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No. 18c

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:00 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales Jr. presiding.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4228

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 4228, as contained in Committee Report No. 8, and that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the said measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the title of the measure.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4228, entitled: AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

CFO, BSGC, SPDA AND ZCSEZA

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status is that we are in the period of sponsorship and debate.

At this point, I move that we open the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, as well as the

Budgetary Support to Government Corporations, the Southern Philippines Development Authority, and the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, at this point we would like to acknowledge the presence of the officials of these agencies. For the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, we have Secretary Francisco Acosta, CFO Chairperson; and Undersecretary Astravel Pimentel-Naik, Executive Director. For the Southern Philippines Development Authority, we have Deputy Administrator Munap Pacio; and for the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority, we have Chairman and Administrator Christopher Lawrence Arnuco.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). We welcome you to the House.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Deputy Minority Leader, Jose Christopher Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Rep. Jose Christopher Belmonte of Quezon City is recognized to interpellate.

REP. BELMONTE. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there being no member of the Minority who wishes to ask questions on the budgets of the Commission on Filipino Overseas, the Southern Philippines Development Authority and the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority, I move that we terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budgets of said agencies.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, the Majority joins

the Minority in their motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budgets of the Commission on Filipino Overseas, Budgetary Support to the Southern Philippines Development Authority and the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). There is a motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budgets of the said agencies. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budgets of the said agencies is hereby terminated.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The session is suspended.

It was 1:03 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:04 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business.

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

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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. 4465, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS TO DONATE UNSOLD AND SAFE TO EAT PRODUCTS FOR DISPOSAL TO CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION”

By Representative Crisologo

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

House Bill No. 4467, entitled:

“AN ACT MAKING THE POSITION OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER MANDATORY IN THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE 2ND PARAGRAPH OF SECTION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY AND THREE OF RA 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Fongwan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4468, entitled:

“AN ACT MAKING THE POSITION OF MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURIST MANDATORY IN ALL MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE SECOND PARAGRAPH OF SECTION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO (SEC. 482) OF R.A. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Fongwan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4469, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANTING OF ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS IN CRISIS SITUATION (AICS) PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Panotes

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

House Bill No. 4470, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT (CDD) APPROACH AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION, MANDATING ALL NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING THEIR ATTACHED AGENCIES, OFFICES AND BUREAUS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES TO ADOPT THE CDD APPROACH IN IMPLEMENTING

THEIR COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS,
ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bolilia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
SERVICES

House Bill No. 4471, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL
EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE
PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Espino
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4472, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE PROVISION OF
MATERNITY PACKAGES TO PREGNANT
FILIPINO WOMEN BELONGING TO THE
LOW INCOME GROUP, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Fernandez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND
GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 4473, entitled:

“AN ACT REVITALIZING THE BASES
CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7227, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE ‘BASES CONVERSION
AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992’ AS
AMENDED”

By Representative Abaya
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BASES
CONVERSION

House Bill No. 4474, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION
ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION
OR GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION
(SOGIE) AND PROVIDING PENALTIES
THEREFOR”

By Representative Abaya
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND
GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 4475, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE INSTALLATION
OF MOTOR VEHICLE DIGITAL AND
ELECTRONIC RECORDING SYSTEMS TO
ENSURE ROAD SAFETY AND SECURITY,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Siao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4476, entitled:

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

By Representatives Tan-Tambut and Tan (Samier)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4477, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SULU
PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF JOLO, PROVINCE OF
SULU INTO A TERTIARY LEVEL HOSPITAL,
UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL,
SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
(DOH), INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY
TO TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Tan-Tambut and Tan (Samier)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4478, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE SALARY GRADE
OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND
NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL FROM
SALARY GRADE 11 TO SALARY GRADE
18, AND FROM SALARY GRADE 1 TO
SALARY GRADE 9 RESPECTIVELY, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Tan-Tambut and Tan (Samier)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4479, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL
CENTER AND MUSEUM IN THE PROVINCE
OF BILIRAN AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Espina
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4480, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF
FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION AND THE
COMMITTEE AQUACULTURE AND
FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4481, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 10361,
‘OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE DOMESTIC
WORKERS ACT’, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4482, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 9236,
‘OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL
METROLOGY ACT OF 2003’, PROVIDING
FOR STIFFER PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4483, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT
10068, ‘OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE ACT OF 2010’,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES
AND SANCTIONS AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4484, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO.
8762, ‘OTHERWISE KNOWN THE RETAIL
TRADE LIBERALIZATION ACT OF
2000’, PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES
AND SANCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 4485, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 7884,
‘OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL
DAIRY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1995’,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES
AND SANCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4486, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ALL TELEVISION
NETWORKS/STATIONS TO AIR/SHOW AT
LEAST ONE (1) HOUR OF EDUCATIONAL
CHILDREN’S SHOW EVERYDAY, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 4487, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AND ESTABLISHING AN
IFUGAO RICE TERRACES COMMISSION
FOR THE RESTORATION, PRESERVATION
AND MAINTENANCE OF THE IFUGAO
RICE TERRACES, THE ONLY LIVING
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
INSCRIBED IN THE WORLD HERITAGE
LIST IN 1995 BY THE UNITED NATIONS
EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREOF”

By Representative Chungalao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE
ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4488, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE IFUGAO STATE
UNIVERSITY (IFSU) – POTIA CAMPUS
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALFONSO
LISTA, IFUGAO, FROM THE IFSU
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMUT,
IFUGAO, CONVERTING IT INTO A
STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS
THE EASTERN CORDILLERA STATE
UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE,
AND TECHNOLOGY (ECSUAST), AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Chungalao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4489, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL
REHABILITATION AND PHYSIOTHERAPY
CENTERS FOR PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES (NRPCPD) THROUGH
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCESSIBLE
PWD REHABILITATION CENTERS IN

EVERY PROVINCE, CITY, AND OTHER STRATEGIC AREAS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Lacson-Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

House Bill No. 4490, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FOREST STUDIES AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN THE CARAGA STATE UNIVERSITY (CSU), DEFINING ITS FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Fortun
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4491, entitled:

“AN ACT HONORING HON. REGINA PAZ ‘GINA’ LOPEZ, RENAMING FOR THE PURPOSE LA MESA ECO PARK TO GINA LOPEZ ECO PARK”

By Representatives Castelo, Crisologo, Reyes, Suntay, Vargas and Belmonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4492, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING AND ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE HIGH SCHOOL FOR SPORTS (PHSS) SYSTEM AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Velasco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4493, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BIKE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES, PROMOTING THE USE OF BICYCLES AS AN ALTERNATIVE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Velasco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4494, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF A TEACHING SUPPLIES ALLOWANCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arenas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4495, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROMOTE HIGH PERFORMANCE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL INSTRUCTORS AND HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHING PERSONNEL”

By Representative Arenas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4496, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, RENAMING IT AS THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE COUNSEL, REDEFINING, EXPANDING, RATIONALIZING AND FURTHER PROFESSIONALIZING ITS ORGANIZATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Fortun
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4497, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 52 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8435, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1997’ ”

By Representative Unabia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4498, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE SPECIAL HARDSHIP ALLOWANCES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS ASSIGNED IN CONFLICT AREAS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4670, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Tan-Tambut and Tan (Samier)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4499, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF TRECE MARTIRES, PROVINCE OF CAVITE INTO A GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE CAVITE CENTRAL GENERAL HOSPITAL, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-FOUR (264) TO SIX HUNDRED (600),

UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Remulla
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4500, entitled:

“AN ACT MODIFYING THE SALARY SCHEDULE OF CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lim
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4501, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE NARRA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – LAPU-LAPU ANNEX IN BARANGAY LAPU-LAPU, MUNICIPALITY OF NARRA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM THE NARRA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS LAPU-LAPU NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4502, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE SANDOVAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – ESTRELLA VILLAGE ANNEX IN BARANGAY ESTRELLA VILLAGE, MUNICIPALITY OF NARRA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM THE SANDOVAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS ESTRELLA VILLAGE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4503, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE PULOT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – PUNANG EXTENSION IN BARANGAY PUNANG, MUNICIPALITY OF SOFRONIO ESPAÑOLA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM THE PULOT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

TO BE KNOWN AS PUNANG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4504, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE PANITIAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – LABOG ANNEX IN BARANGAY LABOG, MUNICIPALITY OF SOFRONIO ESPAÑOLA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM THE PANITIAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS LABOG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4505, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE ARAMAYWAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – BURIRAO ANNEX IN BARANGAY BURIRAO, MUNICIPALITY OF NARRA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM THE ARAMAYWAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BURIRAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4506, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE SUMBILING NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – SAPA ANNEX IN BARANGAY SAPA, MUNICIPALITY OF BATARAZA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM THE SUMBILING NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4507, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE TARUSAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – SARONG

EXTENSION IN BARANGAY SARONG, MUNICIPALITY OF BATARAZA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM THE TARUSAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS SARONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4508, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE CANDAWAGA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – PANALINGAAN EXTENSION IN BARANGAY PANALINGAAN, MUNICIPALITY OF RIZAL, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM THE CANDAWAGA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS PANALINGAAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4509, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE SOUTHERN BATARAZA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – BULILUYAN ANNEX IN BARANGAY BULILUYAN, MUNICIPALITY OF BATARAZA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM THE SOUTHERN BATARAZA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BULILUYAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Abueg-Zaldivar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4510, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MANGGA, MUNICIPALITY OF TUBURAN, PROVINCE OF CEBU, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MANGGA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lagon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4511, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIALTY SCHOOL IN CEBU CITY TO SPECIALIZE IN THE ARTS TO BE KNOWN AS THE VISAYAS SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lagon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4512, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP BY STRENGTHENING, EMPOWERING AND ENHANCING THE FINANCING PROGRAMS FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6977, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘MAGNA CARTA FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMEs)’ ”

By Representative Nograles (Jericho)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4513, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nograles (Jericho)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 4514, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE REGULATION OF EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN NATIONALS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 40, 41, AND 42 OF TITLE II, BOOK ONE OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES’ ”

By Representative Nograles (Jericho)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4515, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3019, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED THE ‘ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT’ ”

By Representative Nograles (Jericho)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF
LAWS

House Bill No. 4516, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND
RATIONALIZING THE CAREER
SERVICE OF THE CONGRESS OF THE
PHILIPPINES BY ESTABLISHING A
LEGISLATIVE CAREER SERVICE AND
A LEGISLATIVE ACADEMY AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 4517, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR TAX EXEMPTIONS
AND SUBSIDIES FOR THE LOCAL MUSIC
INDUSTRY, AMENDING FOR THIS
PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4518, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING MARINE
PROTECTED AREAS IN ALL COASTAL
MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4519, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR STIFFER
PENALTIES AGAINST PUBLIC OFFICIALS
AND EMPLOYEES WHO REFUSE OR
NEGLECT TO ACT PROMPTLY ON THE
PUBLIC'S PERSONAL TRANSACTIONS
AND COMMUNICATIONS AS
REQUIRED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 6713, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
'CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL
STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS
AND EMPLOYEES' ”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 4520, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING EVERY SECOND
SUNDAY OF SEPTEMBER AS A NATIONAL
COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY IN THE
COUNTRY”

By Representative Cabochan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 4521, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING PLEDGE OF PERSONAL
PROPERTY COVERING A LOAN OF MONEY
NOT EXCEEDING TEN THOUSAND
PESOS FROM DOCUMENTARY STAMP
TAX, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTION 195 OF THE NATIONAL
INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS
AMENDED”

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND
MEANS

House Bill No. 4522, entitled:

“AN ACT RECTIFYING ERRORS STATED IN
HISTORY TEXT BOOKS BEING USED IN
SCHOOLS”

By Representatives Nieto, Maceda, Malapitan,
Martinez and Valeriano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4523, entitled:

“AN ACT CONSTITUTING A CONGRESSIONAL
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON DEBT
MANAGEMENT TO LOOK INTO ALL
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC BORROWINGS
NEGOTIATED, CONTRACTED OR
GUARANTEED BY THE PRESIDENT
ON BEHALF OF THE PHILIPPINES AS
WELL AS THOSE BY THE GOVERNMENT
OR GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND
-CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND
MEANS

House Bill No. 4524, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF
REDISTRIBUTING AND RECYCLING
FOOD WASTE TO PROMOTE FOOD
SECURITY”

By Representatives Nieto, Maceda, Malapitan,
Martinez and Valeriano

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD
SECURITY

House Bill No. 4525, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE LICENSING
AND CONTROL OF DEALERS IN
SECONDHAND GOODS AND FOR
MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH”

By Representatives Nieto, Maceda, Malapitan,
Martinez and Valeriano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 4526, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE VOLUNTARY
ACCREDITATION OF PRIVATE
SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES BY
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXISTING
POLICIES AND PRACTICES AND
PROVIDING GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE THEREOF”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON
HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4527, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF COMPUTER LABORATORY IN ALL
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
SCHOOLS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4528, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE
AMUSEMENT AND GAMING
COMMISSION (PAGCOM),
AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION
OF FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE
ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 4529, entitled:

“AN ACT DESIGNATING THE THIRD SUNDAY
OF NOVEMBER AS THE PHILIPPINE DAY
OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD CRASH
VICTIMS, SURVIVORS AND FAMILIES”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4530, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FROM
REQUIRING THE SUBMISSION OF A
PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY
CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE ISSUED
WITHIN THE PAST SIX (6) MONTHS”

By Representative Santos-Recto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND
FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 4531, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS,
MAGAZINES, JOURNALS, REVIEWS,
BULLETINS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL
OR LEARNING MATERIALS MADE OR
PUBLISHED IN DIGITAL OR ELECTRONIC
FORMAT FROM VALUE-ADDED TAX,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION
109 (1) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL
REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND
MEANS

House Bill No. 4532, entitled:

“AN ACT DESIGNATING THE SECRETARY
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING
BOARD OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION
ADMINISTRATION, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 3601, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4533, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING THE DIRECT
REMITTANCE TO THE HOST LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS OF THEIR FORTY
PERCENT (40%) SHARE DERIVED FROM
THE NATIONAL WEALTH AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 293 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4534, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE MILITARY
AND UNIFORMED PERSONNEL PENSION
SYSTEM, CREATING THE MILITARY AND
UNIFORMED PERSONNEL INSURANCE
FUND, AMENDING SECTIONS 3 AND 24
OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 8291, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION
AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL
DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 4535, entitled:

“AN ACT RESCINDING THE RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP AND TRANSFERABILITY OF LANDS AWARDED UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM

House Bill No. 4536, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING BROADER PROTECTION TO CONSUMERS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7394, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES’ ”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 4537, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE RIGHTS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS) MEMBERS, PROVIDING THEM ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATION IN THE GSIS BOARD, ENSURING PROMPT PAYMENT OF ALL THEIR BENEFITS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 4538, entitled:

“AN ACT SETTING A CEILING TO THE INDEBTEDNESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO ENSURE MACRO-ECONOMIC STABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4539, entitled:

“AN ACT DESIGNATING THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY COUNCIL”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4540, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DELINEATION OF THE SPECIFIC FORESTS LIMITS OF

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4541, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE EXCISE TAX ON MINERALS, MINERAL PRODUCTS AND QUARRY RESOURCES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4542, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING TOLLWAY OPERATIONS FROM THE VALUE-ADDED TAX, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 108 AND 109 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4543, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE CITIZEN ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, REINSTITUTING FOR THE PURPOSE A MANDATORY RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) PROGRAM IN THE CURRICULUM OF ALL UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE, DIPLOMA, CERTIFICATE OR TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TERTIARY-LEVEL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 4544, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR THE ROAD TRANSPORTATION SECTOR”

By Representative Santos-Recto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4545, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING INCOME TAX REFORM FOR CORPORATE TAXPAYERS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 27(A) AND 28 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Santos-Recto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4546, entitled:

“AN ACT TO RECONSTRUCT AND REHABILITATE THE EXISTING 479-KILOMETER PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS LINE FROM SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION TO LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, PROVIDING FUNDS FROM THE ANNUAL VALUE-ADDED TAX COLLECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Santos-Recto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4547, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE SALARY SCHEDULE OF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4548, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY PLAYERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 23 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4549, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING CARPOOL SERVICE IN THE COUNTRY, REGULATING ITS USE AND OPERATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4550, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROMOTE FAIR TRADE IN

THE OIL INDUSTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8479, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘DOWNSTREAM OIL DEREGULATION ACT OF 1998’ ”

By Representative Santos-Recto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 4551, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING THE SALE OR IMPORTATION OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND SALE OF ELECTRICITY FROM THE VALUE-ADDED TAX, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 108 AND 109 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Santos-Recto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4552, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TIMBANGAN NG BAYAN CENTERS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MARKETS NATIONWIDE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7394, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES,’ AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Santos-Recto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 4553, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 70 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE”

By Representative Veloso

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 4554, entitled:

“AN ACT SETTING THE MINIMUM PAID UP CAPITAL AND LOCALLY PRODUCED STOCK INVENTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN RETAIL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8762, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE RETAIL TRADE LIBERALIZATION ACT”

By Representative Garin (Sharon)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 4555, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE RECORDING OF THE IDENTITY OF ALL DRONE OWNERS/ OPERATORS AND THE REGISTRATION OF THEIR DRONES OR REMOTELY-PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (RPAS) WITH THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4556, entitled:

“AN ACT MODIFYING THE QUALIFICATIONS, REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDACY, AND THE CONTINUING QUALIFICATIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, AND ADJUSTING THE COMPOSITION OF THE SCREENING COMMITTEE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 26-A AND 26-B OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 269 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10531”

By Representative Dagoo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 4557, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AQUATIC RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL BREEDING STATION FOR LAKES, RIVERS, BAYS, PONDS, AND OTHER INLAND FISHES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN PHILIPPINES IN THE CITY OF VIGAN, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Savellano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4558, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A STRATEGIC AND INTEGRATED CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR (CBRN) RESILIENCY APPROACH, TO FOSTER SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4559, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE LOCAL EQUITABLE ALLOCATION PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Go (Mark)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4560, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD (LTFRB) IN THE CITY OF BACOR, PROVINCE OF CAVITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Revilla

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 317, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING POLICE CORPORAL EVA CLAIRE C. SANTIAGO FOR WINNING ONE (1) GOLD AND TWO (2) SILVER MEDALS IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED 2019 WORLD POLICE AND FIRE GAMES HELD AT CHENGDU, CHINA”

By Representative Lara

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Resolution No. 318, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING POLICE STAFF SERGEANT AARON JAYXEN BANATAO FOR WINNING ONE (1) SILVER MEDAL IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED 2019 WORLD POLICE AND FIRE GAMES HELD AT CHENGDU, CHINA”

By Representative Lara

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Resolution No. 319, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MS. ZYKA ANGELICA C. SANTIAGO FOR WINNING ONE (1) SILVER MEDAL IN THE 14TH ASEAN TAEKWONDO CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TWO (2) GOLD MEDALS IN THE 2019 PYEONGCHANG WORLD TAEKWONDO HANMADANG CONTEST”

By Representative Lara
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 320, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE PRESENT STATE OF FARMERS ESPECIALLY IN THE PLANTING, SALE AND PRICING OF PALAY WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE SAME”

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 321, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, DIRECT THE GRID MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE THROUGH THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION TO REVIEW THE EXISTING OPEN ACCESS TRANSMISSION SERVICE RULES PARTICULARLY ON THE ISSUE OF IMPOSING PENALTIES TO VIOLATORS THEREOF”

By Representatives Dagooc, De Jesus, Ebcas and Guya
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 322, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND), DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, (DOTR), AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), IN COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA), TO DIRECTLY BUY BACK PALAY OF THE LOCAL FARMERS FOR THE RICE SUBSIDY PROGRAM”

By Representatives Romualdez (Yedda) and Romualdez (Ferdinand)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Joint Resolution No. 15, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE RICE COMPETITIVENESS

ENHANCEMENT FUND (RCEF) AS PROVIDED UNDER THE UNPROGRAMMED APPROPRIATIONS OF THE 2019 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (GAA), THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS' TARIFF COLLECTIONS FROM IMPORTED RICE AS OF 31 AUGUST 2019, AND OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCES, AS A SPECIAL EMERGENCY FUND FOR DIRECT CASH TRANSFERS TO RICE FARMERS”

By Representatives Quimbo, Lagman, Belmonte, Abaya, Amatong, Billones, Bordado, Chatto, Daza, Erice, Hataman, Limkaichong, Peña and Ramirez-Sato

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

COMMUNICATIONS

Letters dated 23 August and 6 September 2019 of Janice G. Ayson-Zales, Deputy Director and Marissa M. Reyes, Acting Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. Circular Letter No. CL-2019-061 dated 20 August 2019;
2. Circular No. 1045 dated 29 August 2019;
3. Circular No. 1046 dated 29 August 2019;
4. Circular No. 1047 dated 29 August 2019; and
5. Circular Letter No. CL-2019-064 dated 30 August 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated 28 August 2019 of Fire Director Leonard R. Bañago, PME, Chief, National Headquarters, Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Department of the Interior and Local Government, furnishing the House of Representatives the Agency Action Plan and Status of Implementation (AAPSI) on the Audit Observation and Recommendations for the Calendar Year 2018 as of August 20, 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 2 September 2019 of Maria Catalina E. Cabral, Ph. D., CESO I, Undersecretary for Planning and Public-Private Partnership (PPP), Department of Public Works and Highways, submitting to the House of Representatives the Project Briefers of PPP Projects being undertaken as of August 25, 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Letter dated September 5, 2019 of Wendel E. Avisado, Acting Secretary, Department of Budget and Management, transmitting to the House of Representatives the consolidated Statement of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations, Disbursements and Balances (SAAODB) of the national government agencies for the quarter ending June 30, 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 11), re H.B. No. 4581, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO GOLDEN BROADCAST PROFESSIONAL, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8025 ENTITLED ‘A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE A STATION FOR FM RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING IN THE ISLAND OF MINDANAO AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’, AND EXPANDING ITS COVERAGE TO THE ENTIRE PHILIPPINES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3005

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (Franz) and Jimenez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 12), re H.B. No. 4582, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO GOLD LABEL BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8087 ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING TO THE GOLD LABEL BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN DUMAGUETE AND OTHER AREAS IN THE VISAYAS AND MINDANAO WHERE FREQUENCIES AND/OR CHANNELS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2361

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (Franz) and Sagarbarria

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 13), re H.B. No. 4583, 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”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4055

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (Franz) and Romualdo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 14), re H.B. No. 4584, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO CRUSADERS BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8091 ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE CRUSADERS BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2227

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (Franz) and Crisologo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).
The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4228

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 4228, as contained in Committee Report No. 8, and that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is hereby directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4228, entitled: AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
MUSLIM FILIPINOS

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status is that we are in the period of interpellation and debate. And at this point, I move that we consider the proposed budget of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Deputy Minority Leader Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Deputy Minority Leader Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte is recognized.

REP. BELMONTE. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member of the Minority who wishes to ask questions on the proposed budget of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos, I move that we terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the said agency.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the special request of Deputy Speaker Mujiv S. Hataman, we join the Minority in terminating the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). There is a joint motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of the proposed budget of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, including its attached agencies.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Chair hears none; motion is approved.

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize our guests from the DILG and its attached agencies.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Welcome to the House of Representatives, the DILG family and its attached agencies.

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I move for the recognition of Sec. Eduardo M. Año, Department of the Interior and Local Government; Dir. Leonard R. Bañago, PME, Chief, Bureau of Fire Protection; Dir. Allan Sullano Iral, Chief, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology; Exe. Dir. Thelma T. Vecina, Local Government Academy; Atty. Saidamen B. Pangarungan, Secretary, National Commission on Muslim Filipinos; Atty. Rogelio T. Casurao, Vice Chairman and Executive Officer, National Police Commission; Chairperson Ryan R. Enriquez, National Youth Commission; Chairperson Rhodora M. Bucoy, Philippine Commission on Women; General Oscar D. Albayalde, Chief, Philippine National Police; and Gen. Ricardo F. De Leon, President, Philippine Public Safety College; Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Secretary Año and the DILG family, welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I move for the recognition of the main Sponsor of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Cong. Alfred Vargas.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; Rep. Alfred Vargas of the Fifth District of Quezon City, Vice Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, is

recognized to deliver his sponsorship speech on House Bill No. 4228.

REP. VARGAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have the honor to defend the budget of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, including its attached agencies, in the amount of P236,224,917,000.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Rep. Ferdinand R. Gaite of BAYAN MUNA to be the first interpellator.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Rep. Ferdinand R. Gaite is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Kagalang-galang na Speaker.

Pahihintulutan ba ng ating Sponsor ng budget ng DILG na makapag-clarify ng mga ilang usapin hinggil sa budget ng DILG, Mr. Sponsor, Kagalang-galang na Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, ikinalulugod at ikinatutuwa po ng inyong lingkod na tumanggap ng kahit na ano pong mga tanong na tungkol sa budget ng DILG.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

Nabanggit po ng ating Sponsor na ang budget ng DILG ay umaabot ng P236.22 billion. Tama po ba, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. That is correct, Mr. Speaker. To be exact, the budget we are defending now is P236,224,917,000 for 2020.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, ang isang katanungan namin ay nakatuon doon sa ahensya sa ilalim ng DILG na mapupunta ang malaking bahagi, mahigit three-fourths, ng kabuuang ng budget ng DILG. Walang ibang ahensya iyan kundi ang Philippine National Police, 78.1 percent ng kabuuang budget na kung saan ang P184 billion ay nakalaan sa PNP. Tama po ba iyan, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, in the 2020 NEP, we have P184,599,560,000 for the PNP,

which is a 7 percent increase from last year, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Paki-clarify po. Dito po sa inilabas ng CPBRD, P184.599 billion ang nakalaan para sa Philippine National Police out of the P236.22 billion.

Dito po sa pagpapaliwanag ng notes natin sa CPBRD, they get 78.1 percent of the total budget of the DILG.

Nevertheless, malaki talaga ang nakalaan sa PNP at kung maalala ko sa mga sasakyan ng PNP, nakalagay ang kanilang motto: "To Serve and Protect." Ngunit, totoo bang napoprotektahan ang mga manggagawa ng PNP lalo na sa usapin ng mga labor disputes?

Maglalahad lang po ako ng mga ilang kalagayan ng ating mga manggagawa. Doon po sa naganap sa PEPMACO strike dispersal at arrest of workers na nangyari sa Laguna. Noong Agosto 19, 2019, ang mga elemento ng PNP ay marahas na dinisperse ang picket lines sa Peerless Products Manufacturing Corporation sa Calamba, Laguna. At around 11:30 a.m., inaresto ang dalawangpung mga manggagawa. According to the Union Pagkakaisa ng mga Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan, PAMANTIK-KMU, ang dalawangpung mga nagsisiwelgang manggagawa ng naturang kumpanya ay pilit na pinasakay sa sasakyan ng pulis. Ang mga hinuling mga manggagawa ay dinitene sa Calamba City Jail.

Kung maaalala ko po ang kanilang mga isyu dito, isa po dito iyong isyu ng kontraktwalisasyon na pinangako ng pamahalaang ito na matitigil na, kung kaya't sila ay naghapag ng reklamo sa Department of Labor. Ngunit, sa halip na iregularisa ang mga manggagawa, sa halip na kilalanin ang mga karapatan nila sa kasiguruhan sa trabaho, ay lalo pa silang dinahas.

According sa isang manggagawa na taga-PEPMACO, si Myra Viray, ang ginawa lang po ay inaresto po sila, pinosasan at noong tinatanong nila kung ano ang nilabag nilang kasalanan, kung mayroon bang warrant, walang sagot na ibinigay ang mga pulis.

Tanong po, noong pre-plenary budget ng DILG, sinabi ng PNP, ng kanilang kinatawan, na hindi sila nakikialam sa labor disputes, unless may request ang Department of Labor para sa kanilang presensiya. Sinabi rin ng PNP na tumatalima sila sa guidelines on the conduct of the DOLE, DILG, DND, DOJ, AFP, PNP relative to the exercise of workers' rights and activities na inilabas noong Mayo 7, 2012. Pero, tulad ng nabanggit noong August 19, 2019, tulad pa ng iba pang mga dinahas na mga picket line, tulad ng naganap sa NutriAsia, Sumifru, at iba pang mga manggagawang nagsagawa ng kilos-protesta at welga, marahas na dinisperse ang mga picket at dinampot ng PNP ang mga manggagawa.

Sinampahan pa ang mga kawani ng PEPMACO ng malicious mischief sa Office of Prosecutor sa Calamba

City, Laguna. Kalaunan, naglabas rin naman ng order si Assistant City Prosecutor Nelson Bitan na sinususpende ang proceedings ng kaso dahil sa hindi pagtalima ng kapulisan at ng PEPMACO sa mga guidelines ng Memo Circular na nabanggit at ng DOLE Clearance sa mga ganitong kaso. Taliwas ito sa sinabi ng PNP noong preliminary budget hearing at isa itong malinaw na ebidensiya na nilalabag ng PNP ang mismong rules nila sa mga constitutionally guaranteed rights ng mga manggagawa na mag-union at magwelga.

Tanong po, Mr. Sponsor at Mr. Speaker, ano na po ang ginagawang aksyon ng PNP sa ganitong mga paglabag ng kanilang tauhan at pag-intervene sa labor dispute? Mayroon na po bang hakbang na ginawa doon sa mga violations na sinabi mismo ng prosecutor? Sinuspindi iyong reklamo at mayroon kaming dokumentong nakuha patungkol diyan. Mayroon po bang ginawang hakbang ang PNP doon sa kanilang mga erring officials, Mr. Sponsor, Kagalang-galang na Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker and Honorable Ferdinand R. Gaite. First, the DILG would like to reassure its commitment to promote and ensure the safety and security of the people.

