereby approved on the Third and final Reading.

Majority Floor Leader.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NOS. 6971
AND 6972 ON THIRD READING

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider on Third and final Reading House Bills Nos. 6971 and 6972, both local bills, increasing the bed capacity of certain hospitals.

May I request that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the said measures and, thereafter, call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Is there any objection to the motion? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; motion is hereby approved.

Secretary General.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measures, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on July 14, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6971, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING THE SCHISTOSOMIASIS CONTROL AND RESEARCH HOSPITAL IN PALO, LEYTE INTO A GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE GOVERNOR BENJAMIN T. ROMUALDEZ GENERAL HOSPITAL AND SCHISTOSOMIASIS CENTER, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM TWENTY-FIVE (25) TO ONE HUNDRED (100), UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

House Bill No. 6972, entitled: AN ACT RENAMING THE EASTERN VISAYAS

REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER IN THE CITY OF TACLOBAN, PROVINCE OF LEYTE INTO EASTERN VISAYAS MEDICAL CENTER, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) TO ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (1,500) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 4, dated August 10, 2020.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NOS. 6971 AND 6972
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). With 242 affirmative votes, no negative votes and abstention, House Bills Nos. 6971 and 6972 are hereby approved on Third and final Reading. Majority Floor Leader.

REP. PALMA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we direct the Secretary General to immediately transmit the recently approved House bills on Third Reading.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Is there any objection to the motion? (*Silence*) There being none, the motion is hereby approved.

Majority Floor Leader.

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of Resolution of Both Houses No. 6, RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO THE 1987 CONSTITUTION, PARTICULARLY SECTION 9, ARTICLE VIII, from the Committee on Rules to the Committee on Constitutional Amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears no objection to the motion; the motion is hereby approved.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

REP. NIETO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we include as additional coauthors to House Bills Nos. 6974, 6975, 6976, 7017, 7018, 7019, 7022, 7023, 7024, 7027, 7029, 7030, 7036, 7112, 7137, 7258, 7259, 7260, 7261, 7262, 7263, 7264, 309, 7320, 7321, 7322 and 7332, and House Resolution Nos. 969, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1041 and 1042, those contained in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Is there any objection to the motion? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is hereby approved.

Majority Floor Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, in deference to our colleague and dear friend who has recently joined our Creator, I move that we suspend the session until August 11, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Estrella). Is there any objection to the motion? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; motion is hereby approved.

This session is hereby suspended until three o'clock tomorrow afternoon, August 11.

It was 6:19 p.m.