So, kasama na po dito ang ating labor sector, and that is why one of the efforts natin ay i-beef up ang ating PS-Personnel Services. That is why the bulk of the budget goes to Personnel Services amounting to P166.6 billion.

Regarding the issue of PEPMACO, the dispersals of the laborers of NutriAsia and PEPMACO were not conducted by the PNP, but their respective security officers. The PNP only provided assistance when chaos erupted and in response to the request of the company officials and laborers who were stranded in the area as a result of the protest.

To answer the question of the honorable Gentleman Ferdinand R. Gaite, I have here with me the list of the names of these 14 victims and the names of the suspects. We have here 18 suspects. Iyon po ay ang PEPMACO and in NutriAsia naman po, we have seven victims and 17 suspects. Arrested na po ang mga suspects po na ito.

REP. GAITE. Kagalang-galang na Mr. Sponsor, Hon. Alfred D. Vargas, iyong sinasabi po ninyong kaso, ito po iyong hinuli ninyo na mga manggagawang nagwewelga at ito rin ang mga manggagawang ito iyong kinasuhan ng PEPMACO. Dito sa binabanggit ninyong mga manggagawa, sinuspindi po. Ang sabi po ng Office of the City Prosecutor, "Wherefore the proceedings of this case is hereby recommended to be suspended pending the issuance of a DOLE clearance pursuant to Department of Justice Circular No. 15, series of 1982. Pending the suspension of the proceedings in this case,

the same shall be considered closed and terminated for reportorial purposes."

Nagtataka po ako, Mr. Sponsor, silang mga gumigiit sa kanilang mga karapatan, ngayon sila iyong suspects. Sila iyong legally nagsagawa ng kilos-protesta para labanan iyong basic right to security of tenure, parang binaliktad iyong table. Parang sila pa ngayon ang may kasalanan hindi iyong PEPMACO.

We take exception doon sa sinasabing ipinatawag, dito nga po sinasabi na nilabag ng PNP iyong role nila na kapag tinawag lang sila. Lumalabas na hindi nga po sila tinawag para i-quell iyong sinasabing disturbance dahil walang prosesong sinunod.

Ikalawa, malinaw sa mga documentary evidence nakita nila doon sa mismong naganap na pag-disperse sa welga wala namang violence na naganap at sa halip ang violence ay nanggaling doon sa mga hired na mga security guards ng PEPMACO. Doon sa nakita namin, binomba sila ng tubig, may mga taga PNP na tinamaan noong water cannons. Pero, ang kagulat-gulat ang hinuli iyong mga manggagawa, hindi iyong mga PEPMACO security guards na nanakot at nanakit doon sa picket line ng ating mga manggagawa, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

Pwede po bang sagutin at i-clairfy kung bakit sila pang naggiigit ng kanilang karapatan para bigyan ng karapatan sa usapin ng laban sa kontraktuwalisasyon, sila pa ngayon ang tinawag ninyong suspects, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Hon. Ferdinand R. Gaite, it is the position of PNP that these named suspects were arrested, number one, because sila po iyong nagsarado ng ingress at saka egress and by the time that the PNP was there, there was already violence. So, iyon po iyong dahilan at sinunod po ng PNP iyong kung ano po iyong protocol doon sa sitwasyon. Kaya po heto po ang ating listahan noong ating mga suspects.

REP. GAITE. Again, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, malinaw na sa napakaraming disputes involving labor and management, dapat ito ay may sinusunod na protocol, katulad ng nabanggit ninyo. Ngunit, sa halip na masunod, katulad na nga mismo ng desisyon ng Office of the City Prosecutor, sa essence ay sinasabi, hindi sinunod iyong mga guidelines kung kailan puwedeng pumasok. Hindi sila puwedeng pumasok ng basta-basta lamang. Kailangan mayroong procedure na nire-request ng Department of Labor and Employment, at iba. Hindi nila puwedeng i-disperse lalo na iyong mapayapang kilos protesta dahil ang karapatang magwelga, ang karapatang mag-union, at ang karapatang igiit ang mga batayang karapatang ito ay legitimate na karapatan kung kayat may guidelines kung hanggang saan lang puwedeng pumasok ang PNP.

Kung gayon, Mr. Sponsor, ang ibig sabihin, wala pa po kayong ginagawang aksyon doon sa mga opisyal ng PNP na nasangkot doon sa violent dispersal na ginawa sa picket line. Tama po ba, Mr. Sponsor, kagalang-galang na Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Yes.

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Gaité, again, it is the priority, it is always the priority of the PNP to maintain peace and order, and they were there for that reason, for peace and order. Hindi po sila pumasok before at pumasok lang po sila noong nagkagulo na po. Ngayon, the PNP will follow any directive, any ruling, any decision at susunod po ang PNP sa ano man pong iutos ng kahit na anong korte o kahit na anong authority.

Now, PNP believes and stands by its statement that the dispersal of the laborers of NutriAsia and PEPMACO were not conducted by the PNP, but their respective security officers. The PNP only provided assistance when chaos erupted, and in response to the request of the company officials and laborers who were stranded in the areas as a result of the protest, Mr. Speaker, honorable Gentleman Gaité.

REP. GAITE. Hon. Alfred Vargas, with due respect, Mr. Speaker, mayroon na ngang sinabi ang prosecutor na nilabag ang proseso, na hindi sumunod doon sa guidelines na sinasabi. Paulit-ulit na binabanggit na ang pulis ang mayroon o maaari lang pumasok kapag may procedure na sinusunod, katulad noong requirement na dapat may request ang Department of Labor and Employment, dapat may procedure na susundin and, yet, pinipilit pa rin na ang pagpasok ng PNP ay within the correct procedures na sinasabi ng nabanggit na guidelines.

Kaya po ang Kinatawang ito ay nadidismaya sa ganitong proseso, na kapag ang manggagawa ay kumikilos para sa kanilang karapatan, sa halip na to serve and protect ng mga manggagawa, ang sine-serve and protect nila ay iyong kapitalista. Hindi iyan ang sinasabi ng batas. Ang sinasabi ng batas, lalo na sa usapin ng social justice ay iyong mga maralita, iyong mga mahihirap, iyong mga walang karapatan, walang pagkakataon na depensahan ang sarili nila, at iyong mga maliliit, sila dapat ang sine-serve and protect ng PNP. Kaya po lumalabas, hindi po pala ako makakakuha ng assurance, ng commitment ng PNP, na hindi na mauulit ang mga ganitong kalagayan, ang violent dispersal. Tama po ba ako, Mr. Sponsor, kagalang-galang na Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Rest assured, Mr. Speaker and honorable Gentleman Gaité, that PNP will uphold its mandate in keeping the peace and protecting the Filipino people, whichever sector it may be.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po.

Para na lang po paalalahanan ang ating PNP, ang ating DILG, ang DND, at ang Department of Justice, et cetera, babasahin ko lang po iyong pertinent provisions of the guidelines on the conduct of the AFP/PNP relative to the exercise of workers' rights, particularly, freedom of association, collective bargaining, concerted actions and other trade union activities:

1. Labor disputes shall be under the primary and sole jurisdiction of the Department of Labor and Employment and/or its appropriate agencies. Members of the AFP, PNP and other law enforcement agencies, including Barangay Tanod/BPSO, and company security personnel/security guards shall not intervene in labor disputes. The AFP and PNP may intervene only in the following cases:

a) Expressly requested in writing either through mail, email, fax or any similar means by the Department of Labor and Employment, through its Regional Offices;

b) A criminal act has been committed, is being committed, or is about to be committed through overt acts in accordance with Rule 113 of the Revised Criminal Procedures whether or not it arises out of the labor dispute; and

c) In cases of actual violence arising out of a labor dispute.

Sinabi po dito, dine-define ang "actual violence". Actual violence refers to an ongoing and intentional use of physical force or power, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death or destruction of or damage to property. Ito po iyong nakasaad sa naturang guidelines sa conduct ng AFP.

Kayat malinaw dito na kahit itong procedure na ito ay hindi nasunod. Sinasabi mismo ng prosecutor, walang procedure na nagsulat ang DOLE para mag-intervene. Walang violence na nagaganap. Kusa na pumasok ang PNP at dinahas ang mga manggagawa at ang tanong pinaghuhuli pa na wala namang batayan kaya sinuspinde nga iyong kaso at ni-release eventually iyong kinulong na mga manggagawa.

Kaya po ito ay isang napakahalagang usapin para sa aming mga manggagawa sapagakat naniniwala kami na dapat respetuhin ang mga constitutional guarantees sa karapatan ng mga mamamayan to be secured from unreasonable searches, seizures and illegal arrest and detention.

Kaya po ang Kinatawang ito ay dismayado, na sa halip na magkaroon ng malinaw na pagsunod ng PNP, lalo na sa usapin ng labor disputes, sa halip na kilalanin ang karapatan ng mga manggagawa, mismo sa tanong kung may assurance ba na hindi na mauulit ito? Apparently, hindi kayang ipangako na kikilalanin ang karapatan sa paggawa.

Ikalawa po, mayroon po kaming ni-raise noong nakaraang DILG briefing sa Committee on Appropriations. Secretary Eduardo Manahan Año was there and said that the DILG has no policy related to campaigning against the Makabayan Party-List where BAYAN MUNA, our Party-List belongs, and that the reported parties on political activity in social media is under Undersecretary RJ Echiverri's personal capacity. Ito po iyong nakitaan namin sa kaniyang social media na may partisan political activity ang isang Undersecretary RJ Echiverri.

Notwithstanding the possible case that we, as the aggrieved party may file against Usec. Echiverri, and considering that such actions posed by the DILG Undersecretary could indeed fall under the prohibition on partisan political activity of government officials, may ginawa po ba ang DILG para i-countermand si Usec. RJ Echiverri

Mr. Sponsor, kagalang-galang na Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, honorable Congressman, the DILG shares your sentiment and this Representation does so as well because mahirap na po, may security concerns po diyan at hindi po talaga tama gamitin ang social media para sa ganyang mga bagay. And as per the statement of the Secretary of DILG, lahat po ng reklamo, iwe-welcome po iyan because the DILG does not tolerate such, and even me, personally, it is a matter of personal security, and kasama po ninyo kami diyan, kasama rin natin ang buong DILG family.

REP. GAITE. Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, matanong ko, bakit po personal security? Kami nga po iyong inaakusahan na mga prente daw ang mga rebelde at komunistang mga organisasyon. Kami nga iyong nalalagay sa matinding insecurity dahil kung mabansagan kang bahagi ng mga organisasyong ito ay liable, at posible ka na magkaroon ng mga death threats at aktwal na mga iba't ibang porma ng harassment and worst, iyong extrajudicial killings.

Nandiyan po ba ngayon si RJ Echiverri ng DILG?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, he is not present here.

REP. GAITE. Noong huling Committee on Appropriations—noong DILG briefing ay itinanong ko rin po ito, sapagkat gusto ko rin namin malaman ang kanyang kasagutan para ma-confirm niya o i-deny niya iyong inilabas niyang posts sa kanyang mga social media sites, batay sa report na nakuha namin sa mga kasamahan naming tine-take down niya, pero mayroong tinatawag na technology na screenshot, sona-screenshot po iyong kaniyang mga posts.

Kaya po ito iyong katanungan namin kasi mayroon po talagang violation. Mahigpit na ipinagbabawal na

ang mga opisyal ng gobyerno ay masangkot sa partisan political activity or electioneering. Alam na alam iyan ng mga government workers. Alam na alam iyan ng maraming ibang mga kawani, pero mismo ang isang mataas na opisyal ng DILG ang direktang lumalabag sa prosesong ito. So, sa tanong ko pong may ginawa na po ba ang DILG, sagot lang po, may ginawa po ba o wala ang DILG patungkol kay Undersecretary RJ Echiverri, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, honorable Congressman, first of all, DILG will definitely cooperate in terms of whether there will be cases filed and definitely, DILG will not tolerate such. Next, the person that you are referring to did not use any government property and much more so, DILG has no budget for such an activity. So, ito po ay on his personal capacity and the Secretary himself told me that he will compel Usec. Echiverri to answer everything, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Kami ay ganoon pa rin na nababahala. Hindi maaaring matanggal iyong kanyang personal capacity sa kanyang official capacity dahil sa kanyang panunungkulan bilang isang government official tulad na rin sa mga government employees na maliliit, walang sinasabing paghihiwalay noong usapin hinggil sa partisan political activity at electioneering. Hanggang ngayon, iyan po iyong malinaw na guidelines sa sinabi ng CSC-Comelec Joint Circular No. 1 as of 2016, na ang government workers at mga opisyal ay bawal na mangampanya for or against any candidate or political party, at iyong kanilang ginagawang electioneering or partisan political activity ay may karampatang penalty kapag napatunayan.

Tanong po, panghuli, ano po ang assurance ng DILG tungkol sa iba pang pangangampanya ng mga uniformed personnel lalo na sa usapin ng partisan political activity? Sapagkat noong nakaraang eleksiyon, buwan ng Mayo, may mga ebidensiya kaming nakalap na may mga members mismo ng Philippine National Police na actively nagka-campaign against the Makabayan bloc, against BAYAN MUNA, GABRIELA Women's Party, ACT TEACHERS Party-List at ang KABATAAN. Nagdi-distribute sila ng mga materials at sinasabing huwag iboto ang mga party-lists na ito. Kaya bang magbigay ng assurance ang ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor na hindi uulitin ng PNP at ikalawa, ano ang gagawin doon sa mga lumalabag sa batas laban sa electioneering at partisan political activity, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, again, it is the position of the DILG in continuing and fighting for its main thrust of protecting every Filipino. Iyon pong

mga binanggit ninyo ay unacceptable po iyan sa DILG at kung mayroon po kayong complaint ay susuportahan po iyan ng DILG 100 percent and sisiguraduhin po na hindi po iyan mauulit. Ngayon, kapag nagdaan na po sa due process at napatunayan na guilty po iyang mga iyan, DILG will follow the law, ang DILG ay hindi po papayag na mayroon pong ganiyang injustice na nangyayari.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

Kami po ay gumagawa na ng mga aktwal na hakbang hindi lamang po sa DILG kundi sa mga proper authorities para iyong mga lumalabag sa usapin ng partisan political activity and electioneering ay mabigyan, nabanggit ninyo, ng due process, sapagkat alam natin hindi dapat sa isang institusyon tulad ng PNP na nasa loob ng DILG, na sila mismong sinasabing dapat magpatupad ng batas ang sila pa ang lumalabag ng batas.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker, at sa ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor. Salamat po.

REP. VARGAS. Maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The session is suspended.

It was 1:58 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:58 p.m., the session was resumed.

REP. DIMAPORO (A.). Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The session is resumed. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Second District of Lanao del Norte, Hon. Abdullah D. Dimaporo, for his manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Congressman Abdullah Dimaporo is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. DIMAPORO (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank again the Speaker for giving that suggestion that we talk with the officials with whom we have concerns. And I did talk with the PNP Chief and the Brigadier General of the PNP for Region X and we were able to resolve my problems. And I just want to put on record that the Brigadier General for Region X has agreed that we will look into the criminal incidents that are happening in Lanao del Norte.

So, thank you, again, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). That manifestation is fully noted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Gentleman from BAYAN MUNA Party-List, Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Deputy Minority Leader, Hon. Carlos Zarate, is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To our good Sponsor, may we propound some clarificatory questions pertaining to the budget of the DILG.

REP. VARGAS. Gladly Mr. Speaker, and honorable Congressman Zarate.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

I will go directly to my interpellation, Mr. Speaker.

Last June 19, 2019, PNP Chief Albayalde, in a press conference, through Maj. Mao Aplasca, publicly announced that as of May 31, 2019, a total of 6,600 persons have been killed during the PNP anti-drug operations. Then on July 18, 2019, barely a month after that press conference, the government, through PNP Supt. Kimberly Molitas, made a conflicting announcement that only a total of 5,526 have been killed in the PNP anti-drug operations as of July 30, 2019.

My question to that, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, is the government claiming now that 1,074, the difference between 6,600 and 5,526, who previously died as of May 31, has now been resurrected two months later in July because the number was decreased. What is the explanation to this, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, honorable Congressman Zarate, here are the official accomplishments on anti-illegal drug campaign of the PNP from July 1, 2016 to July 31, 2019. The PNP has conducted 136,676 operations and the total drug personalities accounted for

is 1.5 million. A total of 1.2 million personally appeared and surrendered; 243,314 were arrested; and 5,793 died in police operations.

REP. ZARATE. That is 5,793, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VARGAS. Yes. It is also worthy to note that there were 50 casualties among the PNP personnel and 145 wounded during these operations.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But I am more concerned about the number of persons announced as of June 19, 2019, that it was 6,600. You are saying now that the official statistic or record of the PNP is only 5,793.

REP. VARGAS. Yes.

REP. ZARATE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, when General Albayalde conducted that public announcement, he was serious in announcing such figures that were not yet official, because last June 19, 2018 the figure was 6,600. Then, a month after, on July 18, 2019, bumaba sa 5,526. So, may diperensyang 1,704. Kaya nga natanong ko baka nag-ressurrect ito. Ngayon sabi ninyo iba na naman ang figure. The official figure is 5,793. Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, kung anong nangyari dito na paiba-ibang figure? Superintendent Molitas, it appears, is countermanding the numbers earlier presented by General Albayalde.

Anyway, ganito ba ang kalakaran sa gobyerno na may announcement si General Albayalde, tapos sasabihin nang kanyang subordinate iba naman, dahil iyon ang official? Anyway, the government claims that its number, the official number now are more credible and factual. Parang lumalabas na dahil may nag-question sa 6,600, binago ito at ngayon nga 5,793 na lang.

REP. VARGAS. May I have the permission to clarify, Mr. Speaker, honorable Congressman, if I may be allowed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Yes, the Sponsor, may clarify.

REP. VARGAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honorable Congressman.

The 6,600 killed, that number represents all police operations, and not only the operations relating to the anti-drug campaign. So, ito po ay sa lahat ng police operations; ito ang gusto nating i-clarify, and the PNP has documents to prove this point.

REP. ZARATE. Para malinaw po, G. Isponsor, Mr. Speaker, iyong 5,793 ay police operations related to drugs. Tapos mayroong mga namatay na at least 1,074

na pulis not related to the anti-drug operations, ganoon po ba iyon? Mas marami ang namatay sa drug-related operations compared to the non drug-related operations?

REP. VARGAS. That is correct, honorable Congressman, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Okay. At any rate, ang punto ko lang po, dahil sa presscon na iyon nag-announce kayo na ito ang figures. In fact, there was even an explanation before, that this was already vetted by the PDEA kaya bumaba ang number. Ang lumalabas apparently, you are admitting that when you announce some figures, those figures cannot be trusted because kailangan pa palang i-confirm kasi pabago-bago nga. Now, your official number is different again.

At any rate, my question now, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, in relation to the figures that you mentioned—5,793 persons were killed in police operations. My question in relation to that, is how many members of the PNP have been criminally charged in court for any of these 5,526 deaths?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I have here with me the case inventory by docket year and from the period January 2019 to July 2019, the figure is 594.

REP. ZARATE. What was the number, 594?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, it is 594.

REP. ZARATE. And you are sure that these 594 policemen were charged for the death of 5,793 persons related to drugs, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Yes, honorable Congressman. These are 594 uniformed personnel.

REP. ZARATE. These cases now are in various courts all over the country. Is that correct, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. I am sorry, distinguished Gentleman?

REP. ZARATE. Ang mga kasong ito, 594 who were criminally charged, nasa iba't ibang korte na ito sa buong bansa. Tama po ba iyon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Ito po iyong record ng Internal Affairs Service. It is in there.

REP. ZARATE. That is why I am clarifying.

REP. VARGAS. Yes.

REP. ZARATE. We have 594 policemen criminally charged for the death of persons during drug-related operations, as opposed to those administratively charged.

REP. VARGAS. As of now, Mr. Speaker, honorable Congressman, admin pa lang po.

REP. ZARATE. I see. So paghiwalayin po natin.

REP. VARGAS. The PNP can submit the number sa mga nakasama rin sa criminally charged.

REP. ZARATE. May I hear that again, Mr. Sponsor. How many?

REP. VARGAS. Iyon pong numero ng criminally charged will be submitted to you, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, the soonest possible time.

REP. ZARATE. So you do not have the figure now on how many were criminally charged, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, honorable Congressman, but if you will give us time we will be able to give it to you.

REP. ZARATE. I hope you can give that during tonight's session because I have been asking these questions several times during the budget hearing. Bigyan ninyo kami ng figure.

At any rate, may I continue with my interpellation. According to the latest government announcement in “#RealNumbers,” I think this is a PNP hashtag on killings committed during police anti-drug operations, cases have been filed involving 14,724. May we know, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, how many of these cases are now undergoing preliminary investigation, undergoing trial, or how many of those charged have already been convicted, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, honorable Congressman, regarding the 14,724, we do not have yet the specific numbers of the breakdown of such, but the PNP would swiftly give you the breakdown you are asking for the soonest possible time.

REP. ZARATE. Again, Mr. Speaker, I have to register my strong objection to that kind of statement dahil matagal na nating hinihingi iyan. In fact, not only during this budget hearing, even during the Seventeenth Congress, because at that time, cases have already been filed kung mayroon man. Until now, ganoon at ganoon na lang din ang itutugon sa atin ng PNP. May

I remind, Mr. Speaker, the PNP and the DILG, that it is very clear in their Manual of Operations, Item 15-4 states that inquest proceeding is necessary when the suspect dies in cases of armed confrontation. Whenever the suspect dies, the team leader of the operating unit shall submit the incident for inquest before the duty inquest prosecutor prior to the removal of the body from the scene, except in cases where there are no inquest prosecutors, in which case the territorial police unit can proceed with the investigation. Kaya tinatanong po natin ito dahil napakarami na po ang napaslang at ngayon, hanggang ngayon, ang sagot ng PNP ay “we are still looking into that.” Saan ba nanggaling iyong “#RealNumbers” na sinasabi nilang nasampahan ng kaso those involving 14,724?

I think, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, I am already tempted to suspend the deliberation on the budget of the PNP. At any rate, I hope you can give me a clear answer this afternoon. I will proceed to my other question.

I will go back to my question related to the PNP manual. According to the PNP manual, again, in cases where there is a death in the police operation, the PNP team leader will submit the incident for inquest, My question now, of the 5,793—is that the figure, 5,793?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Okay. Although the IAS submitted to me a different number—5,775. At any rate, of that 5,526, how many inquest proceedings have been conducted by the Department of Justice or the Prosecutor's Office as required by the PNP manual of operations, any was conducted?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I have here with me the list of PNP personnel involved in various cases.

REP. ZARATE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, not in various cases. I am referring particularly to the 5,573 or 575 persons who were killed during the anti-illegal drugs operations of the PNP. How many inquest proceedings were conducted?

REP. VARGAS. Under this list, Mr. Speaker, referred to the prosecutor's office, the number is 50; filed in court, 103; amicable settlement, 5; and under investigation, 14. Total number is 272 cases.

REP. ZARATE. Okay. That is 272.

REP. VARGAS. And there are 314 PNP personnels involved in these cases.

REP. ZARATE. Okay. Isa-isahin po natin, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Kanina po, inamin ninyo na ang official number ay 5,793. Ayon po sa manual mismo ng

PNP, sinasabi doon na itinatakda sa bawat pagkakataon na mayroong police operation at kapag may namatay na suspek, dahil suspect pa lang, kailangang magkaroon ng inquest proceeding. Kung sino iyong pulis na nakabari, kailangan dalhin siya sa piskal at i-justify niya ang pagkamatay ng tao o ng suspek na iyon.

Ngayon, sinasabi ninyo na sa 5,575 cases, halos 253 lang ang umabot sa korte: 150 nasa prosecutor ngayon; 103 or 105, ang nasa korte; 5 ang under amicable settlement; at 14 under investigation. And this involves 314 PNP individuals.

Ang sunod na tanong, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, dahil hindi sinunod ng mga team leader ng PNP na nag-conduct ng mahigit sa 5,000 police operations—according to the IAS, 4,859 police operations ang naganap mula July 2016 hanggang June 2019. Sinasabi po ninyo, 253 lang ang nagkaroon ng parang inquest dahil may nasampahang mga kaso ang mga pulis. Ang tanong po, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, ano ang pananagutan, sa tingin ninyo, noong mga team leaders ng pulis na nag-conduct ng operations na hindi sinunod ang mismong PNP manual regarding cases, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Gentleman, in all police operations, mayroon pong *motu proprio* investigation by the IAS.

REP. ZARATE. That is different, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VARGAS. That is the very reason kung bakit po maraming na-charge. Actually, ang total po ng case loads, hindi natin nabanggit kanina, ay 3,621. Siyempre, pagdating po sa due process, iniwan na natin sa korte kung ano ang gagawin.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

Iyon po ang malinaw dito. Tama naman ang IAS dahil ang mandato nito ang mag-conduct talaga ng investigation. Kaya tinatanong ko dito, nililina natin, dahil ang figure hindi po nanggaling sa akin, galing sa inyo ito.

Ang manual hindi rin po kami ang gumawa, kayo ang gumawa ng manual. Kaya malinaw na tinatanong natin dito ilang inquest proceedings ang naganap. Dahil maliban sa magpa-presscon, responsibilidad, duty ng PNP na idulog ito sa Department of Justice, City Prosecutor for the conduct of inquest proceeding. So, malinaw po, uulitin ko, doon sa halos 6,000 na libo na kaso—at sinabi ninyo rito, 314 personnel lang.

By the way, you mentioned mayroon pong limang kaso na police operations, may namatay na mga

indibidwal, mga suspects, at nagkaroon ng amicable settlement. So, ang pagkakaintindi ko nito, police operations ito, may nabari na mga suspetsado, hindi na umabot sa korte dahil na-settle ng pulis. Tama po ba iyon?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ive-verify po ng PNP iyong specific po na status noong limang iyon para maayos po ang ating pagsabi ng information doon po tungkol sa limang iyon.

REP. ZARATE. Pero malinaw po sa sinabi ninyo kanina, five amicable settlements.

REP. VARGAS. Opo.

REP. ZARATE. Tama po iyon.

REP. VARGAS. Nasa record po iyon.

REP. ZARATE. Hihingi po tayo ng report diyan.

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4228

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 4228.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The consideration of House Bill No. 4228 is hereby suspended.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ROLL CALL

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

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 18, dated September 13, 2019.**

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The roll call shows that 175 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). With 175 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 4157 ON THIRD READING

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 4157, otherwise known as the CITIRA Bill, and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on September 10, 2019, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. H.B. No. 4157, entitled: AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 4, 5, 20, 22, 27, 28, 34, 40, 50, 73, 112, 117, 204, 222, 237, 237-A, 255, 256, 257, 258, 261, 263, 264, 266, 275, 290, 291, 292 AND ADDING NEW SECTIONS 6-A, 282-A, 293, 294, 294-A, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, AND 316, ALL UNDER THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 18, dated September 13, 2019.*

REP. CASTRO, F.L. Mr. Speaker. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. We vote “No.” And we would like to explain our vote afterwards.

REP. BELMONTE. Abstain, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. My vote is “No,” Mr. Speaker. And I reserve my right to explain my vote later.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mr. Speaker, my vote is “No.” And I reserve my right to explain later.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, my vote is “No.” And I reserve my right to explain my vote later. Thank you.

REP. GAITE. Mr. Speaker, my vote is “No.” And I reserve my right to explain my vote later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, my vote is “No.” I will explain my negative vote at the proper time.

REP. ZARATE. Mr. Speaker, my vote is “No.” And I reserve my right to explain my vote later.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The result shows 170 affirmative votes, 8 negative votes, and 6 abstentions.

The Chair declares House Bill No. 4157, the Corporate Income Tax and Incentives Rationalization Act or CITIRA, as approved on Third Reading. (*Applause*)

EXPLANATION OF VOTES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Honorable Atienza has three minutes to explain his vote.

REP. ATIENZA EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you very much, Mr. Presiding Officer. Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

I voted “No,” an emphatic “No,” on this measure for several reasons; one, I believe that in every law that concerns taxation, we should be very prudent, we should be more careful. In fact, we are amending 53 provisions on taxation on different subject matters, which by itself exposes the whole process of passing this law, possibly, to corruption. Hindi natin alam kung ano iyong ating inamyendahan. I would challenge everybody on the floor. Do you know what we have just amended? Fifty-three provisions, can you give me ten, at least? You cannot. I do not think anyone could.

So, therefore, we have passed this law hastily and such law is open to corruption, which will make it more difficult for us eventually. The poor man’s struggle, depending on this Congress, to have a better life may be burdened eventually by the CITIRA. Ang tawag nga sa labas po nito, CITIRAdor, sapagkat hindi sila naniniwala na ito ay magbibigay ng biyaya sa kanila kundi dagdag na pahirap.

Pangalawa, ang ating Saligang Batas at ang ating mga batas ay malinaw. Any law should only have one

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

subject matter. But this law contains matters which pertain to Halal products, to franchise tax on horse racing, some issues on different matters. With one sweep, we have changed laws on taxation from this bill.

And, thirdly, ang sabi nila, ito raw batas na ito ay kailangan upang makapag-raise ng additional funds for our government. During the deliberations in this Chamber the other night, we asked the Department of Finance, why are you not implementing the rules and laws which will raise revenues for the country without punishing the ordinary citizen? We cited the Customs Modernization Act, we cited the Pre-shipment Inspection, which is the main reason for smuggling and smugglers to proliferate unabatedly in the country. They can even import shabu and prohibited drugs right at our piers, at the very eyes and noses of our Customs people. Kung gusto ninyo talaga tumaas ang koleksyon, ipainspeksyon natin lahat ng mga container vans, 12,000 of them are arriving in the country every day, they are not being inspected. Many of them are even allowed on the green lane by the corrupt syndicates in the Bureau of Customs.

Kaya, kung gusto ninyo itaas ang ating buwis, may paraan po. Pero, kung hindi ninyo gagawin ang dapat gawin, huwag tayong mag-apruba ng mga batas na ganito. Tiyak mahihirapan si Juan dela Cruz. Hindi ito CITIRA, ito po ay CITIRAdor. That is why I am voting with an emphatic “No” to this law.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Hon. Brosas, you have three minutes to explain.

REP. BROSAS EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, GABRIELA Women’s Party votes “No” to the second tranche of the Duterte administration’s TRAIN Package, now relabelled as CITIRA, as it is a patently pro-rich and International Monetary Fund-inspired regressive tax measure. Walang kongkreto at direktang benepisyo ito na maidudulot sa mga kababaihan at mamamayan.

Anu’t anuman ang itawag dito, kesyo TRABAHO Bill o CITIRA, hindi maitatanggi na kakabit ito ng TRAIN 1 na nagpatay ng dagdag na buwis sa mga batayang bilihin at serbisyo. Paniyak ang dagdag na koleksyon na piniga sa ordinaryong mamamayan gamit ang TRAIN 1 para punan ang malaking makakaltas sa corporate income tax sa ilalim ng TRAIN 2.

TRAIN 2 banks on the neoliberal premise that by reducing corporate taxes and simplifying the incentives program, more foreign investors would come to the country and provide jobs. It glosses over the basic reason why there is no sustained job generation in the country. Wala po tayong sariling batayang industriya. TRAIN 2 worsens this problem by further giving preferential

treatment to big, foreign businesses at the expense of micro and small enterprises who can barely compete in the economies of scale. Worse, TRAIN 2 allows the President to award land rights, water resources and grant power subsidies to ecozone locators supposedly as part of the incentives, taking away whatever is left for Filipinos. For these reasons, we vote “No” to House Bill No. 4157 or TRAIN 2 or CITIRA.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Hon. France L. Castro, you have three minutes to explain your vote.

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

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ang Kinatawag ito mula sa ACT TEACHERS Party-List ay bumoto po ng “No” sa mga sumusunod na kadahilanan:

Una po, mismong ang panukalang batas na ito ay umamin na magkakaroon ng malawakang tanggapan, pagtataas ng unemployment and underemployment. Sa katunayan, popondohan pa nga ng taxpayers ang structural adjustment fund na minimum na P21 billion para sa mga job losses and retraining. Hiwalay pa ito sa dagdag na pondo na ilalagay ng GAA sa ilalim ng DOLE at iba pang ahensya.

Pangalawa po, Mr. Speaker, malilibre ng bilyones ang mga higanteng korporasyon. Wala po tayong assurance na ang bill na ito ay magtatakda sa mga big businesses, lalong-lalo na sa mga foreign businesses, na i-reinvest ang bilyones na ito sa loob ng bansa o ibibigay sa kanilang mga manggagawa. Foregone tax incentives equate to additional profits for giant corporations na ilalabas nila sa kanilang bansa.

Pangatlo, Mr. Speaker, isang mahalagang punto, magbibigay ang CITIRA ng unli-power sa Pangulo na pababain pa ang mga buwis ng mga korporasyon, magkakaroon siya ng kapangyarihang magbigay ng additional tax breaks and longer income tax holidays to corporations bukod pa sa mga tax incentives, tax credits, etcetera na nakalista rito sa CITIRA. Kung ang pagpapababa ng tax ng ordinaryong indibidwal ay dumaan sa madugong proseso, magiging napakadali at napakabilis naman ang lowering ng mga taxes that should be paid by corporations. The President may even lay wide open our resources and public property for the exploitation of corporations sa ilalim ng Section 301(B).

Pang-apat, buburahin ang mga benepisyo sa larangan ng taxation na binibigay natin sa ilalim ng Magna Carta for Small Enterprises at Barangay Micro Business Enterprises Act. Mawawala ang mandatong suportahan ng gobyerno ang pagpapalaki at pagpaparami ng mga MSME sa pamamagitan ng tax

incentives, credits, at lower tax rates. Mas madaling iproseso ito, samantalang hindi level ang playing field sa pagitan ng MSME at mga higanteng korporasyon, lalo na ang mga dayuhang korporasyon.

At sa huli, Mr. Speaker, hindi maihihiwalay ang TRAIN 1 sa CITIRA dahil ang TRAIN 1 na naunang naipasa ay pambawi sa mga sisingilin sanang buwis na mawawala dito sa CITIRA.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Hon. Eufemia “Ka Femia” C. Cullamat, you have only three minutes to explain your vote.

REP. CULLAMAT EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. CULLAMAT. Maraming salamat, G. Ispeaker.

Magpapaliwanag po ako ng aking boto na “No” sa CITIRA, dahil kinukuha natin ang pera ng taumbayan sa pamamagitan ng labis na pagpatong ng indirect taxes na nagpapamahal ng presyo ng mga bilingin, habang binibigyan natin ng dambuhalang bonus ang mga korporasyon at malalaking negosyo sa pamamagitan ng malakihang kaltas at insentibo ng kanilang pagbubuwis.

Maling-mali, immoral at walang kahihyang paggamit ng batas upang yumuko sa malaking negosyante. Tahasang paglapastangan sa Konstitusyon, hindi natin kailangang pumabor sa ganitonog regressive na pagbubuwis. Hindi natin dapat piniga ang naghihirap na mamamayan upang makakalap ng pondo. Kinukuha natin dapat ito sa mga dambuhalang tubo ng malalaking negosyo. Hindi ko kailanman ibibigay ang aking “Oo,” kundi “No” ang aking boto.

Iyon lang po, maraming salamat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago, you have three minutes to explain your vote.

REP. ELAGO EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, KABATAAN Party-List votes “No” to House Bill No. 4157 or the Corporate Income Tax and Incentives Rationalization Act. This youth Representation strongly opposes CITIRA as the grossly pro-rich sequel to the grossly anti-poor and regressive TRAIN in line with the IMF and World Bank prescription of a broad-based tax reform for the following primary reasons:

First, the lowering of the corporate income tax to a uniform 20 percent up to year 2029 under CITIRA will disproportionately benefit foreign and local big corporations, which have already managed to reap huge profits under the current 30 percentage. A 10 percent tax cut, in the long run, on these multibillion peso enterprises combined, Mr. Speaker, is certainly hundred

times bigger than the 10 percent cut on revenues of our micro, small and medium enterprises.

Second, CITIRA also augments the President’s discretionary power. With the provision conferring the power to grant incentives to corporations under the vague parameters of ensuring national development, this widens the elbow room of the President in extracting bribes and corruption money from big businesses who could be lobbying for sweeter incentives.

Mr. Speaker, thus, we implore the administration’s economic managers to rethink these steps in tax reform. A higher tax rate of at least 35 percent on transnational and big local corporations while lowering the rate of genuine MSMEs, especially those in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors, could have been our way to a progressive taxation system.

To pass another anti-poor tax reform could be a great disservice to Filipinos. These are the Filipinos who are left with empty stomachs as the price of necessities remained skyrocketing at present. The aforementioned reasons and the duty to serve the people is why this Representation reiterates its “No” vote to House Bill No. 4157.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Hon. Ferdinand R. Gaite of BAYAN MUNA, you have three minutes to explain your vote.

REP. GAITE EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po. Ginoong Speaker, “No” ang boto ng Kinatawag ito sa House Bill No. 4157 o Corporate Income Tax and Incentives Rationalization Act o CITIRA, dahil hindi ito para sa kapakanan ng mamamayan. Hindi ito magdudulot ng pag-unlad ng ating bayan. Hindi maka-manggagawa at hindi maka-micro, small and medium scale enterprises ang House Bill No. 4157. Kahit pa sinasabing maaaring makalikha ito ng 1.4 milyon na trabaho, pero sabi mismo ng mga alyansa ng mga exporters, may 1.5 million naman ang mawawala. Patunay ang paglaan ng kalahating bilyong pisong structural adjustment fund bilang grants sa “displaced workers” sa panganib na dala ng CITIRA sa trabao at sa manggagawa.

Pangunahing mapapaburan ang malalaking lokal at dayuhang korporasyon sa pagbaba ng buwis sa korporasyon mula sa 30 percent tungo sa 20 percent. Matagal nang nagtatamasa ang malalaking korporasyong ito ng napakaraming mga incentive at benepisyo na hindi naman ibinibigay sa ating mga MSMEs. Mababa na nga ang effective tax rate sa malalaki at dambuhalang lokal at dayuhang korporasyon, lalo pa nitong pabababain sa ilalim ng CITIRA. Hindi ito sang-ayon sa konsepto ng progresibong pagbubuwis kung saan dapat buwisan ang mas may kakayanan, bawasan ang buwis o bigyan ng mga subsidyo ang maliliit o walang kakayanang kagaya ng mga MSMEs.

Ang MSMEs ang nakakaambag ng mas maraming trabaho at ang pagsuporta at pagpapalakas sa kanila ang makakatulong sa paglikha ng mas maraming trabaho at pagpapalakas ng ating lokal na ekonomiya.

Sa dakong huli, mamamayan ang higit na magdurusa sa ilalim ng CITIRA. Kagaya iyan ng naunang TRAIN Law, dagdag itong pasakit at pabigat sa manggagawa at mamamayang naghihirap, kaya't dapat lamang itong tutulan at ibasura.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Hon. Edcel C. Lagman of the First District of Albay, you have three minutes to explain your vote.

REP. LAGMAN EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I vote “No” to the CITIRA Bill for the following overriding reasons:

One, the CITIRA Bill is a classic example of how skewed the Philippine tax system is against the poor. On December 19, 2017, the TRAIN Act was approved into law which imposed the ultimate burden of cascading excise taxes on petroleum products and sweetened foodstuff on consumers, the great majority of whom are poor, disadvantaged and marginalized. The TRAIN Act even imposed new excise taxes on LPG and kerosene of which the poor are the primary consumers. In fact, the TRAIN Act contributed to the high inflation rates last year. Verily, CITIRA favors artificial beings owned by the rich, while the TRAIN Law burdens human beings, principally the poor.

In contrast to the TRAIN Act, the CITIRA Bill seeks to liberate all corporations from the current corporate income tax of 30 percent to only 20 percent in a period of 10 years. No less than the sponsoring committee admitted that the government is going to forfeit a trillion pesos in 10 years in foregone revenues.

The sponsoring committee also admitted that due to corruption, tax evasion, tax avoidance and tax incentives, the effective corporate income tax rate is much lower than the current 30 percent. The reduction of the CIT rate will further exacerbate the effective tax rate. To deodorize CITIRA's unequitable partiality to the rich, it is propagandized that CITIRA would purportedly generate employment and attract investments. These are overstated and even contrived.

The CITIRA Bill is a replica of House Bill No. 8083 in the 17th Congress whose moniker was the TRABAHO Bill. This “Trabaho” brand was abandoned by the current House Bill No. 4157 which is labeled as CITIRA. This is an indirect admission that CITIRA will not generate employment. Even the Explanatory Note to CITIRA does not mention the generation of jobs. The Committee's suggestion that the savings that corporations will obtain due to the

reduction of their income tax rate will be channeled to recruitment and employment of more workers is, at most, speculative. The rate of CIT is not one of the major factors which attracts or discourages investment. The sponsoring committee admitted ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Please wind up.

REP. LAGMAN. ... that tax regime ranks only number six after the prime factors of ease of doing business, adequacy of infrastructure, policy predictability, cost of power, and internet speed.

With respect to the “ease of doing business”, the Philippines ranked 124th amongout of the 190 countries, according to the World Bank annual ratings. It is significant to note that many countries in the top 15 countries globally, receiving foreign direct investment inflows, have corporate income tax similar to the Philippines at 30 percent or even higher.

Incidentally, ING Bank senior economist Nicholas Mapa, said that “the latest number on foreign investment pledges may point to continued confidence in the prospects of the Philippine economy, with or without implementation of CITIRA.” On the other hand, it must be noted that foreign direct investment inflows dropped 48.5 percent in June due to factors which CITIRA is irrelevant.

The second part of the CITIRA Bill on rationalization ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Gentleman from Albay, your time is ...

REP. LAGMAN. ... of fiscal incentive—we will just wind up, Mr. Speaker—even reduced employment or trigger capital flight. Moreover, with the provisions on numerous exceptions to the reduction or removal of incentives, it is possible that at the end of the day, more fiscal incentives may be in place, so much so that more revenues may be lost.

Finally, the Bill is constitutionally infirm because it covers two subject matters.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The Honorable Zarate is recognized.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). You have three minutes to explain your vote.

REP. ZARATE EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ZARATE. Bumoboto po ng “No” ang Kinatawang ito ng BAYAN MUNA sa TRAIN Package

2 o iyong tinatawag na CITIRA, dahil naniniwala tayo na hindi para sa interes ng mamamayang Pilipino ang pagpapababa ng corporate income tax mula 30 percent papuntang 20 percent.

Una sa lahat, hindi natin nakikita na hiwalay ang CITIRA o ang TRAIN 2 na ito sa TRAIN 1 at sa kabuuang pakete ng TRAIN Law. Isang pakete ito. Hindi maitatanggi na ang TRAIN 1 na binubuwisan ang mga mahihirap at binababaa ang buwis ng mga mayayaman. Ang mga mahihirap na dati nang hindi nagbabayad ng personal income tax dahil sa sobrang liit ng kanilang kinikita sa TRAIN 1, ang tanging natatanggap nila ay mas mataas na buwis at mas mataas na presyo ng mga bilihan. Tumaas hanggang 6.7 percent sa katunayan ang inflation noong September at October 2018. Hindi maitatanggi ng ating pamahalaang ito na ang TRAIN 1 ang may kasalanan kung bakit lumobo ng ganito ang inflation at tumaas ang presyo ng mga bilihan noong nakaraang taon. Idinadahilan, Mr. Speaker, ng mga economic managers na kaya tumaas ang ating inflation noong nakaraang taon ay dahil daw sa pagtaas ng presyo ng langis sa pandaigdigang merkado. Kung magkagayon, bakit pa natin tinaasan imbis na pababain ang buwis ng ating langis? Hindi tayo dapat matuwa na mababa ang inflation rate nitong August 2019 dahil ang inflation rate ay tantos ng pagtaas ng presyo ng mga bilihan. Kahit na, sa totoo, bumaba ito ngayon, pero noong nakaraang taon nang ipinasa ang TRAIN 1, tumaas naman ng napakataas ang mga bilihan at hanggang sa ngayon ay hindi ito bumababa. Ang sabi nga nila, this is now the new normal. The new normal is high.

Pero ito tayo ngayon, pabababain natin ang Corporate Income Tax, ibababa sa 20 percent na ang makikinabang ay ang mga malalaking kumpanya. Ang Department of Finance mismo ay umaamin na sa bawat 1 percent na ibinaba sa Corporate Income Tax, P26 billion ang mawawala sa kaban ng bayan. Sinasabi na magiging revenue neutral ito, pero ang projection ng revenue neutral ay nakasalalay at nakabase sa assumption na ire-reinvest ng mga kompanya ang kanilang natitipid dito sa Pilipinas.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Gonzales, A. relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva.

Batay po sa Global Competitiveness Report, Mr. Speaker, burukrasya, kulang-kulang na imprastruktura, korapsyon at tax regulation ang pinakaproblema ng mga kumpanya kung bakit ayaw nilang mag-invest sa Pilipinas. Hindi pa dahil mataas ang tax rate na inaangal nila. Sa katunayan, ang sabi ng DOF ay nasa 6 to 13 percent lamang ang effective income tax rate ng mga malalaking kumpanya. Kumbaga, ngayon mismo hindi na sila umaabot sa 20 percent income tax rate pero heto pa rin tayo ngayon gusto nating pababain ito at ipinasa natin ang panukalang batas na ito.

Dagdag pa rito, ayon sa PSA, 75 percent ng mga nagbabayad ng corporate income tax ay ang mga large companies. Dito pa lamang ay kitang-kita na kung para kanino ang TRAIN 2 o ang CITIRA. Para ito sa mga malalaking kumpanya na sa kasalukuyan ay hindi na nga nagbabayad ng 30 percent income tax.

Mr. Speaker, sumasang-ayon ang Kinatawang ito na dapat i-rationalize ang pagbibigay ng mga insentibo sa mga kumpanya. Dapat ang mga insentibong ito na ibinibigay natin ay naka-orient sa pagsulong ng ating pambansang industriyalisasyon na tunay na magpapaunlad sa ating ekonomiya.

Dapat ang tinutulungan natin ay ang ating mga Small and Medium-sized Enterprises lalo na ang mga lokal na siyang gumagawa ng 62.9 percent ng trabaho sa ating bansa.

Ang mga SMEs na nagbabayad ng buong 30 percent income tax ay walang insentibong natatanggap pero sila itong nagbibigay ng 56.2 percent ng mga trabaho sa ating bansa.

Ang suhestiyon ng Kinatawang ito sa katunayan ay dapat magkaroon tayo ng two-tier tax system na kung saan binubuwisan ng 35 percent, mas maganda pa nga dahil mas mataas pa ang mga large companies at 25 percent sa mga MSMEs.

Ang katuwiran kung bakit daw ayaw ng DOF at ng economic managers ang two-tier tax system ay mahirap daw sumingil ng tax. Pero, Mr. Speaker, ito ay usapin ng inefficiency ng Executive sa pagpapatupad ng batas.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). May I remind...

REP. ZARATE. At bilang panghuli, sabi ng ating Konstitusyon, ang dapat nating ginagawang tax system ay progresibo pero nakikita ng Kinatawang ito na ang CITIRA at ang buong pakete ng TRAIN Law ay isang regressive tax system, dahil pinapababa natin ang buwis ng mga mayayaman, samantalang binubuwisan natin ng todo ang mga mahihirap.

Ito ang dahilan, G. Ispeaker, kung bakit dumadagundong na "No" ang boto ng Kinatawang ito.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). Anyway, I was supposed to remind the distinguished Representative of BAYAN MUNA that the time has already expired.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4157 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). With 170 affirmative votes, 8 negative votes and 6 abstentions, House Bill No. 4157 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we direct the Secretary General to transmit immediately House Bill No. 4157, otherwise known as the CITIRA Bill. Transmit it directly, immediately to the Senate.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. The Secretary General is directed to read the title of the measure.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4228

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 4228, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) There Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4228, entitled: AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the period of interpellations and debate on the proposed budget of the Department of the DILG and recognize the honorable Vice-Chairman Alfred Vargas to sponsor the said measure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). The honorable Congressman Vargas is hereby recognized.

REP. VARGAS. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This Representation is ready to answer once again the questions from both the Minority and the Majority regarding the budget of the DILG.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). The Majority Leader is recognized..

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). Okay. Honorable Zarate is hereby recognized.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will now be winding up my interpellation, which I started earlier, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, gusto ko lang ibalik iyong napag-usapan natin kanina.

Inamin ninyo na mayroon ngang official statistics ngayon na 5,793 persons killed or suspects killed during anti-illegal drug operations. And, nabanggit ko rin kanina, at inaamin naman ninyo na kabahagi ito ng Police Operations Manual, na sa bawat kaso ng bawat operation na mayroong namatay na suspetsado ay kailangang magkaroon ng inquest proceedings. But as per your record, from 2016 up to 2019, halos 353 lang ang nasampahan ng criminal cases. Sabi ninyo 150 ang nasa prosecutors' level at 103 ang nasa korte, and 14 cases are under investigation and there are 5 cases na amicably settled.

So, iyon iyong huling puntong naiwanan natin kanina, iyong limang kaso na na-settle, and you were saying that you will be giving the particularities of these 5 cases, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

Ano po iyong limang kaso? Dahil kanina sinabi po ninyo na ibibigay ninyo ang details nitong limang kasong sinettle ng PNP.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, if I may be allowed, to consult with the—we just want to check on the record.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). Yes, go ahead.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, may I be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). Representative Vargas is hereby recognized.

REP. VARGAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you for the time given to me to check on the details.

A while ago, I mentioned the PNP personnel involved in various cases. This data, apparently, is from July 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017. This refers to the amicable settlements with a number of five but according to PNP, for 2019, in drug-related cases, zero po iyong amicable settlement.

REP. ZARATE. Well, thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, but I did inquire about the details of the 5 cases that you settled. Kung wala sa 2019, so be it.

But you mentioned that there are 5 cases that you settled. Kung wala sa 2019, so be it, but you mentioned that there are 5 cases there were settled, kaya iyon ho ang itinatanong ko. Anong detalye noon?

REP. VARGAS. These five are not drug-related cases, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. So, not drug-related cases. Because earlier, I was focusing on the drug-related statistics. Napapansin ko lang na nagmi-mix-up iyung inyong mga statistics. If you cannot even come up with exact figures, you know, correct statistics on the issues that we are raising here, parang your real numbers are really suspicious. In fact, non-believable and I am now entertaining an idea that you are trying to cover up all these things because your numbers are not credible. Pero, siges na lang, if you have the details, kasi paiba-iba iyong mga numbers ninyo at paiba-iba ang sagot. Iyon na lang.

To wind up, can you give me an exact number, how many PNP members were involved in the police operations that led to the killing of these 5,775 individuals that have been criminally charged in courts, if there are any? It that 103, since 2016, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, honorable Gentleman, medyo maingat po tayo diyan, but the PNP has committed na mabibigyan po kayo ng mga numero doon po sa na-involved sa irregularity on the conduct of police operations. We are very careful dahil we follow the due process at hanggat hindi po dumadaan sa due process ang isa pong mamamayan ay hindi po natin puwede kaagad basta-basta lang ilagay sa numero.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. Kaya nga po nililina natin dito. tama po, sundin natin iyong due process. Kaya, in fact, ang sariling manual ng PNP na sinasabi nga na magkaroon dapat ng inquest proceeding, kapag mayroong namatay, obligasyon, duty ng team leader na—so, kung hindi ginawa iyan, ang ibig sabihin ay mayroong pananagutan iyong team leader na iyan. At, kung may pananagutan siya, hindi lang administratibo ito, kriminal na pananagutan ito. Kaya, iyon ho ang itinatanong ko, from 2016 up to now, dahil sinabi ninyo kanina na napakaliit po ng numero na sinabi ninyong nasa korte ngayon. So, iyon po ang gusto nating mailinaw dito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

Now, if you can give me a detailed report on that, we will appreciate so that I can move on to my next question.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, po, Mr. Speaker, honorable Congressman, the PNP agrees with you in terms of following the rules at kung ano po ba ang tamang procedures. And, the PNP will submit a complete report to your satisfaction, honorable Congressman.

REP. ZARATE. Well, we expect that. Dahil sa nakaraang tatlong taon, halos 6,000, official na statistics pa lamang ng PNP ang namatay at magkakapareha ang sagot ng mga pulis diyan, na “nanlaban”, kaya kailangang imbestigahan iyan. Mga 6,000 na namatay na mga Pilipino at hindi puwedeng sabihin natin na statistics na lang sila habang sinasabi sa manual ng PNP na kailangang maimbestigahan ito.

Now, I am moving on to my last two questions. So, I am now going to a particular case. This is not related to drugs. Ito ay tungkol doon po sa kaso ng Oplan Sauron sa Negros. Nagbigay naman ng report ang PNP Region VII, at dito sa report nila, nabilang ko rin na may almost 21 deaths in police operations sa magkasunod na Sauron 1 and Sauron 2.

Ang tanong ko, mayroon bang ginawang inquest proceedings dito sa 21 deaths, more or less, na mga namatay na suspects sa pag-serve nila ng warrant dito sa Oplan Sauron 1 and 2? Ang nakalagay dito sa report nila, may isinampang kaso sa suspects na nahuli nila, pero sa mga namatay, as mandated by your own manual, mayroon bang ongoing investigation sa mga pulis na na-involved sa pagpatay noong 21 suspects, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, honorable Congressman, to answer your question directly, the answer is no because the fiscal declined dahil malayo po ang lugar at hindi siya available that time. Minsan po isa lang ang fiscal.

REP. ZARATE. Pero mayroong mga nahuling suspects na dinala sa fiscal for inquest? Paano ang suspects na sa pag-balik nila saka nahuli dahil daw may mga baril kaya dinala sa piskalya. Pero sa mga pulis na involved sa pagkamatay ng suspects, hindi puwedeng ma-inquest. Paanong nagkaganoon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, honorable Congressman, nakapasok po within the 36-hour period requirement kaya ganoon ang nangyari. Pero pagdating sa police station, hindi na po umabot at iyong piskal mismo ang tumanggi.

REP. ZARATE. At any rate, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, malinaw na mayroong hindi pagsunod at paglabag sa manual mismo ng PNP. In fact, sinabi mismo sa manual ng PNP na kung walang available

na inquest prosecutor, dapat ang magco-conduct ng imbestigasyon ay ang local PNP. Sa Oplan Sauron 1 and Sauron 2, ang mga operatiba nito ay galing sa Cebu, kaya kung walang available inquest prosecutor, dapat ay nag-submit or mayroong ginawang imbestigasyon ang pulis kung bakit namatay ang suspek. Ang sabi sa manual, bago galawin ang bangkay ng namatay na suspek, kailangang hintayin ang investigator, whether there is inquest investigator or ang pulis. At any rate, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, malinaw na may nilalabag sa sariling manual ang PNP sa kanilang ginagawang mga operasyon.

Papunta na po ako doon sa aking huling katanungan. Ito naman ay update na lang. Dahil nag-commit kayo noong budget briefing, ano na po ang update sa investigation sa pagkamatay or ang pagpatay kay Councilor Bobby Jalandoni, na pinasok sa kanyang bahay ng mga armadong salarin?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, honorable Gentleman, ongoing po ang investigation.

REP. ZARATE. Ongoing. Can you share some updates kung ano ang ginawa ninyo while there is an ongoing investigation; mayroon na ba kayong leads? Malinaw po doon sa CCTV, nakasakay sila sa van. Na-identify na ba ninyo ang mga plaka ng mga van; kanino ito nakarehistro, et cetera, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, honorable Gentleman, ang development po sa kasong ito ay nakakuha na ng CCTV footage at na-refer na sa Anti-Cybercrime Group for exploitation.

REP. ZARATE. Sige po, maraming salamat, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, sa inyong paglilinaw sa mga katanungan natin. Ang gusto po nating puntuhin dito, marami pong namatay sa kampanya laban sa droga. Halos 6,000 iyan on police operations. Hindi pa natin sinasama dito iyong sinasabi ninyong death under investigation or homicide under investigation in relation to drugs. Kaya mahalaga po na kayo mismo mayroong manual. Humihingi kayo ng budget sa Kongreso and try to justify it, pero hindi po puwedeng mag-report lang kayo na 6,000 ang namatay. Kailangan gawin din ninyo ang inyong trabaho, especially ang mga internal mechanism ng PNP na dapat imbestigahan. Napakarami na ng namatay at alam po ninyo iyan nung magsimula ang sunud-sunod na pagpatay during the anti-drugs campaign. Iyon po ang gusto nating puntuhin dito. Habang parami nang parami ang namamatay sa kampanyang ito, ang accountability naman ng ating kapulisan ay hindi po natin parang tinitingnan. In fact, parang pinagtatakpan pa. Kung titingnan natin ang istatistika, ilan lang ang na-charged at naimbestigahan.

Muli po, maraming salamat, G. Isponsor. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, sa pagkakataong makapag-interpellate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr. for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). Congressman Lito Atienza is hereby recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Majority Leader. With the kind indulgence of my colleague, the Sponsor of the measure, we would like to propound a few questions.

REP. VARGAS. I would gladly answer the questions of the Gentleman.

REP. ATIENZA. To start with, magkano po ba ang total budget na inilalaan natin para sa DILG?

REP. VARGAS. For the DILG in 2020, it is P236,224,917,000, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. In your opinion, is this budget sufficient to cover the many functions of this Department?

REP. VARGAS. In my opinion, the budget remains small compared to its mandate. The DILG is tasked with so many things, and I think we could use a little more budget for 2020.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, we have been going through the report of the Department and their present status. One of their big needs actually is the support for their mobility and capability. Kulang sila sa sasakyan. Tama po ba ito?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Yes, and I will agree to that. Kapag walang sasakyan ang pulis, kulang ang kanilang kakayahan; kapag kulang ang baril, kulang ang kanilang kakayahan; at kapag wala silang gasolina, kulang ang kanilang kakayahan. Kaya iyong kanilang mobility requirement, which is about 38,000 vehicles, hindi po dadagdagan. Ito ay kulang at hindi kumpleto ang kanilang matatawag na kakayahan na magresponde ng tama.

Sa panahon natin ngayon, they need to be fully equipped. First, with ammunition, with guns, and of

course, vehicles to use. Otherwise, hindi sila talaga makakapagtrabaho ng tama.

Noong nakaraang administrasyon, meron pong binilang na 2,000 sasakyan ang gobyerno. Iyon ba ay naaalala ng ating G. Isponsor, ang mga Mahindra vehicles?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, ito po iyong mga ibinigay sa police stations. Tama po ba? Ito po iyong parang patrol vehicles na Mahindra ang brand. Opo, naaalala ko po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Opo. Hindi natin malilimutan iyon sapagkat pinag-usapan natin dito iyon, and the Gentleman and yours truly were Members of the Seventeenth Congress.

May I ask for clarification. What happened to the Mahindra vehicles which were supposed to be for the PNP? Nagagamit po ba iyon o naka-boundary na before they were even used.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, nagagamit pa po ang Mahindra units and most are still serviceable. Pero according to the PNP, medyo meron po talaga doon na mahina ang pagtakbo.

REP. ATIENZA. Mahina ang takbo. Meron po bang nanagot doon sa pagbili ng mga behikulong iyon na hindi nagagamit nang ayon sa pangangailangan? Meron ba tayong napanagot, lalong-lalo na sa DILG, sapagkat sila ang nag-decide na bumili nitong mga behikulong ito?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ayon po sa COA report na lumabas, tungkol sa procurement, wala naman pong naging problema, nag-comply naman po. Ang naging problema lang po, later on, mahina lang talaga ang takbo o performance ng vehicle.

REP. ATIENZA. According to reports, not necessarily coming from the PNP, but reports from informed and intelligent quarters, the vehicles are not in running condition on a 100 percent level because they are not properly equipped. These were manufactured by a company that does not have ready spare parts all the time. So dapat may nanagot diyan. Papaano tayo maglalaan nang anumang karagdagang sasakyan kung wala namang nananagot pala sa mga desisyong hindi tugma sa pangangailangan, with questionable intention, and definitely deplorable results.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, we will leave it up to the COA kung papano po ipo-proseso ito at para malaman ang puno't dulo nito.

REP. ATIENZA. We will take note of this. We

are putting it on record that we are questioning that particular purchase and those who decided to buy these particular vehicles, when there are so many brands which are very efficient and probably even cheaper, na dapat pinakikinabangan ng ating kapulisan.

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

REP. ATIENZA. Kung wala pong mananagot diyan, iyang ganyang klaseng gawain ay paulit-ulit na mangyayari sa paggastos ng salapi na nakalaan sa ating kapulisan.

REP. VARGAS. That is correct, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. That is why lahat po nang pino-procure sa ngayon, lalo na pagdating sa motor vehicles, iyon na pong mas reliable at mas maaasahan, specifically for the purpose.

REP. ATIENZA. Kaawa-awa naman po ang ating mga pulis kung bibigyan sila ng mobile unit, una magbe-breakdown nang madalas; at pangalawa, walang spare parts na nakalaan para palitan agad. Iyan po ang kalagayan ng ating kapulisan sa kasalukuyan. We would like to hear the reaction of the leadership of the PNP if they are contented, happy and satisfied with the performance or non-performance of these vehicles.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the PNP expresses their dissatisfaction.

REP. ATIENZA. May we get an official position from the PNP leadership, not necessarily now, but we would like to receive an official assurance that that particular brand was well-selected by the leadership then; the administration then, and the police officials who recommended it. I am sure the recommendation came from the leadership of the PNP then.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. It is not the present leadership now. But wherever they are, they should be made to answer, including the leadership of the DILG then, because they are the ones who are responsible for decisions which are not serving the purpose of common good and efficient police work.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the Secretary of the DILG accedes to your request for a position letter.

REP. ATIENZA. May I proceed to another matter, is jail management still under the PNP? Am I correct to assume this?

REP. VARGAS. Sorry?

REP. ATIENZA. Is the management of local jails still under the management and direct supervision of the PNP or the DILG?

REP. VARGAS. That is correct, the BJMP, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. May I ask the Gentleman, therefore, how many or how much are we allocating for the management of the jails in the local government units of the Philippines, and what to their opinion, is needed to make that more efficient, para hindi po sila magaya sa takbo ng BuCor sa kasalukuyan?

REP. VARGAS. For the BJMP in 2020, we are allocating P18,596,158,000, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Magkano po ang nakalaan para sa city jail ng Maynila?

REP. VARGAS. If I may be given the time to check the details, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, following the computation that we have here just now, it is P164,432,000.

REP. ATIENZA. One hundred sixty-four million for an institution...

REP. VARGAS. For the whole year.

REP. ATIENZA. ... that is taking care of around 4,000 inmates at any time. For an institution, that is overcrowded and barely having human standards prevailing in the premises. Sa kalagayan po ng ating mga detainees sa Maynila, sa Quezon City, palagay ko maski na sa Davao ay mayroon pong mga pagkukulang. Has the leadership of the DILG taken note of this so that remedial measure on this continuing violation of the rights of citizens for human standards can be imposed to prevail in our detention centers? Mayroon po ba tayong maaaring maipagmalaki ngayon na ginagawa ng leadership ng DILG on this matter?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, right now, if you are asking about the efforts, one avenue that the DILG, or the BJMP to be exact, is going to have is partnership with LGUs and a strong relationship with the local chief executive to be able to address such.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, bago tayo humantong sa good behavior anomalous decision, marahil aming

ipapanukala sa leadership ng DILG na review-hin po nila ang kalagayan ng mga city jail. We would hope and observe if after these deliberations, in the oversight work of Congress, we would like to see improvements in the condition of city jails all over the country. Ayaw natin na ang ating mga kababayang nagkamali ay kung minsan ay nabubulok na sa city jail. Marami sa kanila ay lumagpas na ang kanilang pananatili sa city jail subalit nakakulong pa rin sila. Bakit? Sapagkat mahina sila, wala silang pwera at marahil wala rin silang salapi na pambayad sa magagaling na abogado.

I would believe that the management of city jail—the BJMP in particular, and the DILG in general, should take a look at this condition and, once and for all, lighten the load of each city jail so that corruption does not take over. Iyong mga puwede nang i-release sapagkat sila naman ay minor offenders ay pakawalan na. Kung sila naman ay major offenders at sila ay may mga kasong mabibigat, maaari na siguro irekomenda natin sa BuCor na doon na sila ikulong sa Muntinlupa at hindi sa city jail na nakikipagsiksikan pa sila.

Iyang city jail ng Maynila ay binuo po iyan for 900 inmates. Mayroon pong human standards na ginamit noong binuo iyan, pero ngayon, dahil sa libo-libo na sila diyan, hindi na nga natutulog iyong ibang mga inmates diyan. Nakatayo na lamang sila sa gabi at nag-iisip ng kapilyuhan. Huwag namang mangyari na magkaroon na naman ng riots diyan dahil sa pagkukulang ng gobyerno. Let this hearing be one of those recorded data that we are reporting to the Department about what they should look into. Relieve the city jails of unnecessary burden kung hindi rin lamang naman tama na ang kanilang pananatili, sapagkat iyong kanilang kaso ay hindi lang naaasikaso and I have helped some of them get their freedom because they have a right to also fight for their right to be free if they have already overserved the possible sentence that they should get at hindi iyong pabigat na lamang sila roon at basta huwag lamang gagawin iyong ginawa sa BuCor na iyong major criminals ang siyang nakakakuha ng release privileges, ay maaari po nating pagkaisahan iyan.

We are filing a bill along that line that we should take a look at the condition of the city jails and let this be already a reminder to the leadership. I am sure that the BJMP leadership is around, who is listening to what we are saying. Let him make a total inventory of the pictures inside the city jails today; otherwise, this budget will not help. It will only aggravate matters.

Puwede po ba natin mahiling iyon sa pagkakataong ito?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Iyon po bang firefighting—Fire Department ay sa ilalim din ng DILG hanggang sa kasalukuyan?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Opo.

REP. ATIENZA. Sila po ang namamahala? Ilan po bang truck mayroon? Gagamit lang ako ng example—ang ating Fire Department sa lungsod ng Maynila, truck na pinatatakbo at sinusustentuhan ng ating pinagsamang firefighting effort.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, let me check the details.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, we request for a one-minute break to give the Gentleman more time to review his figures because I am about to ask specific questions.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of the proposed budget of the Department of the Interior and Local Government and its attached agencies.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

MINDANAO DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we consider the proposed budget of the Mindanao Development Authority.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the officials of the Mindanao Development Authority, who are present this afternoon. We have Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol, Chairperson of MinDA, and Executive Director Janet Lopez, as well as other officials of the Mindanao Development Authority.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Sergio C. Dagooc.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). All the guests being mentioned by Hon. Jesus Romualdo of Camiguin are hereby recognized.

Congressman Dagooc is hereby recognized.

REP. DAGOOC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Inasmuch as on the part of Mindanao Development Authority there is no member of the Minority who wishes to interpellate, nor from the Majority, I hereby move, Mr. Speaker, to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Mindanao Development Authority.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, the Majority joins the Minority in moving for the termination of the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Mindanao Development Authority.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). There is a joint motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Mindanao Development Authority. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROMUALDO. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, we move for the suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). The session is suspended for one minute.

It was 4:30 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:33 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Continuation

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of the proposed budget of the Department of the Interior and Local Government including its attached agencies, and for this purpose, I move that Rep. Alfred Vargas be recognized to continue his sponsorship of the proposed budget, and that Rep. Jose “Lito” L. Atienza Jr. be recognized to also continue his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villanueva, E.). Both the distinguished Gentlemen, Honorable Vargas and Honorable Atienza, are hereby recognized.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am ready to answer questions.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am being requested not to continue asking questions. I cannot do that. I follow the Confucian Principle of Wisdom, from which Confucius said, “The man who asks a question is a fool for a minute, the man who does not ask is a fool for life.” Kaya, pasensiya na po sana sa kaibigan ko kung itinatanong ko ang mga bagay na ito sapagkat kailangan natin ito for efficient public service, and the DILG is one of the major departments that we are dependent on for effective police, firefighting, and detention services. Eh, ito pong mga katanungan ng inyong lingkod ay kailangang liwanagin natin sapagkat mayroon po kaming mga batas na itutulak at pagbabasehan natin dito sa ating pinag-uusapan na ito. Wala po naman ito, we are not referring to anyone for a particular shortcoming. What we are asking for are official data coming from the Department; otherwise, kailan po sila babalik dito? Next year, another budget, when nothing has been done to address the growing problem? Kaya ang tanong ko po, ilan ang fire trucks ng DILG? Isa na lang, because kung ano ang nangyayari sa Maynila—I can imagine what is going on in the other LGUs. Sa Maynila, ilang truck ang mine-maintain ng DILG?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, to answer your question, the DILG has 2,348 fire trucks.

REP. ATIENZA. I am talking about Manila, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VARGAS. In Manila, Manila has a total of 24 fire trucks.

REP. ATIENZA. Iyon po ay mga private Bantay Sunog. Ang sinasabi ko po ay iyong mine-maintain ng DILG, iyong binili ng DILG, iyong sinusustinehan ng pera ng bayan, ilan? Kung wala po, sabihin na lang nating wala. Ako na ang mag-i-sponsor, bumili tayo ng truck, dahil hindi puwedeng tayo ay nakasalalay na lang sa Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

Alisin po ninyo ang mga private firefighters, wala na pong capability ang gobyerno sa pagsugpo ng sunog. Pasalamat tayo sa mga fire volunteers, sapagkat sila ang tunay na nangangalaga sa ating kaligtasan. Ilan po ba, for the record?

REP. VARGAS. For the record, ...

REP. ATIENZA. Lima, anim?

REP. VARGAS. ...Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, out

of the 24, walo po doon ay galing sa LGU, pero iyong mine-maintain po ng BFP are 16—16 fire trucks po under BFP.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, right now, the condition of our fire stations here is so deplorable—the site and picture of a decrepit institution. Kapag hindi po natin binago ito, at hindi natin bigyan ng truck ang mga bumbero, mabuti pa ho siguro i-privatize na lang natin ang firefighting, baka mas magandang serbisyo ang maibigay natin.

So, therefore, we have eight government-purchased and government-maintained fire trucks, tama?

REP. VARGAS. And 16 from the—...

REP. ATIENZA. Sixteen?

REP. VARGAS. ...sixteen from BFP, for a total of 24.

REP. ATIENZA. The Gentleman said 16, and we are taking...

REP. VARGAS. Sixteen.

REP. ATIENZA. Sixteen?

REP. VARGAS. Sixteen from...

REP. ATIENZA. We are taking his word for this, but we will definitely research on that, because my information is that we have less than 10 government fire trucks and the rest are all private, and that should not be allowed to continue.

Iyong ating mga fire stations, many of them are already part of history and the character of the former firefighters who have risked their lives should be remodeled properly and you need money for that; and I do not see anything in this budget that will improve the condition of our fire stations. If that is happening in Manila, that could be happening all over the country.

We should not be talking about pesos and centavos alone. We should be talking about the effectivity of the use of public funds. Firefighting is a major function of the DILG. We cannot just consider budgets every year without checking them whether they are even giving any importance to vital functions and what they are expected to deliver.

There is nothing personal between the Gentleman and yours truly. I respect him because—he may be hard-working, but he also has to be very, very careful about the data that he is saying tonight, because all of these will be under questioning eventually.

Ang pulis po ba ay nangangalaga rin sa mga ibang functions katulad ng enforcement of the Ecological

Solid Waste Management Act and the Clean Water Act? Kasali po ba sila roon o wala silang kinalaman doon?

REP. VARGAS. It is, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. It is one of the thrusts of the DILG to promote environmental protection, as well as the LGU's preparedness and resilience. So, mayroon pong ganoong component, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Yes. I read their report and they mentioned emphatically that they are succeeding. Matagumpay ang kanilang pagharap sa problema ng solid waste management.

Iyong RA 9003 ay nagbibigay po ng kapangyarihan sa DILG na sugpuin ang iligal na pagtapon ng basura. Iyong maintenance of open dumps should have been stopped about 15 years ago, but they continue to be practiced. Ito po ay nangyayari sa ating kapuluan at ang inaasahan natin, baka naman hindi nagagawa ang trabaho ay gagawa tayo ng remedial measure on who should be enforcing the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and the Clean Water Act.

Binasa ko po ang report nila, sila raw ay tumutulong sa paglilinis ng tubig. Tama po ba iyon?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, tulad po ng, halimbawa, Manila Bay clean-up, ang DILG ay napakalaki po ng ginagawa para diyan.

REP. ATIENZA. Mayroon po ba silang kinalaman sa enforcement ng Clean Water Act?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Mayroon. Mayroon po ba silang partisipasyon sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mayroon po ba silang hinuling mga establisimyento na lumalabag sa Clean Water Act?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, mayroon na po tayong mga pinadalhan ng DILG ng cease-and-desist order para po doon sa mga lumabag.

REP. ATIENZA. For clarity's sake, the report includes accomplishments in enforcing the Clean Water Act, and right now, I am asking that. Are they enforcing this in their effort to clean the waters of Manila Bay?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Mayo po ba silang mga ipinasarang mga establisimyento na walang wastewater treatment facility?

REP. VARGAS. Mayroon na po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Ang dalawang pinakamalaking korporasyon na may pananagutan sa lason na mayroon tayo sa Manila Bay ay Manila Water and Maynilad Water. It is not Aristocrat. It is not Manila Hotel. It is not the residences of Metro Manila. These two giant corporations are the two guilty parties committing a criminal act of not delivering their part of their contract for exclusive distribution rights of water for our people in Metro Manila. Pero hanggang ngayon, iyong bahaging iyon ng kontrata ay hindi tinutupad ng dalawang korporasyong ito. Sumisingil sila sa inyo, sa akin, sa ating mga pulis, at sa ating lahat na mga mamamayan na nakatira dito sa bahaging ito sa pangakong magbibigay sila ng wastewater treatment facility kapalit ng kontrata ng paniningil sa taumbayan. Patuloy ang paniningil pero wala po iyong wastewater treatment facilities.

I ask, therefore, the DILG to take a role because you concern yourself with these two main issues. See to it that the wastewater treatment facilities are provided by the biggest guilty parties. These are the Manila Water Company, Inc. and the Maynilad Water Services, Inc. Mayayaman po iyan, malalaking korporasyon iyan, mga higante iyan sa ekonomiya ng ating bansa, subalit hindi sila dapat exempted sa pagpapatupad ng ating batas, lalo na at mayroon nang desisyon ang Korte Suprema.

Noong una, iyong continuing mandamus, iyon po ay order ng Korte Suprema. Tuparin ninyo ang paglilinis ng tubig sa Manila Bay. Ibalik ninyo iyong dating anyo ng tubig-dagat. Wala pong tumutupad diyan. I saw their figures but I dare say, it will come to nothing. Why? Because the two guilty parties which pour sewage everyday—iyong sewage natin, ng ating mga tahanan, ang poso negro natin, ibinubuhos natin sa Manila Bay araw-araw. Kaya iyong Manila Bay ay isang malaking poso negro na ngayon. But no enforcement is being done.

I am not impressed with the policemen visiting the Aristocrat Restaurant. Wala iyon, minor iyon. I would like to see policemen serving a warrant to these two giant corporations that are the ones benefiting from the water contract with the government but not delivering.

The other day, the Supreme Court again issued a statement, a decision, with 14 Justices voting in favor, to support our effort in 2008 to force these two water concessionaires to provide wastewater treatment facility. Technically, dapat nakakapag-swimming na tayo sa Manila Bay kung tinutupad lang nila iyong kanilang ipinangongolekta. Hindi lang ipinangongolekta, ipinangungutang pa.

I read in the papers the other day—hundreds of millions of dollars were again borrowed by them in the

name of the Filipino people with sovereign guarantee. Cong. Bernadette Herrera-Dy will be paying for this and all of us will be paying for it because they are not using this money to provide their wastewater treatment facility. So, I am taking note of this. If the PNP feels that they are part of the solution, if the DILG strongly feel that they are also part of the solution, take action not on the small fry, but take action on the main polluters of our Manila Bay. In the same manner, ganoon din po sa Laguna de Bay. Wala na pong tubig na nagbibigay-buhay sa mga isda roon sapagkat marumi na rin ang tubig doon.

We will not wait until all our water bodies are poisoned by this kind of practices or, short to call it, "corrupt practices." Nagkakalagayan na lang diyan. May darating na inspector, pauwin, nakangiti iyong inspector, pero si Juan Dela Cruz ay wala pa ring malinis na tubig. Punahin natin ito. As I said, Confucius said that we must ask the questions now. Even if you raise your eyebrows and question against us questioning, I will still ask the same questions for the sake of the Filipinos; otherwise, Congress might as well close up if we are not going to defend the rights of the people for the services that we are paying for. Hindi po libre iyan. No, Mr. Speaker, we are paying annually. Twenty percent of our water bill should go to wastewater cleaning, but up to now, wala po iyan, and they promise, 2035. Is the Gentleman willing to wait until 2035 until we get the facilities that are part and parcel of the original contract that they signed with the government? To me, that is plain and simple highway robbery. Ninanakawan natin ang taumbayan. Huwag nating ituloy iyan.

Therefore, I am just taking the opportunity to put on record. I will have a continuing crusade to make them comply; otherwise, we have to move for the cancellation of this contract. The big-time corporations gaining from our hard-earned peso should deliver their commitment; otherwise, we would ask the police to do their part. I see the very industrious General Albayalde. I see the very efficient Secretary present here. Study the matter. If you think you cannot do anything about it, so be it, but we will not rely on you and I would not want to read reports, grossly reports, which amount to nothing because wala po talagang nangyayari sa isyung iyan.

For my last topic, today, traffic is a major catastrophe in the country. Traffic is a problem that is now the subject of a possible emergency rule—emergency rule in managing a simple daily problem of the government like traffic.

Ang atin po bang PNP ay mayroon pang traffic bureaus sa bawat lungsod? May we get the official answer of the PNP here? Do we have traffic bureaus still or they have been abolished?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, in relation to your question, the PNP has the Highway Patrol Group.

REP. ATIENZA. Mayroon pa ho tayong traffic bureau, ano po?

REP. VARGAS. Highway Patrol Group.

REP. ATIENZA. Mayroon pa. Mayroon pa rin tayong mga traffic policemen ...

REP. VARGAS. There are, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. ... na tinatawag nating belonging to the traffic managers.

REP. VARGAS. ... Wala na po.

REP. ATIENZA. Wala na po?

REP. VARGAS. What we have is the Highway Patrol Group, tapos MMDA na po ang may hawak.

REP. ATIENZA. Wala pong traffic bureau? Iyon ba ang sinasabi ng ating kaibigan?

REP. VARGAS. Well, wala na po.

REP. ATIENZA. Ang sagot po diyan, mayroon pa, dahil hindi naman nila ina-abolish iyong traffic bureau nila eh. Nandoon pa. May mga sumusuweldo pa rin doon. Ang tanong ko, mayroon ba tayong nakikitang pulis sa lansangan upang tulungan tayo sa problema ng traffic?

REP. VARGAS. Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Wala.

REP. VARGAS. Your Honor, ...

REP. ATIENZA. Anong ginagawa nila?

REP. VARGAS. ...if you are referring to the Highway Patrol Group, iyon po iyon.

REP. ATIENZA. Highway Patrol, but in every police department, there is still a traffic bureau. The traffic bureau chief in Manila is a good friend of mine, so I know there is. If you say none, then I will hold you responsible for that statement. I do not want to do that, Mr. Speaker. There are traffic bureaus still existing. So, I ask the leadership of the PNP.

REP. VARGAS. Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, there are traffic enforcement groups, baka iyon po.

REP. ATIENZA. Pagtrabahuin po ninyo iyang mga iyan. Hindi iyong nagbabantay lang sa ilalim ng puno,

likod ng poste, nakatago sa outpost, manghuhuli lang ng nagkamaling motorista. Their job is to make sure that the traffic flows smoothly. Their job is not just to apprehend but to prevent the violation of our traffic rules and ordinances and, I am, therefore, pointing it out as a glaring example of the police's inability to perform their tasks. Ang mga traffic policemen natin, mayroon ba sa kanilang may dala pang mga silbato ngayon as a matter of regulation of their whole uniform?

REP. VARGAS. Ah, yes.

REP. ATIENZA. Wala na po. Mayroon na ba kayong narinig na sumilbatong pulis ngayon? Wala na po. Anong ginagawa nila? Nagbabantay ng kanilang kliyente para pagdating ng Biyernes mayroon silang maire-report na kanilang performance. Pero iyong traffic management ay hindi na nila nagagampanan. Enforcer, eh lalo po namang ayokong sisihihin sila sa kababalaghan ng enforcers ngayon. Mayroon silang pinapaborang mga kliyente sa lansangan—jeepneys, public utility vehicles, buses na binibigyan nila ng priority—ordinary citizens, maghintay kayo diyan sa kanto. Why? Again, this is a matter of corruption.

So, we take note of this and we will continue to call the attention of the agency to say that we are expected to do something about it, and this is the DILG, and this is the PNP that will make sure that the traffic policeman is working and not merely collecting, na para bagang na-limit na iyong kanilang function sa collection. Alam ko po naman iyong nangyayari dahil kinakausap ko po naman iyong mga jeepney driver eh. Magkano ang koleksiyon dito sa kantong ito? Magkano ang koleksiyon sa kalyeng iyan? All major streets in Metro Manila ay may koleksiyon. Iyon ang dapat nating punahin.

I am asking the support of the Gentleman when we scrutinize the budget. We take note of the effectivity of the functions. Hindi lamang iyong pesos and centavos kung hindi iyong kung tumutupad ba sila sa kanilang mandate o kailangang ilipat na ang traffic, hindi na sa pulis kundi—dapat may managot dahil kung walang mananagot, tuloy-tuloy ang kalbaryo nating lahat sa Metro Manila.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Your Honor. You can count on the support of this Representation.

REP. ATIENZA. I would expect that from the Gentleman leading now the PNP and the DILG. I know that they are not participants in all of these malpractices but I am pointing it out. Iyan pong lahat ng iyan ay nangyayari ngayon. Ito po ay hindi likhang-isip lang. Ito po ay nangyayari sa ating mga lansangan, that collections are being done. Therefore, bahala na tayo sa ating problema sa traffic at hinihingi

naman ng iba ay emergency rule. Kapag nagpasa tayo ng emergency rule dito sa traffic, bibigyan natin ng karagdagang kapangyarihan pa iyong mga hindi gumaganap ng tungkulin nila sa ngayon. We have to be careful about emergency rule, principle, issue—what the city police is working on. It is either that the chosen enforcers are working or they are using their discretion to protect their interests and not the public interest. Siguro nakasusubok kayo sa isang kanto, dalawa, tatlong palit ng traffic light, hindi pinatatakbo iyong isang panig.

Ang pinatatakbo lamang ay iyong isang direksiyon. Bakit? Nandoon lahat ang kliyente nila—tricycle, public utility vehicles, buses. Kapag malinis na iyong kalye na iyon, saka lang tayo nakikita. “Uy, marami palang naghihintay dito, puwede na kayo.”

All of these are all matters that should be part of the daily governance.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Villanueva (E.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Raneó “Ranie” E. Abu.

The DILG, let me remind the leadership, is the key Department to promote the economic development of the country. Protecting local authority, I will always champion; protecting local autonomy, I will always support, but not allowing corruption to be the rule of the day. We would want the traffic policemen to start functioning as we will continue observing, going around, and asking affected parties about this issue.

Emergency rule is not the solution. It is efficient traffic enforcement, and fortunately, we have a PNP that is responsive, and on this issue, we will wait for their response; otherwise, you will hear from me again in the deliberation on our package of reforms in traffic management.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VARGAS. Thank you, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Salamat po sa kanilang matiyagang pakikinig at salamat din po sa kanilang pagpapaliwanag. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Eufemia “Ka Femia” C. Cullamat for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Hon. Eufemia Cullamat from BAYAN MUNA Party-List is recognized for her interpellation.

REP. CULLAMAT. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

G. Ispiker, puwede bang makapagtanong sa DILG doon sa inyong ...

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ikinagagalak ko pong sagutin ang inyong mga tanong regarding the DILG budget.

Maraming salamat po.

REP. CULLAMAT. Mr. Speaker, gusto ko lang pong balikan iyong itinatanong ko doon sa August 26 yata iyon—kasi, ito po ay hinggil doon sa Lianga massacre na nakatanggap po ako ng—may ibinigay po kayo sa akin na report. Ang tanong ko lang po dito ay, kinakailangan ko lang na sagot ay tama ba siya o mali. May report po na, kasi iyong dalawang perpetrator ng Lianga massacre ay mayroong warrant of arrest at mayroon pang P1.2 billion na reward, at nababalitaan lang namin hinggil doon sa ibinigay ninyong report na ni-lift iyong warrant of arrest noong July 26, 2019. Tama po ba, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Opo, nandoon po. Ayon po sa Memorandum na hawak ko po ngayon, dated September 6, 2019, mayroon po siyang—number 3, item c, on July 26, 2019, Executive Judge Lilibeth Ladaga of RTC 11, Branch 28, Lianga, Surigao del Sur, issued an order lifting the warrants of arrest of the aforesaid suspects for further investigation po.

REP. CULLAMAT. So, totoo po, totoo na ni-lift iyong warrant of arrest? Iyon lang iyong ano ...

REP. VARGAS. Totoo po iyon, Your Honor.

REP. CULLAMAT. Ang pangalawa kong tanong ay nangyari ang karumal-dumal na pagpaslang kina Dionel Campos, kay Juvello Sinzo noong September 1, 2015. Pagkatapos ng pagpaslang, agad kaming pumunta doon sa police station para magpa-police blotter. September 22, kung hindi ako nagkakamali, ay may warrant of arrest nang ginawa. Tapos, pagkatapos ng pagpaslang ay may warrant of arrest nang galing sa korte laban sa mga salarin na sina Bobby Tejero, Loloy Tejero at Margarito Layno.

Halos apat na taon na simula noong paslangin sina Dionel Campos, at bago lang natanggal ang warrant of arrest—July 26. Tama po ba, Mr. Sponsor, July 26 lang na ...

REP. VARGAS. Sorry, Your Honor, ano po iyon? Ano po iyong inyong tanong?

REP. CULLAMAT. Ang tanong ko po rito, noong nangyari ang karumal-dumal na pagpaslang, agad na

naglabas ng warrant of arrest ang korte laban sa kanila. Tapos, halos mag-apat nang taon o apat na taon na simula noong paslangin sila at tinanggal iyong warrant of arrest. Tama po ba?

REP. VARGAS. Iyon po ang desisyon ng korte, hindi po ng PNP.

REP. CULLAMAT. So, sa mahigit na apat na taon na ito, hindi ninyo nahuli ang mga salarin sa karumal-dumal na pagpaslang. Tapos, bago lang po ni-lift iyong warrant of arrest. Ako po ay isang magpapatunay, ako po ay isang testigo, kasama ko po iyong mahigit 200 doon sa komunidad namin. Kitang-kita namin kung paano pinatay iyong aming mga leader sa harap mismo namin. Ito iyong nakikita namin na napakatindi, na sa harap mismo namin pinatay iyong aming leader, iyong aming Datu, at saka ang Executive Director. May warrant of arrest, tapos napakatagal na, tapos tinanggal iyong warrant of arrest na walang ginagawa ang mga pulis para hulihin. Mayroong nangyari na Senate inquiry noong October 1 and 2, tapos nangako ang mga pulis, kasama ang military, na huhulihin nila, ang mga salarin dahil kilalang-kilala. Pagkatapos ngayon, bigla na lang ni-lift iyong warrant of arrest.

So, ito po iyong aking masasabi: tinanggal ang warrant of arrest ng mga kriminal na ito habang may matibay na ebidensiya laban sa kanila. Ako po ay magpapatunay; ako po iyong testigo at nakikita ko talaga iyong pangyayari. Sa ngayon, masasabi po namin na kasi ang NTF-ELCAC ay mayroon kayong budget ng DILG, kaya masasabi namin lalo na sa hanay ng mga katutubo na itong, itong NTF-ELCAC na ito ay hindi po ito para sa mapayapang Pilipinas 2020, bagkus lalo itong tumitindi ang paglabag, panunupil ng mamamayang sumisigaw ng karapatan, katarungan at kapayapaan.

Hindi na po ako mag-ano, hindi ko na po ito—hindi na ako mag—hindi na kailangang may—ang tawag dito—may sagot, dahil nakikita talaga namin na hindi po ito, itong National Task Force, hindi po ito makapagbigay ng kapayapaan sa ating bansa kundi maging tumitindi ang pag-atake ng mga sibilyan dahil sa budget na ito. At tsaka, bago din lang mayroong pinakita doon sa—nakikita namin doon sa pahayag na nag-meeting iyong, binuo ang NTF-ELCAC doon sa Region XIII, na nakikita namin na kung biktima man ang mga magsasaka, mga manggagawa, kami po ay pinaka-unang—pinaka-unang biktima sa paglabag ng karapatang pantao katulad nitong pagpaslang, pagbintang at patungo doon sa pagpatay talaga.

Kaya, ito lang iyong aking masasabi, na bilang mga katutubo, ayaw namin ng gulo dahil nang nangyari itong pamamaslang na ito, kami po ay nag-bakwit, kasama namin ang pamilya ng mga pumaslang na ito. Hindi kami nag-isip na gumanti doon sa pamilya, nitong

mga pumaslang dahil hindi namin gusto ang gulo. Tiniis namin ang kahirapan doon sa evacuation center habang hinihintay namin ang hustisya sa pangyayaring ito. Hanggang sa kasalukuyan, tinanggal na nga iyong warrant of arrest at walang interes ang mga pulis na hulihin ito kahit na malinaw ang ebidensya na hinahawakan namin.

Kaya ito lang po ang masasabi ko: panawagan talaga namin na kailangan talaga itong hulihin dahil kung hindi ito mahuhuli, kung bibigyan ng pagtanggap ng warrant of arrest, na nakita talaga namin kung paano ito nangyayari—iyon nga, sinabi ko kanina, 200 kaming nakakita ng insidenteng ito. Tapos, ang panawagan lang talaga namin, kailangan talagang hulihin ito dahil kung hindi ito mahuli-huli, baka mayroon na namang mangyaring ibang ganito at wala na ring hustisya hanggang kailan.

Kaya ito lang po, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. Maraming salamat po.

REP. VARGAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Arlene D. Brosas for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Hon. Arlene Brosas from the GABRIELA Party-List is recognized for her interpellation.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, maaari po bang magtanong ng ilang mga katanungan sa ating Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ikinagagalak ko pong sagutin ang inyo pong mga tanong tungkol sa DILG.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor. Una po, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, G. Isponsor, humingi tayo ng data noong nakaraang briefing sa bilang ng mga kababaihan na recorded cases na drug-related. Until now po ay wala tayong nakuha at natanggap na bilang ng mga kababaihan na drug-related ang killings, ganoon din po iyong bilang ng mga minors.

Ngayon, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, maaari po bang ibigay ninyo ang bilang ng drug-related killings, recorded cases of drug-related killings?

REP. VARGAS. Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, according to PNP, kaninang umaga po ay nag-submit po sila sa inyong opisina noong mga hinihingi po ninyong—nag-submit po sila sa inyong opisina kaninang umaga noong

mga hiningi po ninyong mga dokumento at saka mga records.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, wala pa pong natatanggap ang inyong lingkod. Kung mayroon po kayo diyan ngayon na, maaari ko bang makuha since na-submit ninyo naman kaninang umaga, is it possible na maibigay ngayon dito sa plenaryo iyong bilang po na hinihiling ng inyong lingkod, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker. Gusto po ba ninyong ibigay sa inyo diyan ngayon or can we state it here?

REP. BROSAS. Later po.

REP. VARGAS. Ah, later po. Okay.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, kaya po natin itinanong iyon, gusto natin malaman ang estimated bilang ng mga na-orphan sa Oplan Tokhang at ano po ang ginagawa ngayon na programa for the long-term program—psychological, emotional, at economic na programa ng DILG kaugnay dito sa mga pamilya, relatives and parents na nawalan?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, according to the document that I am holding now, which is the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management Case Monitoring, recapitulation on female victims of drug-related incidents, to answer your question, Your Honor, nagto-total po ito ng 322 ang namatay, ang nasugatan naman po ay 62, at unharmed na dalawa, for a total of 368.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor.

G. Isponsor, itinanong po natin iyong mga particular cases noong panahon ng committee hearing. Mayroon na po ba tayong mga reports kaugnay kay Rowena Tiamson, kay Zenaida Luz at kay Irene Dacoba?

REP. VARGAS. Mayroon po, Your Honor, tsini-check lang po para hindi po magkamali ng pagbigay ng impormasyon po sa inyo.

Dito po sa dokumentong hawak ko na ibinigay po sa akin ng PNP, naka-date po itong dokumentong na August 4, 2016, ang subject po “Investigation Report Regarding Found Female Cadaver.” Doon po sa Section 6, iyon pong conclusion ay, as gleaned from the above circumstances, it is clear that the victim was believed to have been killed somewhere else and was only dumped in this town to mislead the conduct of investigation as there was no recovery of any fired bullet or cartridge case and no evidence of struggle at the crime scene where the victim was found.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, kanino po iyan, kay Rowena Tiamson po ba iyan?

REP. VARGAS. Yes po.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, for the record po, maaari po bang makuha or ma-furnish kami ng copy ng report ng ilan sa mga binanggit ko? For the record, katulad po ng sinabi natin, there have been reports of errors in judgment with regard to Rowena Tiamson, a graduating Mass Communication student who was found dead in July 2016 in Pangasinan; and Zenaida Luz, a member of Citizens Crime Watch, a nongovernment organization that provides livelihood to former drug addicts; and Irene Dacoba, grandmother of a suspected drug personality. The PNP admitted that Tiamson was not in the drug watch list of the authorities, Luz was accidentally killed by police officers who worked as gunmen, and Dacoba was killed while trying to protect her grandson during a drug operation.

So, Mr. Sponsor, G. Ispiker, nais po nating makakuha ng kopya para po ma-check natin kung ano ang sirkumstansya ng reports o sirkumstansya ng pagkamatay ng following na mga biktima.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Your Honor, bibigyan po kayo ng copy ng hinihingi po ninyong document.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Sponsor, G. Ispiker, nais po natin na sabihin din during the committee budget briefing, the DILG said that families who were affected by the Oplan Tokhang will not get any compensation and financial support from DILG but under the special provisions, the Chief of the PNP is authorized to utilize the MOOE subject to the approval of the DILG Secretary for the payment of damages to property and for injury and death of civilians resulting from police operations, as determined by a competent court. Magkano po ang MOOE na allocated dito?

REP. VARGAS. Sorry po.

REP. BROSAS. Magkano po ang MOOE po na allocated sa compensation and financial support mula po sa DILG na ibinigay sa payment of damages to property for injury and death of civilians resulting from police operations?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, wala pong pondo para diyan ang PNP. Sumusunod rin lang po ang PNP dito po sa item number five ng Expenditure Program, dito po sa sinasabing use of the MOOE for payment of damages.

The Chief of the PNP is authorized, tama po kayo, pero subject to the approval of the Secretary, opo tama rin kayo, to utilize MOOE for the payment of damages

to property and for injury and death of civilians resulting from police operations as determined by a competent court.

REP. BROSAS. Yes.

REP. VARGAS. So, puwede po iyong sinasabi ninyo, Mr. Speaker, basta't naghihintay lang po sila nang go signal ng isang korte po.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, nais po nating malaman iyong total ng MOOE na allocated dito. Mayroon po bang in-allocate ang DILG kaugnay dito?

REP. VARGAS. Ang MOOE po for this specific purpose ay wala po.

REP. BROSAS. Wala?

REP. VARGAS. Subject to availability of funds.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, ibig sabihin, kahit na mayroon tayong inilagay na ganito ay walang in-allot or in-allocate ang DILG?

REP. VARGAS. Pupuwede po siyang ma-request sa Department as long as mayroon pong court order.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, can you ask the DILG Secretary kung mayroon siyang ibinigay sa mga pamilya ng Oplan Tokhang, mayroon siyang naibigay na compensation mula dito sa provision na ito.

REP. VARGAS. Wala po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. So, wala siyang pinayagan, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor?

REP. VARGAS. As per our records, wala po dahil kailangan po talaga ng court order, desisyon po ng korte para po mabigyan.

REP. BROSAS. Same as the PNP, wala pong ibinigay na ...

REP. VARGAS. As per the records po, wala po.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, sabihin natin, halimbawa, nanlaban daw ang drug suspect. Makakatanggap ba ang naiwang pamilya ng compensation, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. VARGAS. Puwedepo, as provided by law. Also, as provided by law, kailangan may court order po.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. On to my next point, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

Mayroong P115,488,000,000 increase sa budget for Local Government Empowerment Program. Ano po iyong policy guidelines ng war on drugs? At ano ang participation ng LGU sa implementation nito, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ito po iyong tungkol sa pag-function, pagpapalakad ng mga Anti-Drug Abuse Councils sa probinsya po, sa city at sa municipality.

So, sa inyo pong tanong para masagot po, ang approach po ng Department against criminality and illegal drugs ay mayroon pong five pronged approach: mayroon pong law enforcement, wherein the PNP conducts operations against suspected criminals and drug personalities through double-barrel and anti-crime initiatives; mayroon din pong strengthening and mobilization of local institutions, tulad ng peace and order councils and anti-drug abuse councils; pangatlo, mayroon din pong taking care of drug surrenderees to hasten their rehabilitation and reformation, iyan po ay ang pangangalaga sa kanila; holding local chief executives accountable in the Anti-Crime and Illegal Drugs Drive; and panglima po, simultaneous with the campaign, a stringent and uncompromising internal cleansing to ensure that law enforcers perform their duties in accordance with existing laws and police protocols and they are not themselves involved in criminal activities and illegal drugs.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, lahat po iyon ay duty ng LGU, ng local government unit.

REP. VARGAS. Ah, hindi po.

REP. BROSAS. Iyan ang ...

REP. VARGAS. Shini-share po iyan ng DILG at ng LGU. Always in partnership po iyan, so lalong-lalo na po kapag tungkol po sa drugs.

REP. BROSAS. So, ang particular na pagpapatupad ay in partnership lagi with the LGU, with the local government unit?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Can you give us an overview ng naging resulta ng war on drugs in Metro Manila?

REP. VARGAS. Overall, in general, Your Honor, the DILG was able to clear around 12,000 barangays nationwide, cleared and drug free.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, mayroon po ba kayong mga pertinent documents kaugnay diyan sa Oplan Tokhang in Metro Manila na available?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, the DILG can provide that, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Muli po, tatanungin ko ulit kasi I asked this doon sa Committee hearing at hindi pa rin naibigay iyong operational guidelines po ng Tokhang; number of Tokhang related operations in Metro Manila, breakdown per city; number of Barangays covered by Tokhang related operations in Metro Manila;—a iyon na rin pala iyon—number of Tokhang related arrests; number of Tokhang-related killings during official police operations; I believe ito pong number of Tokhang-related vigilante killings, if there are; and the number of Tokhang related cases filed in courts, and convictions; number of surrenderees, suspected drug pushers in Metro Manila and number of suspected drug users in Metro Manila. Iyon po ang request ng Kinatawang ito, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. VARGAS. Your Honor, I have here with me a receiving copy from your Office of all the documents that you asked for, but if ever you were not able to get it, Your Honor, the PNP would furnish you another set. It was received by someone from your office named as “Cha-cha Castiano?”

REP. BROSAS. Ah, yes.

REP. VARGAS. Na-receive po niya, but we would gladly give you another set for your perusal.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. Tinanong ko rin po ito sa Committee, iyong nag-increase ng P10,985,000 ang budget ng supposed programs for community awareness and public information activities. Ano po iyong mga programs or PAPs ang involved dito at bakit po nakalagay na confidential in nature ito?

REP. VARGAS. Your Honor, about that it is...

REP. BROSAS. Kapag tinotal po, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, ito ay P334,817,000. Kaya po natin ito itinatanong dahil pampublikong pondo po ito na gagastusin ng ahensya para sa programa at hindi masisilip ng mamamayan ang pagkakagastusan nito kahit na para ito sa community awareness at public information. Gusto po nating malaman kung bakit, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VARGAS. Your Honor, regarding the P334 million that you are mentioning, from the PNP side

they believe that they do not have such an account but let me check with the DILG.

REP. BROSAS. To be clear, it is under the PNP, conduct of community awareness, public relations activities and community work and development which are confidential in nature. From 2019, it was P323,832,000, saan po iyan ginastos? Pero ngayon mayroon tayong bina-budget na P334,817,000, saan po iyan gagastusin? Kailangan maging transparent tayo kasi, we are spending iyong pera ng bayan, ano po? At hindi po natin gusto na hindi natin nalalaman kung saan specific ginagastos ang mga ito.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, it is under PNP but the increase is because of inflationary considerations and the P334 million is for the police community services which is inherent to the duties and responsibilities. It is broken down as follows and it is not confidential. There is no confidential nature in it and here is the breakdown of the P334,817,000: P41,067,000 for personnel services, this refers to the pay and allowances, the difference, P293,750,000 is for MOOE.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. Maiksi lang po iyong kailangan ko kasi kaunti lang po iyong oras na ibinibigay sa amin. Marami pa po akong tanong, gusto ko pang itanong iyong iba pang mga kailangang detalye pero hindi na po ako makakapagtanong noon. So, ang pupuwede po siguro as my last na diyan sa kaugnay sa war on drugs na issue ay malaman ng taumbayan kung nakakapagpakulong ba tayo, nakakapag-convict ba tayo ng mga big-time drug pushers sa kasalukuyan at ilan po ito as compared sa namamatay sa Oplan Tokhang? Kasi ang gusto po sana natin, hindi ba, iyong supply ng mga drugs ang ating mahuli ang pinagmumulan, ano po, or kahit papaano ay malaman natin kung mayroong nagagawa ngayon ang ating PNP, ang ating DILG sa pagpapanagot ng mga big-time drug pushers.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the answer to that question is yes. Nakakahuli po tayo at nakakapagpakulong po tayo ng mga big-time, ika nga, ang tawag po rito ay high-value targets at ang number po natin diyan kung ilan ay 6,833 at recorded po lahat ito at official document po itong pinagbabasehan ko. So, to answer your question, opo, nakakahuli po tayo ng mga big-time, high-value targets po.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, can you give us a copy of the list of high-value targets na sinasabi ninyo na report?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. And last point po, Mr. Speaker, kagalang-galang na Sponsor, nabanggit na ninyo kanina na hindi katanggap-tanggap ang electioneering ng mga kapulisan partikular sa Makabayan subalit noong mismong May 13 elections namudmod mismo ang mga pulis ng police service newspaper sa mga botante sa harap ng mga voting precincts. Ang headline, “Kabataan nanguna sa pagkundera sa legal fronts at political parties na sumusuporta sa CPP-NPA”. Sa balita, inakusahan na communist fronts ang GABRIELA Women’s Party, BAYAN MUNA, ANAKPAWIS, ACT TEACHERS, at KABATAAN Party-List. Ngayon paano maitatanggi ng PNP na hindi nito tino-tolerate ang electioneering eh official newspaper ito ng PNP at mga pulis pa mismo ang namimigay sa loob ng mga voting precincts?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, again, wala pong budget para sa mga ganiyang gawain ang PNP, much more so ang DILG. At, maaari po ang mga posibilidad bakit po nangyari ang mga iyan. The DILG shares your sentiment na hindi po talaga dapat nangyayari iyan. Idaan po natin sa due process and let the courts decide. The DILG will even join you and cooperate fully in the investigation of the supposed cases that you are referring to and rest assured that we are committed.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, this is a newspaper funded by the people’s taxes. Kung ito po ay totoo, for 2020, the amount allocated for the PNP’s printing and publication stands at 180.96 million, it is unacceptable for these resources to go into partisan political activity.

Naniniwala naman po ako sa sinasabi ninyo. Sana po ay mapanghawakan ito ng mga ahensya na hindi mag-red-tag at mag-vilify at hindi mapunta ang pondo ng taumbayan sa ganito, partisan political activity to malign Makabayan and other progressive groups. Sa dami ng pangangailangan ng ating mga mamamayan, huwag naman ang gagastusan ay iyong mga ganitong pagpapakalat ng fake news para siran ang mga legitimate organizations na katulad namin, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. France L. Castro from ACT TEACHERS Party-List for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Representative from ACT TEACHERS Party-List, Hon. France L. Castro, is recognized for her interpellation.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Would the good Sponsor yield to some of my clarificatory questions about the budget and programs of the DILG?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, gladly.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, Mr. Speaker, noong nakaraan pong briefing ng DILG, humingi po ang Kinatawang ito ng certified true copy ng ilang mga dokumentong may kaugnayan doon sa ginagawa ng PNP na profiling ng mga miyembro ng Alliance of Concerned Teachers. At, mayroon po ako ditong in-enumerate na pito na hinihingi ko pong dokumento. Pero, nakakalungkot, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, pinadalhan po tayo ng sagot ng National Headquarters ng PNP na pinirmahan po ni PNP Chief, Police General Oscar D. Albayalde. At, nalulungkot po ako, Mr. Speaker, dahil ang ibinigay po sa aking sagot ay iyong letter na ibinigay kay Ms. Jocelyn Martinez, Chairperson, Alliance of Concerned Teachers, dated August 27, 2019. Ang nagbigay po nitong sulat, siguro alam po ito ng ating PNP, ay si Police Major General Timoteo G. Paclebo.

So, Mr. Speaker, ang layo po ng pangalan ng Kinatawang ito at kung saan iyong address ng Kinatawang ito dahil alam na alam po ng DILG na ako po ay Kinatawan ng ACT TEACHERS Party-List. Pero ang ibinigay po sa akin ay iyong letter nila noong August 7. Ang DILG briefing po ay nitong nakaraang September 17.

Bilang guro, Mr. Speaker, kapag nanghihingi tayo ng letter sa kaninuman, kahit na bata alam ito, kung sino iyong nanghihingi, dapat ia-address sa kung sino man iyong nanghihingi. Parang hindi yata maayos o unethical na bigyan ako ng isang sulat na hindi ko naman pangalan, na hindi naman nakapangalan sa akin. Kaya, ito ay itinuturing ko, Mr. Speaker, na unethical sa bahagi ng PNP. So, ano po ang masasabi dito ng ating butihing Sponsor?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the PNP apologizes for that incident and for that shortcoming, and the PNP would gladly write and respond to you accordingly.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay.

So, malinaw po iyon ha, lesson natin iyon. Kung sino ang nanghihingi, i-address sa kung sinuman iyon. Dahil noong teacher po ako, tinuturo ko iyong ethics, tinuturo ko kung paano mag-aaddress nang tama. At siyempre bilang guro po, kapag may nakita akong mali, ay talagang pinupuna natin.

Ito po ang sulat, hindi ko naman inaasahan na manggagaling sa General Headquarters, pero siyempre, sila iyong dapat na may responsibilidad na magsabi doon sa kanilang mga responsible PO o Regional Director. Iba-iba po iyong mga pinanggalingan nito, kagaya nga noong nasabi ko na.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Can I have a one-minute suspension of session, Mr. Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The session is suspended.

It was 5:36 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:37 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). I am ready, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VARGAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). On to my next concern, Mr. Speaker.

So, I have received the Accomplishment Report of the DILG from 2018 up to the first semester of 2019. Nakalagay po dito, Mr. Speaker, on page 7, iyong tungkol po doon sa E-CLIP at saka iyong CLIP. Nakalagay po dito, Mr. Speaker, iyong mga accomplishments nila particularly iyong program nila dito sa CLIP. On page 8 po, page 7 to 8, so mayroon po tayong inilaang pondo rito ngayon taon na ito na P165,369,888, ano po itong mga ito; 1,939 former rebel with immediate financial assistance na P15,000 amounting to P29 million; 1,433 with livelihood assistance na P50,000 amounting to P71,000,000,650 and so on. Nakita na po ba ito ng ating butihing Sponsor iyong tinutukoy ko?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, may I ask on what page are you referring to?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). It is on page 8, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. VARGAS. Of the Accomplishment Report?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Yes.

REP. VARGAS. Please give me a moment, on page 18?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). On, page 8.

Mr. Speaker, mukhang wala po yatang kopya sa ngayon ang DILG kaugnay noong ipinamigay sa bawat Representante tungkol doon sa Accomplishment

Reports nila ng 2018 and 2019 na mahalagang makita natin, hindi ba? Dahil binubusisi natin ang budget ng DILG, magandang makita natin iyong accomplishment nila at dahil mayroon ditong mga observation ang COA kaugnay noong pagpapatupad noong tinatawag nilang Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program.

Ayon po sa report nila, nakagastos po ang DILG ng more than P165 million sa financial assistance, livelihood assistance, reintegration assistance, firearm remuneration, et cetera, for 2018 to 2019. Mayroon pong COA Report noong 2014 na ang sinasabi po rito sa program na ito ng DILG, ang sabi po rito “loss of control and lack of assessment and monitoring by the DILG” kaya hindi natiyak kung napunta nga, so walang proper monitoring and assessment ito. Ang sabi rito:

The actual needs and specific/additional assistance to be given to the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) beneficiaries in the Province of Rizal cannot be promptly determined and addressed due to inadequate accomplishment of the Individual Beneficiary Reintegration Plan (IRP) and the absence of the corresponding evaluation/recommendation on the identified needs/assistance.

Nakalagay din po sa observation, Mr. Speaker, G. Ispensor:

Moreover, the required monitoring/evaluation was not undertaken after the beneficiaries received the immediate and livelihood assistance from the government and/or a month after they were discharged from the halfway house/designated place.

Okay. So, iyon po. Ang tanong ko lang po, Mr. Speaker, dahil nagbibigay tayo ng pondo dito sa ganitong klaseng programa ng DILG, so mahirap pong ma-monitor—bagamat mayroong ilan, mayroon pong bilang kung talaga bang ang purpose nito ay nagawa or dahil nagpapatuloy pa itong programang ito, ano na ba iyong assessment noon, at paano ba namo-monitor?

So, ganoon po kahirap i-monitor itong ganitong klaseng programa. Ang tanong ko lang po, Mr. Speaker, has the DILG ever cured these negative observations by the COA?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). If yes, Mr. Speaker, then the agency should be able to disclose details about the process before the DILG gives out money and about the extent of the role of the AFP, the PNP, the OPAPP, and the NDF, para masabi nitong totoong namo-monitor, naa-assess ang mga beneficiary at mismong

programa. Kasi po, nakita natin iyong mga kulang po, ang dami pong mga kulang nating mga pondo para sa mga social services. Kaya nga po tinitingnan natin itong programang ito kung talaga bang nakakatulong doon sa atin.

Dahil sinabi naman po na “yes,” mayroon po silang cure about the negative observations, can this Representation, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, be given the complete report of these observations?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Your Honor.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Naka-address po sa akin ha. Baka kung kanino po naka-address, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VARGAS. Definitely, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). On to my next issue, Mr. Speaker, and this will be my last, Mr. Sponsor, about the Executive Order No. 70, series of 2018. Ito po iyong tinatawag natin, Mr. Speaker, na NTF-ELCAC. So, isa na naman pong programa ng ating gobyerno or kautusan ng ating Pangulo para daw po to end the communist insurgency.

Nakalagay po dito sa ating mga—ang tanong ko lang po doon sa ating butihing Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, ano po ba iyong ibig sabihin—kasi may mga nakita ako dito na tinatawag na “left.” Ano po ba iyong definition dito ng “left” at ano po ba ang pagkakaiba nito doon sa mga aktibista? Puwede po bang mabigyan tayo ng kalinawan dito.

REP. VARGAS. Ito pong ELCAC, iyan po iyong local communist armed conflict na gusto po nating mahinto na po at sana ay talagang matigil na po.

To answer your question, the DILG is referring to the Communist Party of the Philippines at New People’s Army na nagtatangka pong patalsikin ang gobyerno through armed struggle.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Sigurado po ba kayo dito, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor? Ang tanong ko lang po sa ating Sponsor, nabasa ninyo ba iyong guidelines na ginawa ng DILG kaugnay nitong Executive Order No. 70?

Nakakatakot po itong tingnan, Mr. Speaker, dahil tingin ko, hindi lang po ito sa mga sinabi ng ating Sponsor na mga grupo. Ang tingin ko po rito ay weaponizing the civilian bureaucracy. Makikita ninyo iyan sa page six noong kanilang accomplishment report.

So, ang tanong ko, Mr. Speaker, nabasa po ba ng ating butihing Sponsor itong guidelines na ito?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, kung nabasa po ninyo ang guidelines na ito, Mr. Speaker, ang sinasabi dito ay hindi lang mga CPP-NPA, NDF, ang mga left. Alam naman po natin na ang lahat ng mga nagsasabi ng opposed sa mga programa o anuman sa gobyerno ay left kung ide-define po natin sa political spectrum. So, ang ibig sabihin niyan, hindi lang po mga CPP-NPA ang tinutukoy dito sa Executive Order No. 70, kung babasahin ninyo iyong kanilang IRR.

Ang sabi dito, sinabi ng ating Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, ay para raw matigil na iyong communist insurgency, et cetera, pero nakikita ko po, Mr. Speaker, dito, sinasabi nilang whole-of-the-nation approach. Supposedly, Mr. Speaker, ang DILG ay isang civilian na ahensya na talagang ang tunguhin ay para sa kapakanan ng ating mga civilian. Kaya nga po—ito nga po at alam naman natin kung ano ang komposisyon ng gobyerno ni President Duterte. Iyong ating gobyerno, ang komposisyon ay halos lahat ng ating mga Secretary ay mga dating militar at dating pulis. No wonder ang tingin nila sa mga problema ng mga mamamayan, iyong socioeconomic na mga problema, ang tingin nila sa nagra-rally, ang tingin nila doon sa nag-o-oppose o sa kung anuman ang mga programa ng gobyerno na tingin natin hindi makakatulong sa gobyerno ay left, NPA, supporter ng NPA, at iba pa.

Kaya nga po, Mr. Speaker, hindi lang ito baka gamitin sa sinasabing mga grupo. Kung titingnan natin, dapat nating pag-aralan, Mr. Speaker, na dapat tingnan at busisiin talaga natin ito dahil kahit na ang mga local government at iba pang mga individual civilians ay talagang tatamaan nito, kung mag-o-oppose at mag-aano lang sa mga programa. At nakalagay din po, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ang papel ng iba't ibang ahensiya. Kaya nga, sinabi ko kanina na ito ay weaponizing the civilian bureaucracy. Lahat po ng mga ahensiya ng gobyerno, maging ito ay pang-ekonomiko, pang-sosyal, ay ginagamitan natin nitong E.O. No. 70 na ito.

Halimbawa, Mr. Speaker, nakalagay dito, “the OSG and the DOJ to firm up strategies on building up and filing of cases against party-list group allies with LPEs and collusion with the left.” Ano pa po? “PCOO for strategic communication and audience focus viz-a-viz propaganda of the left.” At noong kamakailan po sa DFA naitanong din natin na active participant din sila dito sa Executive Order at ang lahat ng mga ahensiya.

So, ito lang po, Mr. Speaker. Siguro, katulong noong ating Sponsor, pag-aralan natin itong guidelines na ito o IRR, dahil hindi lang po ito para sa mga CPP-NPA and the left at sa mga maaaring mga oposisyon na nangyayari sa kasalukuyan, Mr. Speaker.

Ito lang po, Mr. Speaker, maraming salamat po.

Maraming salamat, G. Isponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. VARGAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Honor, thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES (J.F.). Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago from KABATAAN Party-List for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Hon. Sarah Jane Elago from KABATAAN Party-List is recognized for her interpellation.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

This youth Representation welcomes the timely submission of requested documents by the National Youth Commission. This would be very helpful for KABATAAN in preparation for this interpellation.

Mr. Speaker, nagtanong po tayo kung ano po iyong mga malalaking proyekto na mababawasan sa pondo ng NYC at nababahala po tayo na kasama dito ang mga pag-aaral ng NYC pagdating sa Philippine Youth Development Index at maging sa suporta sa National Youth Parliament at gayundin ang kanilang National Youth Assessment Study.

Mr. Speaker, nais po nating makuha ang suporta ng ating distinguished Sponsor at mga kasama na rin sa Kapulungan na ito na suportahan ang mas malaking pondo para sa National Youth Commission upang magampanan nito ang masusi na pag-aaral at pagsisikap, para ang mga kabataan ay maiging makapag-ambag para sa pag-unlad ng ating bayan. May we hear the expression of this intent or commitment, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, this Representation believes that I am still part of the youth sector and, hence, you can count on my support of adding budget to NYC.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, sa ating pagbibigay ng suporta na iyan, umaasa rin ho tayo na bibigyan tayo ng NYC ng record nila ng mga natapos na pagdating sa pag-a-update ng PYDP at mismong National Youth Assessment. Ibinibigay natin ang pondo na iyan upang sila rin ay makapagtrabaho po ng maigi. At sa pagtatrabaho na iyan nang maigi, malaki po siguro ang epekto ng pagkakaroon ng hindi nila tiyak na lugar ng pag-oopisina. Magpasahanggang ngayon po ay wala pang permanenteng office ang NYC at napakalaki po ng kanilang ginagatos para sa rent. Kada taon po ay magkano po ang ginagastos natin para lamang sa rent ng NYC?

REP. VARGAS. Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, that expense amounts to P5 million a year.

REP. ELAGO. Limang milyon, Mr. Speaker kumpara doon sa maaari siguro nating matipid sa pangmatagalan kung bibigyan na natin ng pondo ang National Youth Commission para magkaroon sila ng permanente na opisina. Kaya hinahamon din natin ang distinguished Sponsor kasama ang Representasyong ito na mag-aral ng mga options hindi lang para lakihan ang pondo para sa MOOE kundi tiyakin na mayroon ng pondo para sa permanenteng opisina ang National Youth Commission.

Panghuling katanungan sa NYC, Mr. Speaker, mayroon pong mga pribilehiyo na nakasaad sa ating SK Reform Act para sa ating Sangguniang Kabataan officials—all elected and appointed members, Mr. Speaker. Ano po ang ginagawa ng NYC para matiyak na ang mga pribilehiyo na iyan para sa ating SK officials ay maibibigay po sa kanila?

Sa budget briefings, Mr. Speaker, nabalitaan po natin na iyong para sa PhilHealth coverage ng SK, zero ang budget para sa 2020. Wala pong maaasahan na suporta para sa health o medical assistance ang ating mga SK para sa taong 2020. Bukod po diyan, nabasa rin natin na ang CHED at NYC mismo ay naglabas ng Memorandum Circular na nagsasabi na, yes exempted po ang ating SK sa NSTP-CWTS pero ito po ay labag sa batas, Mr. Speaker, dahil sa CWTS 2 lamang exempted ang ating mga SK officials. Malinaw po sa ating ipinasang batas sa Kapulungang ito na dapat po kasama diyan ang lahat ng subjects na may kinalaman sa Civic Welfare Training Service.

Mr. Speaker, bibigyan po tayo ng update ng NYC tungkol sa mga nararapat na pribilehiyo na ito ng ating mga Sangguniang Kabataang officials.

REP. VARGAS. Well, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, speaking of the exemption ng NSTP pinag-uusapan na po ngayon iyong guidelines tungkol diyan. Siguro ibang usapan na lang kung ano po ba iyong masusunod talaga doon po sa sinabi ninyo.

There was also coordination with PhilHealth already regarding the benefits ng ating Sangguniang Kabataan, and I share your sentiments dahil ito pong mga kabataan ay kailangan nating maalagaan.

Of course, iyong clamor po for civil service eligibility ay patuloy po nating dinidinig at kino-consider po natin iyan.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, dapat pong tingnan ng NYC na ang kanila pong mandato dito ay hindi lamang koordinasyon kundi talagang obligasyon nila na tiyakin na iyong mga karapatan, mga pribilehiyo na sang-ayon sa batas para sa ating mga miyembro ng Sangguniang Kabataan ay ating maibibigay sa kanila para magampanan nila ang kanilang mga tungkulin ng buong tapat at maibigay sa kanila iyong ganoong suporta bilang mga kabataang lingkod-bayan.

Now, let me go to our next concern, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat po sa ating distinguished Sponsor at sa NYC family. Tungkol po ito sa ibinigay na ulat ng PNP at ng DILG tungkol po sa kaso ng pagkamatay po ng three-year old na si Micah Olpina. Ngayon po, mayroon pa pong imbestigasyon hinggil dito. Mayroon na pong isang nakasuhan. Hindi na po ako magtatanong kung ano na po ang ginagawa ng PNP tungkol sa mga ito dahil ito po ay nasa korte na. Simula po 2016, tuwing tayo po ay nanghihingi ng commitment sa PNP na hindi na madadagdagan iyong listahan ng mga bata at mga kabataan na nadadamay at napapaslang sa war on drugs, binibigyan po tayo ng assurance. Ngunit ang pinakanakakahala po rito, sa kabila ng assurance na iyon, taon-taon din na nadadagdagan ang death toll ng kanilang tinatawag na collateral casualties ng war on illegal drugs.

Mr. Speaker, tayo po ay sumusuporta sa laban sa iligal na droga, but they should not be done at the expense of children's lives and our future. Hindi lang po ang mga bata, ang mga kabataan at lahat ng ating mga kababayan, lalong-lalo na ang mga maralita. Kaya po ang nais ko na lang hingin sa ating distinguished Sponsor, isang malinaw na mensahe na dapat na matigil ang mga pamamaslang. There should be a clear message, Mr. Speaker, that the killings related to the war against illegal drugs must stop.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the PNP is committed to uphold the law, to respect due process, and the rights of every Filipino. Kahit saan ka man, anuman ang political spectrum mo, ang PNP po ay mananatiling nagtatanggol ng ating Saligang Batas at naglilingkod sa kapwa Pilipino. The PNP will not tolerate collateral damage and the PNP is willing to punish even those within their ranks, kapag lumabag po sila sa batas. That is the assurance that the PNP wants to give in this plenary and to the Representative of KABATAAN Party-List.

REP. ELAGO. Dapat ngang matigil ang mga pamamaslang at managot lahat po ng mga naging sangkot sa mga pamamaslang na ito.

Mr. Speaker, isang bagay po na napansin natin sa mga kaso na may kinalaman sa pagkamatay ng mga bata at mga kabataan. Sila po ay mga biktima ng mistaken identity o kaya naman nadadamay sa mismong law enforcement operations dahil karaniwan na sa cramped communities and spaces ay nagko-conduct ng drug-ops. Mayroon namang rules of engagement ang PNP pagdating sa mga kaso na hindi natin maiiwasan na mayroong mga bata.

Kaya ang mga kabataan po ay patuloy na magbabantay sa mga kasong ito at sana po ay hindi na maulit iyong ating naobserbahan, na sa mga kasong ito,

lahat po, hindi nagtutugma ang accounts ng witnesses, ng family members, mga kapitbahay ng mga nagiging biktima ayon sa mga inire-report ng kapulisan. Kaya dapat iyong pagpapanagot natin, maski sa anong level, na ang katotohanan ay dapat po nating ipagtanggol, dahil sa pamamagitan ng katotohanan, Mr. Speaker, diyan lang po makakakuha ng hustisya ang mga biktima ng pamamaslang, sampu ng kanilang mga pamilya.

Now, let me go to my final concern, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the the DILG.

Naglabas po ng memorandum, following President Duterte's directive during his fourth SONA, na may kinalaman sa road clearing. Iyong memorandum pong ginagamit para maging shortcut sa demolisyon ng mga kabahayan. Sa parte po ng Representasyong ito, dapat siguro ay may malinaw ding mensahe mula sa DILG na ang memorandum na ito ay hindi gagamitin to skirt around our laws in protecting the right to shelter and the right to adequate housing. Hindi po puwede ang shortcut. Hindi rin pupuwede na iikutan natin ang ating mga batas, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, DILG guarantees na hindi po ito gagamitin for demolition.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, hindi lang ito sa demolisyon ng mga bahay, kung hindi para rin po sa displacement ng mga iligal na nagtitinda sa daan. Ang sa atin lang po, sila ay talagang nagsisikap na magkaroon ng kabuhayan kasi walang trabaho. Sa road clearings, dapat kumpleto rin ang plano. Kung mayroon po tayong paaalisin, ang tanong, saan sila ililipat?

Sa tala po ng Representasyong ito, batay na rin sa report ng DILG, mayroon nang 1,400 illegal vendors na apektado nitong road clearing operations. Ilan po sa 1,400 ang mayroon na ngayong tiyak na relocation para sila ay makapagtinda muli at makapagpatuloy ng kanilang kabuhayan?

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, clearing operation is a multi-agency effort. Siguro po, it would be better if we give the DILG the opportunity to consult first with the agencies like the NHA, the LGUs and other concerned agencies, and they will give you a complete report regarding that specific question of yours.

REP. ELAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, tayo rin po, gusto natin ng mga daan na ligtas, ...

REP. VARGAS. Yes.

REP. ELAGO. ... clear, para sa pagtulong sa traffic, to ease heavy traffic, pero hindi po tayo sang-ayon sa mga solusyon na pangkosmetiko lamang o makakaapekto sa iba pa nating mga kababayan.

Dapat po kumpleto ang plano. Marami sa ating mga manggagawa ang nagko-contribute sa informal economy natin, workers like vendors, pedicab drivers, tricycle drivers. Kinakailangan na manguna tayo para sila ay makasama sa ating paggogobyerno at hindi iyong papaalisin sila, papalayasin nang walang kasiguruhan na relokasyon at livelihood. Iyan po ang ilan sa mga dahilan kung bakit marami sa mga kababayan natin ang napapakapit sa patalim kapag sila ay nagiging biktima ng gutom at kahirapan sa ating bansa.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, nasa P800 million po yata ang Confidential and Intelligence Expenses ng DILG, kung maaari rin nating makuha ang commitment ng distinguished Sponsor. Baka naman imbes na nandito sa CIE ang ating pondo, ilagay natin ito sa mga proyekto tulad ng development ng governance to—and hopefully, fold into it our informal workforce in the local government. That is one of my recommendations, Mr. Speaker, and I hope I can work with the distinguished Sponsor with regard to this good intention.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. VARGAS. Thank you, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BAGATSING. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize our Sr. Dep. Minority Leader Janette Garin, from the First District of Iloilo, for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Representative from the First District of Iloilo, Sr. Dep. Minority Leader Janette L. Garin, is recognized for her interpellation or manifestation.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mr. Speaker, instead of an interpellation, we believe that the discussion on the proposed budget of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, including its attached agencies, has already been extensively discussed. With that, there being no other member of the Minority who wishes to ask other questions, we move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budgets of the DILG and its attached agencies.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BAGATSING. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we join the Minority in its motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budgets of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, including its attached agencies.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; on the joint motion from the Minority and the Majority, the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budgets of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, including its attached agencies, is hereby terminated.

The session is suspended.

It was 6:09 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:12 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to consider the proposed budget of the Climate Change Commission.

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

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, to sponsor the proposed budget of the Climate Change Commission, I move that we recognize Rep. Ed Christopher S. Go from Isabela to answer questions, if there are any.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Rep. Christopher Go, Vice Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, from the province of Isabela, is recognized to sponsor the budget for the Climate Change Commission.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, before we recognize the Sponsor, may I also acknowledge our guests from the said Commission: Sec. Emmanuel De Guzman, Vice Chairperson and Executive Director; Atty. Rachel Anne Herrera, Commissioner; Mr. Noel Antonio Gaerlan, Commissioner; and Atty. Efren Marcelino Bascos, Chief of the Legal Division.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). To the family of the Climate Change Commission, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. May we recognize the Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GO (E.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to sponsor the budget of the Climate Change Commission. I am ready to answer the questions of the Members present, if there are any.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Cong. Sarah Jane I. Elago from the Minority to interpellate the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Representative from KABATAAN Party-List, Hon. Sarah Jane Elago, is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor of the budget of the Climate Change Commission.

REP. ELAGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The CCC is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of all programs, activities and projects, and all the climate change expenditures of the national government. For the years 2018 and 2019, Mr. Speaker, we have allotted a total of P470 billion for the CCE, and for 2020, another P220 billion is allotted, bringing the three-year total to a whopping P690.7 billion.

Mr. Speaker, how does the CCC ensure that this big chunk for adaptation and mitigation measures in our budget is well spent?

REP. GO (E.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. Mandated to monitor the government's programs on climate change, the CCC has established a monitoring and evaluation system that captures climate budget tagged by national government, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Salamat, Mr. Speaker. Tuwing kailan po natin ginagawa ang assessment or mayroon na ba tayong nailabas na ulat para sa taong 2018 o sa mga nagugol ng gobyerno para sa taong 2018? Sa kasalukuyan, mayroon na po ba tayong reference para sa lahat ng interesado sa napakalaking chunk ng budget na ito? Mr. Speaker, nais din po nating marinig mula sa distinguished Sponsor ang mga hakbang o mga plano ng CCC para matiyak na iyong laki ng pondo na ginagamit natin para bantayan ang lahat ng programa na may kinalaman sa klima ay nandiyan at tumutugon ang CCC sa kanilang mandato?

REP. GO (E.). Okay. Mr. Speaker, the Climate Change Commission has an arrangement with DBM to monitor.

REP. ELAGO. All right. Mayroon na po ba tayong review ng lahat ng climate change expenditures? Nabasa

ko po sa ilan sa mga pahayag ng CCC na mayroon silang planong maglabas ng policy review na may kinalaman sa lahat ng programs, activities and projects ng CCE. Kailan po natin maaasahan na ito ay mailalabas?

REP. GO (E.). Mr. Speaker, since 2015 po, mayroon tayong inilalabas every year.

REP. ELAGO. Para sa taong 2018, nailabas na po ba natin?

REP. GO (E.). Mr. Speaker, the 2019 budget is still with the DBM.

REP. ELAGO. All right. Para sa taong 2018, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, kung mayroon na, tayo po ay manghihingi.

REP. GO (E.). Mr. Speaker, for the year 2018, there is already a record.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Kinakailangan natin ang ulat na ito mula sa CCC, dahil sa taong ito nagdeklara ang mga kabataan sa buong mundo, hindi lang po dito sa Pilipinas, ng Global Climate Strike. Iyan po ay magaganap mula September 20 hanggang September 27 sa Europe, sa United States, sa Australia, sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo. Sa linggo na iyan, makikita po natin ang iba't ibang aktibidad ng mga kabataan, mga estudyante, ng mga parliyamto na tumutugon sa mga hamon ng klima. Maski po ang CCC, kasama rin ang Opisina ng Presidente, at ang pambansang gobyerno ay nagbigay na ng kanilang pagkilala na kung hindi tayo aaksyon ngayon, maaaring mas malaki pa ang gastusin o ang kinakailangan na pondo para maibaligtad na ang mga masamang epekto ng hindi pagtugon sa isyu ng klima sa ating bansa.

It says in their declaration, Mr. Speaker, that the CCC recognizes that there is indeed a climate emergency, that failure to build the adaptive capacities of communities to climate change would lead to unprecedented loss to human society, environment and global economy, but its budget tells us otherwise, Mr. Speaker. For the year 2020, we are allotting P124 million for CCC. Yes, this is 8.95 percent higher than its 2019 budget, but still this is around 30 percent less than its 2018 budget.

Kaya naman, Mr. Speaker, nais din po nating makipagtulungan sa ating distinguished Sponsor para mapataas din naman iyong pondo ng Climate Change Commission. Kung mayroon tayong climate emergency, kinakailangan naman na magkaroon din tayo ng urgent na aksyon pagdating sa pagtugon sa kanilang mga pangangailangan para sila naman ay makasunod doon sa kinakailangan ng kanilang trabaho at ng kanilang mandato, Mr. Speaker. Can we hear that commitment from the distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GO (E.). Mr. Speaker, we are very committed on increasing the budget of CCC in the coming years. The work of CCC is essential in our battle to stop climate change in its thrust to comply with their international treaty obligation. We hope to empower the CCC even more in the coming years as the champion of Philippine climate justice.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

Bilang panghuli, nitong September lang po, mayroon pong isang DENR forest ranger na pinatay po doon sa kurso ng pagkampanya sa gawain na protektahan ang ating mga gubat sa Palawan. Ngayon, dapat may gawin din dito ang CCC sa pagprotekta ng mga karapatan ng ating environmental defenders. Sa ngayon po ba, ano ang policy recommendation mula sa CCC na bilang pagtugon sa hamon na ito?

REP. GO (E.). Mr. Speaker, the DENR has an existing program where forest rangers are deputized as stewards of the environment. The role of the CCC is to mainstream climate and to these existing programs of the government, through capacity-building of community leaders, forest rangers alike, the CCC supports intervention sa DENR and other agencies concerned to ensure the greater protection for the safety of our forests.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Sa kasalukuyan po dito sa Kapulungang ito, tinatalakay din natin ang tungkol sa Human Rights Defenders Bill, kasama po dito ang pagprotekta doon sa karapatan ng lahat ng mga nais mag-ambag sa pagprotekta, hindi lang ng ating mga karapatang pantao, kundi maging ng ating kalikasan, at lahat ng very active na nagpa-participate sa climate justice advocacy.

Kaya naman nagagalak ang Representasyong ito, Mr. Speaker, sa commitment ng CCC sa pagprotekta sa mga environmental defenders, at tayo po ay nananawagan sa lahat ng naririto na makiisa sa darating na September 20 to 27, #GlobalClimateStrike, #StrikeWithUs.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we now recognize Rep. Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat of MAGSASAKA Party-List to interpellate the Sponsor of the proposed budget.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Hon. Argel

Cabatbat from MAGSASAKA Party-List is recognized for his manifestation or interpellation.

REP. CABATBAT. Mr. Speaker, there being no members of the Minority—Mr. Speaker, I am withdrawing my motion.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, sorry, motion to suspend the session for one minute.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is the Gentleman from the MAGSASAKA Party-List willing to yield the floor to Representative from BUHAY Party-List?

REP. CABATBAT. Yes, I withdraw my motion. Salamat po.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Chair, may I ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Hon. Lito Atienza from BUHAY Party-List is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader, and thank you for the opportunity given to us to ask some very important questions on this seemingly insignificant Commission, but in reality, very vital to our survival.

I would like to ask the Gentleman who is sponsoring the measure for his very small budget if the Commission is indeed performing its tasks? Are they in any way involved in seeing to it that the climate change impacts, that the destructive effects are lessened at least in the country, because capacity-building, training, and all of it will come to nothing unless they become specific that they will lower the destructive impact of climate change? Are they doing anything about it?

REP. GO (E.). Mr. Speaker, the Climate Change Commission is training local government units to come up with the local climate change action plans, to be more ...

REP. ATIENZA. Tinatanggap po ba ng ating mga pamunuan ng Climate Change Commission—nandito po iyong pinaka-top officer ng Komisyon iyan. Ang talagang namumuno diyan ay ang Pangulo ng bansa. Tinatanggap din natin iyon, pero si Vice Chairman De Guzman is the top official of the Commission. Is he part and parcel in any effort to mitigate the negative destructive impact of climate change in our islands?

REP. GO (E.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Yes, of course. I ask him a direct question, “What is he doing to save the water bodies of the country?” First of all, does he accept the fact that

clean water in our country—the lakes, the rivers, the streams—will help lower the risk of climate change and the increasing temperature of our waters? Mayroon po ba silang ginagawa tungkol sa Laguna de Bay?

Alam ninyo, ang Laguna de Bay ay heavily silted. Hanggang tuhod na po ang burak diyan, mababaw na lang ang tubig diyan sa gitna, sapagkat iyan ay napaka-polluted, marumi, putikan, at hindi na po nakatutulong sa pagbabawas ng panganib sa climate change sa bansa. Mayroon po ba silang programa para iyong kanilang capacity-building ay isama nila iyong paglilinis ng ating Laguna de Bay?

REP. GO (E.). They have. Tinulungan po nila iyong mga LGUs, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Ano po iyong kanilang pagsisikap? Puwede po ba nating malaman? Dahil kung wala silang pondo, wala silang magagawa.

REP. GO (E.). Capacity-building po para sa LGUs, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Ano po iyon?

REP. GO (E.). Capacity-building, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Iyon ang sabi ko, iyong capacity-building is nothing but an abstract effort. Actual cleaning up, dredging, clearing of the waters of Laguna de Bay, removing the fish pens there, allowing the fish to become healthy once again para po iyong tubig diyan—the biggest freshwater lake in Asia ay makatulong po naman sa kanilang trabaho. Kung wala po silang ginagawa ay tanggapin na natin ang katotohan. Dapat magmula ngayon, sumali na sila sa paglilinis ng tubig na ito.

Mr. Speaker, we are blessed with so many water bodies in the country. We have so many lakes, we have so many rivers—totaling about 800. Two-thirds of these are already polluted, useless contributing to the problem of climate change. The Commission which should be most concerned about the problem tonight is with us and I would like to point exactly to them, kayo ang inaasahan ng bansa at ng gobyerno. Kayo ang inaasahan ng Pangulo ng bansa, who is the Chairman of this Commission. Unless you are doing something directly under your supervision, then the Commission is not doing its job. I may even be recommending deferring their budget and not giving them anything. Kung wala po silang ginagawa kung hindi sumweldo ay wala po tayong karapatang magbigay ng maski na isang milyon.

REP. GO (E.). Mr. Speaker, ang trabaho po ng Climate Change Commission ay ang paggawa ng action

plan. Ang DENR po at ang LGU ang nagpapatupad for food security, NAACP strategic priorities po, water sufficiency, ecosystem and environmental stability, human security, climate smart industries and services, sustainable energy, knowledge and capacity development, and cross-cutting, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Uulitin ko po iyong tanong ko para maintindihan ng buong bansa. Ang climate change ay dapat nating harapin, dapat nating sugpuin. Mapalad tayo marami tayong mga ilog at lawa sa ating bansa. Kung wala silang gagawin tungkol sa paglilinis ng mga ito, hindi sila magtatrabaho, capacity-building is so abstract. It will not help any but if it, at least, brings the attention of everyone to the need of cleaning up Laguna de Bay to start with—Pampanga River, Bulacan River, Sampaloc Lake, the seven lakes in Mindanao, Manila Bay—linisin natin iyan, wala akong naririnig sa Climate Change Commission and yet we are talking about giving them a budget? I resent even considering anything if they cannot present any effort to mitigate, lower the risk of climate change in the country simply because they do not seem to know what to do.

REP. GO (E.). Mr. Speaker, the CCC is to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate programs and action plans of the government relating to climate change not an implementing agency, Mr. Speaker—planning lang po.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, I move to defer their budget.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The session is suspended.

It was 6:33 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:35 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of the budget of the Climate Change Commission and move to the consideration of the budget of the Department of Labor and Employment.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BAGATSING. May we have a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The session is suspended.

It was 6:35 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:37 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Department of Labor and Employment.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

We are now open for interpellations and debate on the budget of the Department of Labor and Employment, including its attached agencies.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Sponsor of the proposed budget of the Department of Labor and Employment. I move that we recognize Rep. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The honorable Rep. Jocelyn Limkaichong, the former Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, now Vice Chairman, is now recognized for her sponsorship of the budget of the Department of Labor and Employment, including its attached agencies.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Before we proceed, Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the members of the DOLE family. First and foremost, we have Sec. Silvestre H. Bello III, Usec. Renato Ebarle, Usec. Jacinto Paras, Usec. Ciriaco Lagunzad III, Usec. Claro Arellano, Usec. Ana C. Dione, Asec. Alex V. Avila, Asec. Benjo Santos M. Benavidez, Asec. Joji V.

Aragon, Asec. Federico V. Abuan Jr., Asec. Mariano R. Alquiza, OIC Asec. Philip A. Paredes, and Dir. Warren Miclat.

We also have the heads of the attached agencies: from the Institute for Labor Studies, Exec. Dir. Ahma Charisma Lobrin-Satumba; National Conciliation and Mediation Board, OIC Exec. Dir. Maria Teresita Laxamana-Cancio; from the National Labor Relations Commission, Chair Gerardo C. Nograles; from the National Maritime Polytechnic, Exec. Dir. Joel B. Maglunsod; from the OWWA, Adm. Hans Leo J. Cacdac; from the POEA, Adm. Bernard P. Olalia; from the Professional Regulation Commission, Chair. Teofilo S. Pilando Jr.; from the Employees' Compensation Commission, Exec. Dir. Stella Zipagan-Banawis; from the Occupational Safety and Health Center, Exec. Dir. Noel C. Binag, and all Regional Directors, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). We warmly welcome the Department of Labor and Employment family, including its attached agencies, headed by our former colleague, Secretary Manong Bebot Bello. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations, Hon. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, First District, Negros Oriental.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Hon. Jocelyn Limkaichong is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. LIMKAICHONG

REP. LIMKAICHONG. Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, I rise to sponsor the proposed budget of the Department of Labor and Employment for Fiscal Year 2020 in the amount of P14,420,635,000.

Unemployment and underemployment, being perennial problems in our country, lie at the core of poverty. The creation of productive employment opportunities is crucial in our national poverty reduction strategies. In the milieu of unequal distribution of wealth and capital, I need not underscore the fact that poverty is largely due to the low-earning capacity of the poor and their limited access to full, decent and productive employment.

Through the Department of Labor and Employment, the State has constantly affirmed and acted on its constitutional mandate to afford protection to labor, promote full employment, and ensure equal work opportunities for Filipinos working domestically and overseas.

DOLE has stayed true to its mandate of providing social protection to vulnerable workers as evidenced by the significant increase in livelihood beneficiaries under the Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program, Tulong Pangkabuhayan sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers, popularly known as TUPAD Program, among many others. Through these efforts, there is now a 94.6-percent employment rate which translates to almost 43 million employed Filipinos in July of 2019. Mr. Speaker, despite these accomplishments, this Department's budget was slashed by roughly 11.8 percent in the proposed 2020 Cash-Based Expenditure Program.

We have always praised the adaptability of our country's workforce and recognized their contribution in the growth of our economy. Undisputed in this regard is the importance of the remittances of our OFWs that year after year account for a significant contribution in our gross domestic product and gross national income. We largely depend on our workers' competency and mobility to achieve sustainable and inclusive benefits from economic integration. With that said, Mr. Speaker, it is crucial that we give back to our local and overseas workers, our modern-day heroes, by strengthening the institutional mechanisms that protect them from all forms of abuse, exploitation and maltreatment.

Through the implementation of its programs, the DOLE has set bold plans to meet the end goals of socioeconomic development, poverty eradication and improved well-being of our workforce. Insofar as it is within the ambit of our powers, it is our duty as Congressional Members to capacitate this Department to effectively fulfill its mandate through adequate budgetary allocation.

On that note, Mr. Speaker, on our end as legislators, let us help in sustaining the government's efforts to strengthen decent work gains and address the remaining challenges of our workforce.

With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, allow me then to turn the floor over to my colleague, Rep. David "Jay-Jay" C. Suarez of the Second District of Quezon province, to defend the budget of the Department of Labor and Employment.

Daghang salamat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The honorable Representative from Quezon province, Honorable David Suarez, is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to defend the proposed budget of the Department of Labor and Employment and I am ready for any questions or interpellations from our fellow colleagues.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes to allow the technical staff and the resource persons of the Committee access to the floor.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Sorry, but the motion is denied. Let us now proceed. They are now ready. Who is the first to interpellate?

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat of MAGSASAKA Party-List to interpellate the Sponsor of the proposed budget of the Department of Labor and Employment, including its attached agencies.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Hon. Argel Cabatbat from MAGSASAKA Party-List is recognized for his interpellation of the good Sponsor of the budget of the Department of Labor and Employment, including its attached agencies.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, for the year 2017, as reported in the 2018 NEP, the Department, particularly the Office of the Secretary, had an Unobligated Allotment of P2.4 billion, but if you look at the 2020 NEP for 2018, Mr. Speaker, the Department did not report any Continuing Appropriations for 2018. May we know why, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Presently, the funds that were mentioned by our dear colleague are continuing obligations of the Department. So, the appropriation is being liquidated by the said office.

REP. CABATBAT. As I understand it, Mr. Speaker, is the Department yet to make a report? Is that the answer, Mr. Speaker? I am sorry, I did not get that. Can the good Sponsor repeat the answer?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, may I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session, please.

REP. CABATBAT. Mr. Speaker, before we act on the motion, Mr. Speaker, I can settle for reports. The reason I am asking the question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Department to give me the details of the

Unobligated Allotment. How much is for the PS? How much is for the Capital Outlays? How much is for the MOOE? Because as far as I can remember, Mr. Speaker, the validity of the appropriations for 2017 as contained in the 2017 GAA is for two years except for the PS.

So, I would like to know the details of the Unobligated Allotment. What consists of the P2.4 billion as reported in the 2018 NEP, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr....

REP. CABATBAT. I would like the Department to give a detailed report to my office, Mr. Speaker. I can settle for that.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Yes. Mr. Speaker, on that note, we will comply with the request of our dear colleague from the MAGSASAKA Party-List and immediately first thing next week, I hope he will accept. The good Department will issue all the necessary data, report obligations, duly required and requested by Congressman Cabatbat, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My next question refers to savings, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask if the Department had generated savings for the year 2017 and 2018.

I would like to rephrase my question, Mr. Speaker. Did the Department generate savings for 2017 and 2018?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Yes, we did.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My next question is, did the Department ask for augmentation, for the deficiencies in its priority programs and projects?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Yes, we did, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will settle also for the submission of report as to the savings generated for 2017 and 2018, and for the request for augmentation, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, we will comply with the request of the Representative from the MAGSASAKA Party-List.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have no further question.

Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move that we recognize Hon. Enrico A. Pineda of 1-PACMAN Party-List to interpellate the Sponsor.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Hon. Enrico Pineda from 1-PACMAN Party-List is recognized for his interpellation or manifestation.

REP. PINEDA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

This Representation would like to manifest that being the Chairman of the Committee on Labor and Employment, together with 70 of our esteemed colleagues, this Representation has filed a Resolution to restore the originally requested budget of the Department of Labor and Employment of P19.837 billion, which the DBM reduced to P14.421 billion.

This reduction, Mr. Speaker, will severely affect the implementation of DOLE's programs like the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers or the TUPAD Program which is instrumental as a stopgap measure for our workers here and abroad.

Unlike the 4Ps which is a dole-out, TUPAD allows the recipients to maintain their dignity during trying times, as they will be working for their upkeep. TUPAD was significant during the rehabilitation of Boracay Island by providing temporary employment to affected residents. Such program is also relevant to areas affected by calamities where workers are displaced. On the other hand, OFWs also have to wait for their contract to be renewed and have no definite income in an undetermined timeframe. TUPAD Program could help their families subsist in the meantime. Other programs like the Government Internship Program providing for fresh graduates' exposure to government work and the Special Program for Employment of Students providing OJT for students are beneficial to our young constituents intending to join the government's workforce, which also creates a pool of potential workers for government service. Both have received a large budget cut.

The overseas operations of the DOLE are also affected by the budget cut. With the increasing number of OFWs, the proposed budget allocation would not be sufficient to ensure their protection and welfare. Our modern heroes remitted at least \$32 billion last year. That covers at least 40 percent of our national budget already. It is evident that the agency primarily tasked with their welfare should have a budget commensurate to the remittances.

Lastly, with only 700 Labor Law Compliance Officers covering 900,000 business establishments all over the country, how do we expect the DOLE to ensure that all businesses are compliant with labor standards?

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, I hope that you

will join this Representation in calling for the restoration of the DOLE's budget for Fiscal Year 2020.

Under the Constitution, we have the power of the purse. It would be incumbent for us to do what is necessary for the welfare of our 43 million workers here and abroad.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this juncture, I move that we recognize Hon. Lito Atienza of BUHAY Party-List for his manifestation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Hon. Lito Atienza from BUHAY Party-List is recognized for his manifestation.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Nais lang naming bigyan ng diin ang nabanggit ng ating Chairman of the Committee on Labor. Even with the able defense of the young, energetic, experienced Chairman of the Committee now defending the budget of DOLE, there is one seemingly glaring issue which bothers many of us. I have co-signed and many of us co-signed that Resolution na kailangang ibalik iyong pondo ng TUPAD. Bakit iyon ang binawasan samantalang iyong dole-out na programa para sa PPP—ang tawag ko tuloy diyan, parte-parteng lamang iyan—wala pong trabaho iyon, binibigyan ng pera ang benepisyaryo. Iyong TUPAD, pinagtatrabaho, cash-for-work. Iyong sa social welfare, wala pong trabaho, basta iyon ay ipinamimigay ng gobyerno ang pera. Sila binigyan ng increase, P108 billion ang kanilang pondo, Itong pondo ng ating DOLE para sa TUPAD, cash-for-work. Productivity is the main message there providing them support and a salary for whatever menial jobs that they perform. They are productive in that sense. Binawasan ng P2 billion. So, we resent it and I personally resent it too. I reflect also the feelings of many of our colleagues that the budget of TUPAD, a genuine effort and program of the government to help tide over our impoverished sector para po naman sila ay makatawid sa gutom, pero pinagtatrabaho sila. Hindi libre iyong TUPAD. May trabaho po iyon at binibigyan ng suweldo ng gobyerno.

We cannot understand, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker, why P2 billion has been slashed and a big increase in the PPP has been added. Are we teaching our people to become nothing but mendicants? Sasalo na lang tayo ng biyaya ng gobyerno o tuturuan natin silang magtrabaho. We say that we all support that Resolution. We ask the Majority to support that Resolution. And we can do

something about it correcting an injustice done, not by Congress of the Philippines but by the Department of Budget and Management which does not seem to feel what we are feeling as Representatives of the people. Kaya, at this point in time, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker, we move to adopt that particular statement coming from the House of Representatives from this gathering that we have tonight.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). We will deal with it at the proper time, Your Honor. The manifestation is noted.

REP. ATIENZA. Iyon po ang aming manipestasyon, iyon po rin naman ang aming katok sa inyong mga puso. Do not encourage mendicancy but rather productivity. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Ferdinand R. Gaite of BAYAN MUNA Party-List to interpellate the Sponsor.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Hon. Ferdinand Gaite of BAYAN MUNA Party-List is recognized for his interpellation.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Okay. Mr. Speaker, instead of Hon. Ferdinand R. Gaite, we would like to recognize—I move to withdraw my motion for...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Withdraw the previous motion.

REP. TADURAN. ...the recognition of Hon. Ferdinand Gaite and instead recognize Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. of the Third District of Camarines to interpellate the Sponsor.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado is now recognized instead of Hon. Ferdinand Gaite.

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

Mr. Sponsor, I have some questions here and I believe you are more than willing to answer the questions.

REP. SUAREZ (D.) You are very much welcome, Congressman Bordado.

REP. BORDADO. The first question is, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, in 2017 and 2018, the value-for-money audit of the Commission on Audit for DOLE reported low and improper fund utilization and delayed implementation of the so-called JobStart Philippines Program. Moreover, there was a very low job placement rate of 10.8 percent or 401 out of 3,708 enrollees, indicating a mediocre program performance. What is your reaction, Mr. Speaker, regarding this report?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Since that time, the DOLE has taken measures to improve the implementation of the JobStart Program. In fact, Mr. Speaker, presently, more than 17,000 have benefitted from the JobStart Program of the Department of Labor and Employment.

REP. BORDADO. So, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, in other words, you are telling us that the DOLE has come up with steps to address this concern?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Yes, Your Honor.

REP. BORDADO. So, at this stage, what is the percentage, because based on the COA report, there was only 10.8-percent job placement in 2018?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). In 2018, after the measures taken by the DOLE to improve the program were implemented, Mr. Speaker, DOLE achieved a 98-percent efficiency rate in the implementation of the JobStart Program.

REP. BORDADO. So, from 10.8 percent, Mr. Speaker, to 98 percent?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Absolutely, Mr. Speaker, because all the training funds and the disbursement of programs had been rolled-out and, therefore, benefitted the said sector, especially the youth, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. You know, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, I am very concerned about this program because of its impact on poverty alleviation. So, I am expecting DOLE to come up with specific approaches to address this concern. So, can DOLE do it?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, and we will provide the good Congressman from the province of Camarines Sur with the details, including the specific local government units that they have engaged and that they will engage for the JobStart Program.

REP. BORDADO. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

My next question: the National Labor Relations Commission's budget, which is usually the largest

next to the Office of the Secretary, will be decreased to P1.30 billion this year, lower than the budget to be given to OWWA, which is P1.48 billion, the next highest allocation and the biggest percentage increase, 34.3 percent.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, can the DOLE justify this radical slash in the budget of the NLRC?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). As much as DOLE would want a higher budget for NLRC, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, it was the Department of Budget and Management that gave the ceiling and slashed the budget. Given the budget for 2020, we are assured by the NLRC that they will continue to pursue, implement and do the necessary works so that they can properly discharge their constitutional mandate and duty, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. You know, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, I had the chance to discuss this matter with the top officials of the NLRC, particularly Chairman Gerardo Nograles and Usec. Jacinto Paras, and I understand that the NLRC actually needs P526.4 million this year for the second phase of the construction of the NLRC office building, replacement of fully depreciated office equipment, additional offices in other areas of the country, and the transfer of office of Region IV in Calamba, Laguna, among other things. Any reaction from the Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, that is absolutely correct. Indeed, the NLRC does require that amount, specifically for the construction of certain buildings, for the provision of job order employees' budget, and repatriation program, et cetera, but, unfortunately, because of the DBM's ceiling provided to the said office, they have to act on the budget that was given to them, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. So, just like what Congressman Pineda, Congressman Limkaichong and Congressman Atienza are requesting, is there a possibility that we can somehow increase the budget of the NLRC?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, I am one with the good Congressman from the province of Camarines Sur if he comes up with any measures or manifestations to request the increase of the budget of NLRC because, indeed, the NLRC does need these appropriations to better improve the execution of their mandate, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Yes, precisely, because the NLRC is at the forefront of, well, giving our workers fair and square treatment, so we need to focus on this particular issue.

For my last question, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor,

the Department of Labor and Employment, through the Secretary, stated that at least 504,000 employees were given regular employment. Is this correct?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, what is the DOLE doing to further allow the regularization of more employees?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Well, number one, Mr. Speaker, what the DOLE has done for the past three years is unprecedented. Never in the life of this Department has it reached that number of regularized employees. Right now, they have reached 504,000. And with the continuous inspection of establishments, we are assured that they will surpass this number in the year 2020, given the approval of the said budget.

REP. BORDADO. Okay. Let me express my support to the move to increase the budget of the Department of Labor and Employment.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Sponsor, thank you.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Thank you very much, Congressman Bordado.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognize.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of the budget of the Department of Labor and Employment, including its attached agencies.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the said agency is suspended.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The session is suspended.

It was 7:10 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:11 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

Continuation

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of the budget of the Climate Change Commission.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Climate Change Commission is now in order.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Christopher Go of Isabela to continue his sponsorship of the proposed budget.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Honorable Christopher—what is the parliamentary status, Majority Leader?

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Lito Atienza from the BUHAY Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The parliamentary status is that, for the budget of the Climate Change Commission, we are under the period of interpellation and debate. Hon. Lito Atienza will now continue with his interpellation of the Sponsor, Hon. Christopher Go, on the budget the Climate Change Commission.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Salamat po, Mr. Majority Leader.

Again, after the short break and our short meeting with the Climate Change Commission top man who is with us tonight, and the Sponsor, the Gentleman from Isabela, we agreed that I will reiterate my question and he will give the official answer at this point.

So, my question is: What is the Climate Change Commission doing about cleaning our water bodies in the country, primarily, Laguna de Bay, Manila Bay, and all the major rivers which are now polluted?

REP. GO (E.). Mr. Speaker, we tend to do convergence work with all local government units to ensure that our water bodies are ...

REP. ATIENZA. Samakatuwid, Mr. Speaker, the Commission accepts the challenge to their office and their mandate that they have to lead the efforts to clean up our water bodies as their primary task to mitigate the impact of climate change in the country.

REP. GO (E.). Tama po.

REP. ATIENZA. With dirty waters, polluted waters, the temperature of the water rises and we will have bigger problems with the change in weather condition.

REP. GO (E.). Tama po kayo.

REP. ATIENZA. Tama po ba iyong tanong ko?

REP. GO (E.). Yes po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat po.

REP. GO (E.). We accept po the challenge, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat po sa kanilang pagtanggap ng hamon. Maraming salamat, Congressman Go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Majority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize, from the Minority, Rep. Stella Luz A. Quimbo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Hon. Stella Quimbo, Representative from the city of Marikina, is recognized for her interpellation or manifestation.

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Speaker, there being no member of the Minority with questions on the Climate Change Commission, I move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on their proposed budget. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we join the Minority in their motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Climate Change Commission.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the joint motion from the Minority and Majority to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Climate Change Commission is approved. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Continuation

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Department of Labor and Employment, including its attached agencies.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Department of Labor and Employment, including its attached agencies, is now in order.

REP. TADURAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The parliamentary status is that we are in the period of interpellation and debate.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Honorable Ferdinand R. Gaite of BAYAN MUNA Party-List to interpellate the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Hon. Ferdinand Gaite is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my motion and, rather, I move that we recognize Hon. David “Jay-Jay” C. Suarez, Vice Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Second District, Quezon province, to deliver his sponsorship speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Vice Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, who will sponsor the budget of the Department of Labor and Employment, including its attached agencies, is recognized.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Ferdinand Gaite of the BAYAN MUNA Party-List, to interpellate the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The honorable Representative from the BAYAN MUNA Party-List, Hon. Ferdinand R. Gaite, is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor of the budget of the Department of Labor and Employment, including its attached agencies.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, kagalang-galang na Speaker, sa ating Sponsor.

Una sa lahat, Mr. Speaker, gusto naming maipahayag ang aming concern sa naganap na lindol ngayun-ngayon

lamang. Sana po ay ang ating mga constituents sa inyong lugar sa Quezon ay nasa maayos na kalagayan, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Maraming salamat po.

REP. GAITE. Patungkol sa sponsorship sa budget ng Department of Labor and Employment, noong nakaraang briefing ng budget sa Appropriations ay marami na kaming naitanong hinggil sa usapin ng kontraktuwalisasyon, at nabanggit na nga noon na may ilan namang nagawang regularisasyon ng mga dating kontraktual ang Department of Labor, ngunit sa katanungang gaano kalaki ba ang impact niyan sa kalagayang ng walang katiyakan, doon sa kabuuang bilang ng mga kontraktual ngayon sa 900,000 establishments, ito iyong isang malaking katanungan para sa amin.

Nabanggit na ni kagalang-galang Representative Pineda na gustong i-restore ang budget sa P19 billion, sa original proposal. Kami po ay naniniwala na mayroong dapat na gawing hakbang, ngunit sana rin, ito ay mailagay doon sa napakahalang mga programa, lalo na sa usapin ng Workers’ Protection and Welfare Program, doon sa usapin ng pagtitiyak na iyong compliance at iyong pagtitiyak na iyong 900,000 establishments ay sumusunod doon sa batas ng labor contracting. Iyong labor-only contracting na ngayon ay isang napakainit na isyu ng mga manggagawa, bunga na rin sa pangako ng Pangulong Duterte na ititigil ang kontraktuwalisasyon, ngunit magpahanggang ngayon ay hindi pa nagagawa, bunga na nga rin sa nabanggit na kakulangan ng mga labor inspectors, na ayon nga sa hearing noong nakaraan, kailangan daw 5,000. Tama po ba iyon?

Walong daan lamang ang kasalukuyang labor compliance inspectors natin at doon sa naaprubahang budget, 100 lamang ang idadagdag, kaya talagang parang hindi mangyayari iyong pag-inspect ng violations ng security of tenure ng mga manggagawa sa ganitong kalagayan. Hindi ko na po ibe-belabor ang issue ng budget ng labor, sorry for the pun, pero ang point ay talagang nangangailangan ng mas malaki pang budget para ma-ensure lang na ang pag-inspect ng mga violations sa security of tenure ng mga manggagawa ay maisakatuparan.

Of course, babanggitin ko na rin, dahil galing po ako sa Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, na kailangan rin bigyan ng suporta ang mga programang social protection and welfare for OFWs sapagkat nabanggit na kanina ang kontribusyon ng ating mga manggagawa sa ibayong dagat ay hindi puwedeng matawaran. Alam natin na napakalaki ng dinadagdag nila sa ating ekonomiya ngunit marami sa kanila ay sapilitang nagtatrabaho bunga na rin ng kakulangan ng job opportunities at ang mga trabaho nga na nasa Pilipinas ay kontraktual o hindi sapat. Kaya hindi ko

na po masyadong tatalakayin iyong problema natin sa kontraktwalisasyon kung kaya't papasok na ako po doon sa usapin naman ng mga manggagawa, lalo na sa usapin ng atake sa mga manggagawa.

Ngayon po ay alam naman natin na, bunga nga ng issue ng laban sa kontraktwalisasyon ng uring manggagawa, kaya marami ang kumilos at nagwelga at kasama na dito ang NutriAsia, Monde Nissin, Nexperia, Sumifru, Super8, Pepmaco, pati iyong Zagu, na pare-pareho iyong isyu, iyong problema ng kontraktwalisasyon. Sa halip na ang DOLE ang maging institusyon ng gobyerno para tiyakin na ang batas sa usapin ng labor-only contracting ay maisakatuparan, marami sa kanila na nagsagawa ng mga kilos-protesta ay dinahas ang kanilang mga picket line.

Sa NutriAsia, nilaban ng mahigit 400 manggagawa ang pagpapatupad ng kautusan ng Labor Regional Office na sila ay gawing regular. Ginawa ba silang regular? Hindi. Sa halip, dumating ang mga pulis sa picket line at kasama ang mga security guards ng pagawaan ay dinahas, na-disperse at sinaktan ang mga manggagawa sa naturang lugar na gumamit ng bulldozer, mga bato at mainit pa na tubig, at dahil doon, 17 ang hanggang sa ngayon ay nakakulong at P2 milyon ang hinihinging piyansa dahil sa patong-patong na gawa-gawang kaso na isinampa laban sa kanila.

Sa Pepmaco naman, nagwelga rin ang mga manggagawa bunsod na napakasahol na kalagayan sa pagawaan—walang personal protective equipment pero sila ay gumagamit ng mga kemikal, kabilang na ang zeolite na sinabi ng Cancer Research UK, na isang institute na nagsusuri sa mga kemikal, na nagdudulot daw ng cancer. Walang silang guwantes at walang angkop na gamit; 12 oras sa pagawaan at underpaid dahil walang bayad ang overtime. May naganap na inspeksiyon sa kanilang pagawaan na kinumpirma ang paglabag subalit walang aksiyon na naganap sa Department of Labor. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, imbes na pakinggan at agad na tugunan ang hinaing ng mga manggagawang nabanggit, karahasan po ang inabot nila.

Noong June 28, ala-una ng madaling araw, isang marahas rin na dispersal ang naganap na pinangunahan ng mga security guards ng planta habang nanood lamang ang Cabuyao Police. Labing-isa na welgista sa Pepmaco ang sugatan. Isang marahas din na dispersal muli ang naganap noong August 19 sa Pepmaco, kung saan sinugod ng 200 goons at kapulisan ang picket line ng mga manggagawa. Muli, 18 ang manggagawang inaresto sa insidenteng iyon.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, noong Mayo 9, 2012, inilabas ng DOLE ang nabanggit na kanina na guidelines on the conduct of the DOLE, DILG, DND, DOJ, AFP and PNP relative to the exercise of workers' rights and activities. Ayon sa guidelines, all labor disputes shall be under the primary and sole jurisdiction of the DOLE

and its appropriate agencies. The AFP and PNP may only intervene in labor disputes if expressly requested in writing either through mail, e-mail, fax or any similar means by the Department.

Ang aking katanungan, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, iniutos ba ng ahensiya ng DOLE ang marahas na dispersal na aking mga nabanggit, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, absolutely not.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat doon sa maikling sagot.

Kanina pa sa DILG, nang itinatanong ko kung bakit ang PNP ay nasangkot doon sa marahas na dispersal, pilit nilang sinasabi na sila daw ay gumagampan ng kanilang tungkulin bunga noong sitwasyon na mayroon daw altercation o violence. Malinaw sa guidelines na hindi puwedeng manghimasok ang PNP kung walang written na kautusan mula sa DOLE at malinaw din that there was an existing labor management dispute. So, tama po ba ang pagkaintindi ko, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). You are correct.

REP. GAITE. Karagdagang katanungan po—mayroon pong nakalaan na P615 million para sa protection of workers' rights and the maintenance of industrial peace. Tumaas po ito mula P531,857,000 sa taong 2019. Ito ba ay nagagamit talaga para sa pagtataguyod ng karapatan ng mga manggagawa o para lamang ito sa ating mga negosyante ang interpretasyon ng industrial peace, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Ang pondo pong ito ay nagagamit para proteksiyunan ang karapatan ng mga manggagawa.

REP. GAITE. Nag-aalala rin kami, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, dahil kahit na ang budget na ito ay lumaki, hindi pa rin nagaganap iyong sinasabing "industrial peace," iyong mga manggagawa na humihiling na magkaroon nang regularisasyon ang kanilang kalagayan sa trabaho, at sa halip na makatulong, ang DOLE, hindi nalilikha iyong kondisyon na ang manggagawa ay secure sa kanilang trabaho, na ang mga manggagawa ay mayroong good working conditions, na ang mga manggagawa ay narerespeto sa karapatan nila na mag-organisa, kasama na ang pagpasok sa sama-samang pakipagtawaran, at gayon din ang pagwewelga at iba pang mapayapang porma ng pagkilos. Kasama rin dito pala iyong budget na P34 million na nakalaan ngayon sa promotion of rights of workers and labor standards, na tumaas mula sa P33 million. Bakit po tila hindi napopromote ang karapatan ng ating mga manggagawa, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, base sa mga observations of the good Congressman from BAYAN MUNA Party-List, tinitiyak po ng ahensiyang ito na patuloy po nilang poproteksiyunan ang welfare at kalagayan ng mga manggagawa. Ang pondo na nakalaan para sa kanila para sa inspeksiyon ng mga establisimyento ay gagamitin upang tiyakin na nasa maayos na kalagayan ang ating mga manggagawa at siguraduhin na natatanggap po nila ang dapat po nilang natatanggap mula sa kanilang mga employers.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

Sa panghuling isyu ay ang usapin ng pag-atake sa unyonismo, at lalo na doon sa mga na-red-tag mismo ng gobyerno, iyong Kilusang Mayo Uno na matagal nang isang labor center na kumikilos para sa mga manggagawa.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, para pa ho sa huli naming katanungan, naiulat po sa Representasyong ito na may ongoing effort na pinamumunuan ang Armed Forces of the Philippines na iligal ang sapilitang pagpilit sa mga KMU members na mag-disaffiliate sa kanilang labor center.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, wala pa pong nakakarating sa ahensiyang ito na ganoon pong mga report but based on the observations of Congressman Gaite, we will definitely look into this matter and assure him that the Department is not engaged in any red-tagging activities of any agency or department.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Para din mailahad ang isang insidente—actually publicized na ito—ito po iyong nangyari sa Musahamat Workers Labor Union (MWLU), isang unyon ng mga manggagawa sa plantasyon ng saging sa Southern Mindanao. Ayon sa salaysay ng presidente ng unyon, sila ay dinukot noong February 27, 2019, ng mga elemento ng 71st Infantry Battalion ng AFP at pinilit sila na umamin na sila ay mga rebelde. Sila ay na-torture at pinagbantaan na papatayin ang kanilang pamilya. Pagkatapos ng ilang buwan ay iniharap ang mga union officers sa isang nakahandang press conference at sila ay sapilitang na pinag-anunsiyo na sila ay magdi-disaffiliate mula sa KMU.

Isa pang kahalintulad na sitwasyon—noong July 2, 2019, sa Agusan del Sur, the president of the Filipinas Palm Oil Processing, Inc. Workers Union ay sumulat ng isang liham na naka-address sa Chairman ng NAFLU-KMU hinggil sa kanilang pagpapasya raw, sa pamamagitan ng isang resolusyon ng kanilang general assembly, na sila raw ay magbibitiw o magdi-disaffiliate na sa NAFLU. Binanggit nila dito ang red-tagging ng mga officers at ang mga banta ng members ng 75th IB ng Philippine Army bilang pangunahing mga rason. Sa general assembly na ito ay pinamunuan mismo ng

nabanggit na miyembro ng Philippine Army noong June 28.

Ang mga members naman ng Nagkahiusang Mamumuo sa Suyapa Farm, gayon din ay naging target ng disaffiliation. Nag-house-to-house campaign sila, nagpulong-pulong o nag-assemblya, at mismong ang 60th and 25th IBPA ay ipinalabas na sumuko sila para daw sila ay ma-clear bilang miyembro ng New People's Army o supporters ng CPP-NPA at sinabihan at binantaan silang dumistansya sila sa KMU. Ang positibo po, hindi pumayag ang NAMASUFA na ma-intimidate sa mga pananakot na ito at sa halip, sila po ay lalong kumilos. Nakakalungkot na si Danny Boy Bautista, isang aktibong kasapi ng NAMASUFA, ay binaril sa Compostela Public Market noong October 31, 2018. Ang isa pang aktibong miyembro na si Jerry Alicante ay binaril naman noong November 11, 2018, ngunit buti nalang siya po ay hindi namatay. Si Victor Ageas, isa ring manggagawa, ay nag-survive sa assassination attempt noong September 4, 2018. Noong December 15, 2018, palapit na ang pasko, ang mga arsonists ay sinunog ang bahay ng presidente ng NAMASUFA na si Paul John Dizon at iyong bahay ng KMU chairman na si Vicente Barrios.

Napakarami pong mga insidente, at batay na rin mismo sa CTUHR na isang nagsusuri ng kalagayan ng trade union and human rights, at least 43 incidents ng extrajudicial killings ng mga manggagawa ang naganap sa pagitan ng September 7, 2016 hanggang sa kasalukuyan. Mayroon pang dagdag dapat na tatlo ngunit bini-verify pa ito as of the moment.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, bahagi po ba ng mandato ng DOLE ang pagprotekta sa karapatan ng mga manggagawa na mag-union sa kalagayang mayroong pinirmahan ang Pilipinas na International Labour Organization Convention No. 87 o Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize? Tungkulin ba o mandato ba ng DOLE na protektahan ang karapatan ng mga manggagawa, lalo na sa usapin ng right to self-organization, collective bargaining and negotiation, and the right to peaceful, concerted activities, including the right to strike, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Kung gayon, Mr. Sponsor, aware po ba ang DOLE sa kampanyang ito ng panunupil na ginagawa ng AFP at ng iba pang mga puwersang militar sa kanilang batayang karapatan sa pag-organisa, sa pag-union, sa karapatang pumaloob sa sama-samang pakikipagtawaran, kasama ang karapatang magwelga, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). The DOLE condemns any harsh treatment done to our labor sector, Mr. Speaker.

Let me assure Congressman Gaite that once the reports will be received by the Office of the Secretary, these will be acted upon. In fact, with the 43 incidents that had been mentioned, all of these have been referred to the PNP, and I assure the good Congressman from the BAYAN MUNA Party-List na hindi po ito papayagan ng DOLE at ito po ay aaksiyunan kaagad ng DOLE.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po sa kasagutan.

May kahingian din po ang mga manggagawa mula sa ating mga union sapagkat nakikita nila na may mga mekanismo sa loob ng DOLE kung ito lamang ay isinasagawa. Nabanggit nila na dapat bigyan ng kapasidad ang Regional Tripartite Industrial Peace Councils, kapag sila ay kumikilos bilang regional tripartite monitoring body, para imbestigahan ang mga nababanggit na pagpaslang at mga karahasan sa mga manggagawa at iba pang mga paglabag sa mga karapatang pantao at karapatan sa paggawa upang kahit paano ay magsilbi rin itong instrument para ang violations na nabanggit ay ma-monitor, ma-report at magawan ng aksiyon at para sa karampatang pagkilala sa batayang karapatan ng ating mga manggagawa, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). All of these are considered positive suggestions and recommendations, Mr. Speaker. They are duly noted by the Department of Labor and Employment, and we will act on the recommendations by the good Congressman from the BAYAN MUNA Party-List, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Sponsor.

Uulitin lang ng Kinatawang ito mula sa BAYAN MUNA na iyong proposal na ibalik ang budget na na-slash ng DBM na aabot sana ng at least P19 billion ay sinusuportahan namin, conditionally, provided na ang nabanggit na workers' protection and welfare, social protection and welfare for OFWs at iba pa mga mahahalagang programa ay mabigyan ng mas malaking budget para matiyak na ang proteksiyon sa ating mga manggagawa sa ibayong dagat at gayon din sa ating bansa ay matitiyak sa ilalim ng mga programa ng DOLE.

Maraming salamat po sa inyong pagsagot at sana po sa pagbalik ninyo sa inyong distrito ay iyong ating mga kapatid at mga kasamahan sa Quezon ay nasa maayos na kalagayan.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Lubha po kaming nagpapasalamat sa suporta at pagmamalasakit na ipinakita ni Congressman Gaite mula po sa BAYAN MUNA Party-List, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that we recognize Hon. Jesus "Bong" C. Suntay of the Fourth District of Quezon City to interpellate the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Representative from the Fourth District of Quezon City, Hon. Jesus "Bong" C. Suntay, is recognized for his interpellation.

REP. SUNTAY. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Kung pahihintulutan ho ako ng aking kaibigan, ng mahusay na Kongresista mula sa Quezon, na makapagbigay ng kaunting katanungan.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Opo, sa aking kaibigan sa Quezon City.

REP. SUNTAY. Maraming salamat.

REP. SUNTAY. Mr. Speaker, maaari ko ho bang malaman kung magkano ang aproprasyon ng DOLE, particularly the Office of the Secretary, for 2019?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Noong 2019 po, ito ay P11,603,002 Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUNTAY. For 2020?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Ito po ay bumaba at sa kasalukuyan, ang proposed budget po para sa 2020 ay P9,207,896.

REP. SUNTAY. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Presenter, basically, ang ibinaba ng aproprasyon na ibinigay sa DOLE is about 20.6 percent. Maaari ho bang itanong kung ano-anong mga programa ang tinamaan dito sa reduction na ito?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). May ilan po sa mga programang naapektuhan dahil po sa pagbaba ng budget ng Office of the Secretary: Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES), Public Employment Service Office (PESO), Labor Market Information (LMI), National Skills Registry System (NSRP), Tripartism and Social Dialogue, Workers Organization Development Program (WODP), Case Management, at Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers Program (TUPAD).

REP. SUNTAY. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Presenter, basically, ang mga tinamaan na mga programa sa

DOLE ng reduction na ito ay mga kasama or part of the programs for employment facilitation and employment preservation ng ahensiya. Maaari ho bang malaman kung ano ang obligation rate at disbursement rate ng mga programang ito, basically, kagaya noong binanggit ko, iyong employment preservation at employment facilitation programs?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). For 2018 po, para sa Special Program for Employment of Students, 99.39 percent ang ating obligation allotment, and for disbursements and obligations po for the same year, 95.84 percent.

REP. SUNTAY. So, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Presenter, with such a high obligation rate and disbursement rate, ano ho kaya ang naging kadahilanan kung bakit dito pa nabawasan ang alokasyon sa DOLE?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Ikinalungkot po ng Kagawarang ito nang malaman nila na na-slash po ang pondong ito at kung ano po ang mga rason, iyon po ay siguro dapat nating maitanong sa tamang ahensiya.

REP. SUNTAY. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Presenter, kaya ko lang ho ito nasabi ay dahil ang Department of Labor and Employment is mandated as the primary policy-making, programming, coordinating, and administrative entity of the Executive Branch of government in the field of labor and employment. It assumes the primary responsibilities of promoting gainful employment opportunities and optimizing the development and utilization of the country's manpower resources. In fact, the Department of Labor is one of the agencies tasked to ensure the implementation of priority poverty reduction projects as identified at the city and municipal levels. Kaya ho nakakalungkot ito—while we appropriated, while we allotted P108 billion for the 4Ps program which, I know, is also part of the poverty reduction strategy of the government; but I have to call a spade a spade dahil iyong 4Ps natin are practically handouts. While it is part of the poverty reduction program, ito ay, basically, kagaya nang nabanggit ko, handouts at ibinibigay ng walang trabahong kapalit.

Samantalang on the part of DOLE, ang tinamaan doon sa reduction sa kanilang alokasyon are programs such as the Special Program for Employment of Students, Public Employment Service Office, Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa ating mga Disadvantaged/ Displaced Workers (TUPAD), and the Government Internship Program, which are not dole-outs. Ito ay pinagtatrabahuhan ng ating mga kababayan para naman iyong halaga na nabibigay sa kanila ay commensurate sa pinagpawisan nila.

Kaya po kaisa ako at ng aking mga kasamahan, kagaya ni Cong. Eric Pineda at Cong. Lito Atienza, sa pag-apila dito sa atin, to appeal to our colleagues that

we work together to bring back the reduced allocation of the Department of Labor and Employment dahil napakadaming tao ho ang nakikinabang sa mga programang ginagawa nito.

So, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Presenter, maraming, maraming salamat.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Abu relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Johnny Ty Pimentel

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Thank you very much, Congressman Suntay, at umasa po kayo na patuloy pong gagawin ng Kagawarang ito ang pagpapatupad ng mga proyekto at programa para i-angat ang kalagayan ng ating mga manggagawa.

Maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I move that we recognize Hon. Arlene D. Brosas of GABRIELA Party-List to interpellate the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Arlene Brosas is recognized.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I only have two topics para po sa interpellation na ito. Maaari po bang mag-interpellate, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Maaari po, Mr. Speaker, but if I may request from the good Congresswoman, can she speak a little bit closer to the microphone.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

This is on the conscription of workers as military reservists. Napabalita sa unang bahagi ng taon na maaari na raw mag-apply ang mga manggagawa sa PEZA, sa registered economic zones, bilang military reservists. Ayon sa balita, ecozones have become the latest recruitment grounds for the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Aware po ba ang DOLE sa kasunduang ito sa pagitan ng PEZA at AFP?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Sa kasalukuyan po, mahal na tagapangulo, wala pa pong ganitong report o balita ang nakakarating sa Kagawaran.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, wala po? Iyong susunod kong tanong kasi ay kaugnay doon, kung ano ang legal and constitutional basis of such an agreement. So, there is no such agreement between the PEZA and AFP?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Wala pa pong ganoong kasunduan ang pinapasok ng Kagawarang ito at ng AFP, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, kung mayroon man, this is rather a bizarre and ironic arrangement since the Armed Forces should be out of the economic zones unless specific circumstances call for it. Sa pagtataya ng DOLE, walang nagsasanay sa ilalim ng military reservists program o mayroong military training sa kasalukuyan?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Wala po, Mr. Speaker, but since the DOLE sits in the Board of PEZA, ipararating po namin iyong balita at ang mga opinyon at suggestions ng ating ginagalang na Kinatawan mula sa GABRIELA Party-List upang maaksiyunan po ito ng PEZA Board.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

Kaugnay po dito, ang inaalala po kasi natin dito, sa loob mismo ng mga ecozones na ang umiiral ay batas ng mga dayuhang korporasyon, sagana na ang mga dayuhan sa mga insentiba, samantalang iyong mga manggagawa ay pinagbabawalang mag-union at pinapanatiling kontraktwal, pagkatapos ay mababalitaan natin na mayroong kasunduan between the PEZA and AFP na maging military reservists sila. Ito po ay isa sa mga alarming na balita para sa amin, and it is good to know, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, na walang ganoon.

Thank you.

On the second point lamang po, on the implementation of the OSH Law, R.A. No. 11058. Ang GABRIELA Women's Party, being one of the principal authors of the Occupational Safety and Health or OSH Law, is very interested on how the DOLE is implementing it inside the economic zones. Malinaw na nakasaad sa batas na nasasaklaw nito ang mga nasabing engklabo ng manupaktura—BPO at iba pang industriya. Inilaban natin na maisama ito sa final version ng batas bilang pagtugon sa panawagan ng mga manggagawa. May we know if the DOLE has already conducted OSH inspections in companies or locators inside special economic zones in line with R.A. No. 11058?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, we will provide immediately the inspection report conducted by the DOLE in the ecozones, so that this will sufficiently—suffice the recommendations and findings of the good Congresswoman from the GABRIELA Party.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, mayroon pong nagawa o nailunsad na mga OSH inspections. Tama po ba?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mayroon po.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. It is good to know, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, na mayroon tayo na mga nailunsad na OSH inspections. Now, sa pangkabuuang pagpapatupad ng OSH Law, ilan na pong kompanya ang pinagmulta ng DOLE, ano-ano ang mga karaniwang paglabag at magkano ang nakolekta multa dito? Do you have available data, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, because of the voluminous number and records required based on the questions of the good Congresswoman, may we be given sufficient time to prepare all the reports that she requires and we will submit them immediately to her once the DOLE has completed all these documents.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

Naitanong po namin ito dahil sa pagsusuri namin, kailangan nang dagdagan iyong ngipin ng batas para mapanagot ang mga kompanya na binabarat ang kaligtasan ng mga manggagawa natin alang-alang sa profit o tubo. Halimbawa, walang kriminal na kaparusahan sa R.A. No. 11058 kaugnay sa pagkamatay ng isang manggagawa bunga ng sakuna sa pagawaan at nawa po ay kaisa namin ang DOLE sa pagsusulong ng pag-amyenda sa batas para punan ang kakulangang ito.

Noong ginagawa po kasi iyong batas, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, we actually made it a point sa GABRIELA na magkaroon talaga ng section doon sa pagpapanagot, or criminal offense, criminal sanction, pero ito po ay na-strike out last time at kaya po tinatanong natin, kasi gusto nga natin na magkaroon talaga ng ngipin iyong batas para nang sa ganoon, makapagpanagot tayo doon sa mga aksidente, sa mga kahirapan ng mga manggagawa natin, or iyong pagkamatay nila sa paggawa—ganoon po, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Alinsabay sa mga panukala ng ating mahal na Kinatawan mula sa GABRIELA Party-List, siguro maganda rin po na ating isulong na sana ay madagdagan din po ang mga labor inspectors natin para mas lalo po nating masubaybayan at mabantayan ang mga ecozones, iyong manufacturing areas and factories located inside these ecozones.

Now, with respect to the amendments, I will be one with her in ensuring that we protect the welfare of our laborers inside these ecozones, Mr. Speaker. These amendments can be thoroughly discussed in the Committee on Labor and Employment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

Last na lang po, iyong mga hinihiling po natin na

mga reports kaugnay ng Expanded Maternity Leave Law at iyong isa pa po na ni-request natin kaugnay ng mga OSH inspections and the report on the case of Eddie Garcia, which are supposed to be submitted on September 16 ang mga iyan.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Yes, Ma'am.

REP. BROSAS. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Yes, Ma'am. Some of them are actually on the way to your office, if I am not mistaken, or were submitted already to your office.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, finally, I move that we recognize Hon. France L. Castro of ACT TEACHERS Party-List for her manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Rep. France Castro is recognized.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Ito po ay manipistasyon lang bunga ng isang reklamo o complaint ng ating mga guro sa Central Luzon. Nagbigay na sila ng sulat sa PRC at ito ay may kaugnayan sa PRC, August 13, sila po ay na-blacklist ng PRC dahil sa isang sumbong ng isang loan shark sa Central Luzon, na ginamit po iyong kaso nila para daw hindi makapag-renew o makapag-apply ng lisensiya ang ating mga kaguruan sa ACT-CL. Nakalagay kasi po doon, at nakita nila iyong pangalan nila, na blacklisted daw sila due to iyong loan po doon sa isang loan shark.

Mr. Speaker, ito ay isang iligal na practice ng PRC, kung totoo ito, iyong blacklisting. The blacklisting violates the right of the teachers and professionals to practice their profession. Ito rin po ay property right, isang karapatan sa kabuhayan at buhay, na hindi dapat tanggalin o i-deny sa sinuman except or until idinaan ito sa due process. Ang natatanging due process lang ay iyong ma-resolba muna ang kasong iyon bago sila ay mapigilan sa pag-renew o ma-deprive ang mga teachers in practicing their profession. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, it also violates the professional's right to be presumed innocent, law-abiding, and practicing in good faith until proven otherwise.

May negatibong epekto ito, Mr. Speaker, agad sa kaso nila kahit hindi pa sila nahahatulan, at napakadaling magkaso, lalo na kung mayaman ka o may malaking business. Kaya ginagamit o mukhang ginagamit po dito ang PRC para i-harrass iyong mga teachers natin, na hindi pa naman napapatunayan ang kanilang kaso ay bina-blacklist na sa PRC. Gusto ko po, Mr. Speaker, na kuhanin ang commitment ng ating butihing Sponsor para matulungan natin ng mga teachers na ito na: una, ang kahilingan po ay sana matigil ang unlawful practice na ito; at pangalawa, proactively, to enable those who have been victims of this unlawful practice, to renew their license, at sana maging retroactive ito para wala silang penalty. Sana po ay maaksiyunan ito ASAP ng PRC.

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Makakaasa po ang ating kagalang-galang na Kinatawan mula sa ACT TEACHERS Party-List, at Lunes na Lunes po ay iimbestigahan po ito ng PRC, itong ipinarating po ninyong mga reklamo at problema ng ating mga guro.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. That ends my manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Janette L. Garin, our Sr. Dep. Minority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Janette Garin is recognized.

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, no other member of the Minority would like to ask questions. Having conferred with one of the very active Regional Directors in the person of Engineer Cyril Ticao of Region VI of the Department of Labor and Employment, coupled with the active participation of the Department of Labor and Employment family in Region III, which has been guiding a lot of investors and allowing Filipinos to have work, headed by Director Zenny Angara Campita—I would like to say that this would not, of course, have been possible if the Department is not headed by our former colleague, Hon. Secretary Silvestre Bello.

With that, Mr. Speaker, no other Member in the Minority wishes to interpellate further on the proposed budget of the Department of Labor and Employment and instead, we join the Majority in requesting for the augmentation of its budget. With that, we move that the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budgets of the Department of Labor and Employment, including its attached agencies, be terminated.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TADURAN. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we join the Minority in its motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budgets of the Department of Labor and Employment, including its attached agencies.

I so move, Mr. Speaker. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). There is a joint motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budgets of the Department of Labor and Employment and its attached agencies. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budgets of the Department of Labor and Employment and its attached agencies is hereby terminated.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for one minute.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The session is suspended.

It was 8:01 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 8:05 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON THE PEACE PROCESS

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider the proposed budget of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP).

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of our guests from the OPAPP, our resource persons: Sec. Carlito G. Galvez Jr., Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity; Usec. Arnulfo R.

Pajarillo, Deputy Presidential Adviser for Finance and Administrative Services; Dir. Andres S. Aguinaldo Jr., PAMANA National Program Manager.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Secretary Galvez, Undersecretary Pajarillo and Director Aguinaldo, you are welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Vice Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, to answer questions, if there are any.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Ruffy Biazon is recognized.

REP. BIAZON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honor to present the proposed budget of the Office of Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process for the year 2020. Their proposal amounts to P678.757 million or 1.44 percent lower than their budget for Fiscal Year 2019.

We are now ready to answer questions, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the very hardworking and always present Lady, Rep. Arlene D. Brosas.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Rep. Arlene Brosas is recognized.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

Mr. Sponsor, maaari po bang magtanong ang inyong lingkod ng ilang mga katanungan lamang kaugnay sa Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process?

REP. BIAZON. Yes, with pleasure, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, last April 23, 2018, Administrative Order No. 10, centralizing all government efforts for the reintegration of former rebels and creating for the purpose an inter-agency task force, was issued. It created a task force known as the Task Force Balik-Loob at binubuo ito ng mga representante mula sa iba't ibang kagawaran at ahensiya, kabilang na dito ang OPPAP. Under this, the E-CLIP o ang Enhanced Comprehensive Integration Program, and the Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan Program or PAMANA, were

implemented. The E-CLIP is a complete package of assistance to former rebels.

Mr. Speaker, what is the role of the OPPAP in these programs?

REP. BIAZON. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ang Office of the Presidential Adviser for Peace Process ang siyang nag-e-endorso ng mga magiging benipisyaryo doon sa mga programa sa ilalim ng E-CLIP, lalong-lalo na po, particularly iyong PhilHealth program.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, sa PhilHealth po? Again, ano pong programa?

REP. BIAZON. Tama po. Nabanggit natin iyong PhilHealth bilang bahagi ng programa kung saan nag-e-endorse ang OPPAP ng magiging beneficiaries.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, sa buong program po na E-CLIP, saan partikular pumapasok ang OPPAP? Sila ba ang nag-e-enlist ng former rebels, sila ba ang nagpapaliwanag ng programa sa pagbabalik-loob, sila ba ang nagha-handle ng PAMANA o ng assistance package, at ano po iyong nilalaman nito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Ayon sa paliwanag sa atin ng namumuno sa OPAPP, ang Department of National Defense ang namumuno doon sa programa. Bago ito, ang nag-e-endorse ang OPAPP.

REP. BROSAS. What are the benefits that the former rebels get dito po sa program na ito?

REP. BIAZON. Isa po doon sa nabanggit natin sa programa ay ang coverage under the PhilHealth. Mayroong din o kasama na rin doon ang iba pang mga programa kung saan mabibigyan sila ng kakayahan na makabalik sa normal na buhay tulad ng livelihood programs.

REP. BROSAS. So, livelihood programs, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. Cash assistance, food assistance—mayroon po ba?

REP. BIAZON. Yes, bahagi iyong mga nabanggit ninyo sa mga tulong na naibibigay sa pamumuno ng Department of National Defense, to be followed through later on by the OPAPP.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, pupuwede po bang malaman kung magkano iyong livelihood assistance, iyong mga items po na sinasabi ninyo na benefits ng mga former rebels?

REP. BIAZON. Typically, ang halaga ng immediate assistance na naibibigay is around P15,000. Sa isa pang

example ng livelihood assistance, it is about P50,000. Mayroon pa rin hong bahaging benepisyo doon sa compensation para doon sa firearms surrendered.

REP. BROSAS. Compensation for firearms surrendered. Mayroon po ba kayong listahan ng packages na ibinibigay? Maaari po bang makahingi ng kopya, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. BIAZON. Maaari po nating ibigay sa inyong tanggapan iyong listahan na hinihingi po ninyo.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, what areas or barrios is this E-CLIP focused on?

REP. BIAZON. In general, the target areas where the beneficiaries are identified or come from are areas that are deemed bailiwicks of the rebels—one example is Eastern Mindanao.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, your example is?

REP. BIAZON. Eastern Mindanao, Mr. Speaker. Another is Samar, also Northern Luzon.

REP. BROSAS. So, Eastern Mindanao, Samar, Northern Luzon.

REP. BIAZON. You may even include the island of Negros.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan Program or PAMANA is also under the implementation of the OPAPP. The program aims to implement projects in conflict-affected areas identified by the OPAPP.

Ano po ang batayan para masabi na ang isang komunidad ay kabilang sa conflict-affected areas?

REP. BIAZON. Ang pinagbabatayan po natin dito ay iyong mga lugar na—sa assessment ng Joint Intelligence Committee na kinabibilangan ng NICA, ng AFP, ng OPAPP—kung saan nakikita na ang pagkilos ng mga rebelde ay may significant na impluwensiya sa community, kaya ito ang tina-target natin para po sa PAMANA, upang maipakita natin sa ating mga kababayan na ang gobyerno ay gumagana at nakakapaghatid ng serbisyo para hindi sila mabaling doon sa kagustuhan na sumama sa armed rebel groups. Ang mga areas na ito, for example, na covered by closure programs, at validated ang mga ito ng AFP at PNP—for example, the MNLF areas needing development, the areas affected and/or are vulnerable to conflict with the CMN as identified by the AFP and PNP, with further validation through local security assessments.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, maaari po bang makakuha ng list of OPAPP-identified conflict-affected areas na mayroon kayo?

REP. BIAZON. Yes, ang OPAPP ay sumasang-ayon na magbigay ng listahan.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, sinabi po ninyo kanina na may mga proyekto o programa na ipinatutupad sa mga lugar na ito. For example po, naka-identify naman sa Special Provisions ang implementing agencies, and I believe these are the DSWD, NCIP at PhilHealth—ito po iyong identified sa Special Provisions. Para po mas malinaw, at gusto naming maintindihan ito, ano ang ginagawa ng DSWD, ito ba iyong livelihood projects para sa kanila? What does the NCIP do, saan nila nilalagay iyong pera? For example, itong P960,917,000, saan nakalagak? Sa NCIP, iyong P23,896,000, saan ito nakalagak? Iyong PhilHealth, ano-anong component iyong P61,229,000?

REP. BIAZON. Kung mamarapatin po ng aking kasamahan, Mr. Speaker, maaari pong mag-submit ang OPAPP ng listahan.

REP. BROSAS. Maaari po, yes, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. Can the PAMANA, as well as other OPAPP projects intended for conflict areas, possibly be implemented in non-conflict areas? Halimbawa po iyong livelihood project for rebel-returnees, puwede din bang i-offer ito sa non-rebel returnees in non-conflict areas?

REP. BIAZON. Ang layunin po noong PAMANA ay para sa mga nagbabalik-loob, so, ito po ang pangunahing batayan ng magiging beneficiaries.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, is it a “yes” or a “no”?

REP. BIAZON. Naturally po, iyong beneficiaries natin na nagbabalik-loob ay nagmula doon sa mga conflict areas.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, it is only for conflict areas, right?

REP. BIAZON. Yes.

REP. BROSAS. May mga lugar po kung saan nakararanas ng harassment ang mga miyembro ng party-list namin. Nag-offer din ng livelihood programs para paaminin na sila ay may kaugnayan sa Communist Party. Gusto ko ring malaman, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, kung ang existence ba ng chapters ng aming party-list ay itinuturing ng OPAPP na batayan ng

pagtukoy ninyo sa isang lugar bilang conflict area?

REP. BIAZON. Ang pinagbabatayan ay ang mga tinatawag na “red” areas kung saan mayroong actual conflict, kung iyong masasabi natin ang magiging beneficiary—iyon po ang tinitingnan natin na mga lugar kung saan ini-implement ang PAMANA—nandodoon sa areas na may actual conflict.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, mayroon kaming karanasan kung saan ang mismong isa sa leaders ng GABRIELA Women’s Party sa Bagac, Bataan, ay kinausap ng OPAPP, si Helen Araullo, isa po siya sa mga tagapangulo ng aming chapter sa Bagac, Bataan, at nakatanggap siya ng offer mula sa OPAPP. So, I am asking, bakit ganoon? Hindi naman po conflict area ang Bagac, Bataan and definitely, hindi rin naman armado or former rebel iyong aming tagapangulo. Ang ibig sabihin, may mga ganitong condition na ginagawa ang OPAPP na parang mayroong internal conflict doon kahit wala naman.

REP. BIAZON. Iyong pagkakausap po ng namumuno ng OPAPP, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, ay bilang tinatawag na CORDS, at iyong CORDS, ang ibig sabihin po noon ay Cabinet Officers for Regional Development and Security. So, iyong pagkakausap po noong ating namumuno ng OPAPP ay bilang CORDS officer-in-charge doon sa area noong taong nabanggit po ninyo.

REP. BROSAS. Bilang, Mr. Speaker, again, pagklaro po ng officers ...

REP. BIAZON. Bilang CORDS, Cabinet Officers for Regional Development and Security representative.

REP. BROSAS. So, what is this about, Mr. Speaker? Ano pong program ito ng OPAPP?

REP. BIAZON. Ito ho ay sistema na kung saan iyong mga—dahil mayroon po tayong tinatawag na whole-of-nation approach, ginagamit iyong iba’t ibang resources ng pamahalaan para ma-address iyong mga problema patungkol sa conflict on the ground. So, mayroon pong mga officers na na-assign sa administration na para bang point person, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, na bahagi ng Cabinet para po mag-konsulta sa ground. Hindi po ito isang programa kundi ito ay isang sistema na kung saan mayroong feedback mechanism ang pamahalaan.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, ito po ay legal surveillance type? Ano po ito?

REP. BIAZON. Hindi naman po natin masabing surveillance, ang ginagawa pa nga ay proactive na

nakikipag-usap at dialogue sa mga kababayan natin na nasa ground.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, mayroon po kaming mga karanasan kung saan naha-harass ng mga members of the AFP and PNP ang aming mga miyembro because sila po ay nilapitan, kinausap at sinabihan na sila daw ay communist fronts. Kaya po nakakapangamba iyong mga ganito kasi, kahit wala pong ginagawa iyong tagapangulo namin sa Bagac, Bataan kundi magbigay ng programa para sa Anti-VAWC o Anti-Violence Against Women and Children, para po magbigay ng mga programs para sa kababaihan at bata dahil iyon naman po ang ginagawa ng GABRIELA Women's Party, ay mayroong mga ganitong karanasan. So, maigi po na nalilinaaw kung ano exactly ito, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. BIAZON. Ang activities, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, na ginagawa ng OPAPP ay more on dialogue on the ground. Paminsan-minsan, may mga lugar na humihiling ng tulong ng OPAPP para ma-facilitate iyong ganitong klaseng pag-uusap. Kung mayroong mga pagkakataon na nararamdaman ang harassment, siguro naman po, mayroong legal means na puwedeng i-avail iyong mga taong nararamdaman nilang na-hinaharass sila para maisangguni ang complaint pero officially, ang isinasagawa ng OPAPP ay more on dialogue and consultation.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, mayroon namang legal means na ginawa iyong tagapangulo namin dahil medyo aral naman siya, so, noong election time na nagkakaroon ng red-tagging and vilification sa kanya, she went to the COMELEC para iyon ay ireklamo. Naka-lodge po sa COMELEC and sa Commission on Human Rights ang kanyang case pero hindi pa rin po kami makampante dahil nga doon sa mga ganitong karanasan.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, anyway, on to my next topic. Nais po naming itanong ito—President Duterte promised to the former rebels that he will take them on a foreign trip, and he said this twice: first, during the Former Rebels Assembly on December 21, 2017 at the Naval Station Felix Apolinario in Panacan, Davao City; and during the former rebels' visit in Malacañang last February 2018. From July 30 to August 2 of this year, 88 former rebels were taken to an all-expense paid trip to Hongkong by the Palace. Kabilang po ba ito sa programa ninyo?

REP. BIAZON. Hindi po bahagi ng OPAPP program iyong nabanggit na trip.

REP. BROSAS. Saan po nanggaling ang pondo na ito, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. BIAZON. Hindi po alam ng OPAPP dahil hindi naman ho iyon bahagi ng programa ng OPAPP.

REP. BROSAS. So, wala pong kinalaman sa gastos ng gobyerno sa pagpunta sa Hongkong ng mga sinasabing former rebels, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. BIAZON. Wala po. Wala po silang kinalaman.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, paano po ang ginagawang proseso para mapatunayan na sila ay mga dating rebelde? Halimbawa, hindi rin kasi malayong may mga magpapanggap na rebelde para kumita mula sa gobyerno at gayundin para lang may maiharap ang pamahalaan kunwari na rebelde.

REP. BIAZON. Pakiulit lang po iyong question. Kung paano—tama po ba?—kung paano ...

REP. BROSAS. Paano ang ginagawang proseso para mapatunayan na sila nga ay mga dating rebelde? Hindi rin kasi malayo na may nagpapanggap na rebelde para kumita mula sa gobyerno at gayundin para lang may maiharap, kuno, ang pamahalaan na mga rebelde.

REP. BIAZON. Mayroon naman hong prosesong pinagdadaanan batay doon sa submission ng AFP, sa validation by OPAPP, mayroon din po iyon.

REP. BROSAS. Paano po iyon? Paano po ang validation ng OPAPP?

REP. BIAZON. As submitted by the AFP.

REP. BROSAS. May listahan po kayo, Mr. Speaker, and how do you validate that, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Sa Armed Forces po ang prosesong iyon.

REP. BROSAS. Sa AFP, okay. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, my dear colleagues, the peace that this Representation wants and hopes to have is a peace that is based in justice, peace that will address the root causes of the armed conflict, peace that will provide the people with genuine agrarian reform and national industrialization. Hindi po natin makukuha ang tunay na kapayapaan sa bansa sa pamamagitan ng iba't ibang short-term solutions at mga dole-outs. Pinaglalaanan natin ng budget ang mga ganitong programa na hindi naman tunay na tutugon sa ugat ng kahirapan. Sinasayang po natin ang pondo ng bayan. May mga ahensiya at kagawaran po na may mga budget cuts. May budget cuts sa serbisyong pangkalusugan, sa edukasyon; may budget cut sa mga serbisyong kinakailangan ng

mamamayan at ng bansa natin. Naghihirap ang mga magsasaka at manggagawa sa bansa natin dahil sa mga neoliberal policies pero nag-offer tayo sa kanila ng mga proyekto kapalit ng kanilang pananahimik. Huwad na solusyon po ang ibinigay, at nananatiling pipi at bingi ang gobyerno sa daing ng mamamayang pinagsasamantalahan.

Mr. Speaker, gusto kong sabihin mula sa Plenaryong ito na ang GWP po ay hindi armadong grupo. Ang Kinatawang ito ay hindi armado. Nakakabahala lang na pinupuntahan ng OPAPP, kasama ng military, ang ilan sa aming mga leaders at ini-interrogate, tinatakot kahit wala naman silang kaugnayan sa armed conflict. Nagdudulot po ito ng takot at pangamba dahil sa maraming pangyayari ng pagpaslang sa mga miyembro ng progressive groups.

I hope the OPAPP would work more towards the resumption of the peace negotiations with the CPP-NPA-NDF, rather than be an instrument of red-tagging and persecution of people critical of anti-poor policies of this government.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. BIAZON. Thank you to my distinguished colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I move for the recognition of Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo from the First District of Lanao del Norte.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Khalid Dimaporo is hereby recognized.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Will the honorable Sponsor allow me to ask some questions regarding the OPAPP?

REP. BIAZON. With pleasure, Your Honor.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to take off from the previous interpellator's questions and ask some more about the PAMANA Program. In the presentation of the DSWD, they cited the PAMANA Program as one of the facilities to assist potential rebel returnees, and when I asked the DSWD as to what exactly is that program, they referred to the OPAPP.

So, again, I would like to ask the honorable Sponsor, what is the PAMANA Program? To make things faster, under the previous OPAPP leadership, the PAMANA was an open menu program—you can use it for infrastructure, you can use it for livelihood, you can use it for education, you can use it for scholarships.

Now, in the DSWD, I believe that they have specific programs catering for livelihood, for example, the SLP. They also have specific programs catering to indigents like iyong assistance to indigents under crisis situations. Will the DSWD and the OPAPP be implementing the PAMANA Program like it was before, an open menu? Or will we follow the framework of the DSWD, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. With the exception of the infrastructure portion, under the PAMANA Program as previously implemented, which included livelihood, individual assistance and community development projects, these would still be pursued, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Yes, okay. Mr. Speaker, I will just move forward. I would like to ask the honorable Sponsor, in terms of rebel-returnee recipients, is the PAMANA Program which is in the OPAPP budget, under DSWD, of P960 something million, is that allocated for MILF rebel-returnees or part of the decommissioning process, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Yes, it is part of the program, as well as the RPA-ABB group, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to request the good Secretary and the honorable Sponsor if we can have the OPAPP submit to the Committee Secretariat, the list of target beneficiaries specifically in the provinces where it will be implemented for the MILF decommissioned rebel-returnees of, for example, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi.

Also, earlier, in his answer to the previous interpellator, he mentioned that there is also an allocation for MNLF communities, the peace and development communities. We have that in Lanao del Norte, and I know there is some in the Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi area. I would like that data to be submitted to the Committee Secretariat, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BIAZON. The OPAPP will comply, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My next question is with regard to the Special Development Fund as enshrined in the Bangsamoro Organic Law. I would like to ask the honorable Sponsor, since the OPAPP is the custodian of the peace process and is supposed to be well versed in that Comprehensive Agreement with the Bangsamoro, is the Special Development Fund allocated in the 2020 budget?

REP. BIAZON. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the SDF is included in the 2020 proposed budget, a portion

of which is lodged with the DSWD and the Department of Public Works and Highways, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Okay, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Now, I would just like to place on record to refresh everybody's memories, under the Bangsamoro Organic Law or Republic Act No. 11054, Article XIV, Section 2, the Special Development Fund is actually P50 billion spread over 10 years, that is P5 billion per year to be allocated for conflict-affected areas, Mr. Speaker. I would like to have this confirmed.

REP. BIAZON. There is a block grant, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, of about P17.7 billion and P5 billion of which is the Special Development Fund. So, again, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the block grant is P17.7 billion, and as I was mentioning, that is part of the SDF with P5 billion allocated as well for...

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, I will accept that the good Secretary will submit to the Committee Secretariat the breakdown of the funds, but I would like to also manifest that the P5 billion Special Development Fund is on top of the P17.7 billion block grant, and that is what it says in the Bangsamoro Organic Law. Second, a requirement to access the P5 billion grant, the P5 billion Special Development Fund, is the Bangsamoro Development Plan. Now, I would like to ask the honorable Sponsor, does the Bangsamoro Development Fund already exist or is it still being crafted by the Bangsamoro Parliament?

REP. BIAZON. The President has already signed the executive order authorizing the creation of the Islamic Bank which is now being prepared by the Development Bank of the Philippines, Your Honor.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). So, Mr. Speaker, it does not exist yet, and it is still being prepared?

REP. BIAZON. It does not exist yet.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Please, make it formal for our records because that is the purpose of my asking questions today.

Now, assuming that the Bangsamoro Development Plan would be completed—now, I would like to go back to this P5 billion pesos which is intended for conflict-affected areas. We have the PAMANA Program which is also intended for conflict-affected areas, and all of us, specially our friends from the Rules Committee, have been sitting and listening to the deliberations on the different budgets of the national/line agencies, and I have heard it over and over again, “Kulang ng budget,

kulang ng budget, kulang ng budget” and here for the Bangsamoro, baka sobra ang budget, duplication pa ng budget.” How do we identify exactly what are the conflict-affected areas?

I would like to ask the honorable Sponsor, the good Secretary, have there already been identified specific conflict-affected areas that will receive or will be beneficiaries of this P5 billion pesos a year?

REP. BIAZON. The list is being worked out right now by the Bangsamoro Parliament, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, now this is my concern—if the honorable Secretary will review again the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro, it stipulated therein the conflict areas, the communities that they should be developing, and these are the camps of the MILF. I will read it here: Camp Abubakar al Siddique in Maguindanao, Camp Bilal in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur, Camp Omar ibn al Khattab in Maguindanao, Camp Rajamuda in North Cotabato and Maguindanao, Camp Badre in Maguindanao, and Camp Busrah Samiorang in Lanao del Sur. Can I have these areas confirmed?

REP. BIAZON. I was told, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, that the areas mentioned are covered by the Normalization Trust Fund which is different from the SDF.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, these camps, Mr. Speaker, are actually within different municipalities and comprised of specific barangays. What I am trying to ensure is that there is no duplication of programs to assist conflict-affected areas. So, I would like to have the honorable Secretary submit to the Committee Secretariat as to which barangays exactly fall under the specific camps. The problem, Mr. Speaker, is, for example, for Lanao del Norte, in Camp Bilal, when you ask the rebels, “Saan ba iyong Camp Bilal?” Ang sagot nila, “Kung saan si Commander Bravo, iyan ang Camp Bilal.”

REP. BIAZON. Yes, the OPAP ...

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Then, second, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, it causes confusion because P5 billion is a lot of money.

So, ang ginagawa na ngayon ng MILF communities, they are putting flags in different barangays na—ito, isang camp ito; ito, isang camp ito; ito, isang camp ito; ito, isang camp ito—so that that they can get their share of the P5 billion. We want clarification, Mr. Speaker, and I hope the honorable Secretary and the good Sponsor

will help me expedite the gathering of the data so that there will be no confusion and no false expectation in conflict-affected areas, one of which is the province of Lanao del Norte.

REP. BIAZON. Yes, the OPAPP, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, will submit the list so that the Gentleman will be properly informed.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor. I would like to move to my last issue and that is the MILF decommissioning, which is part of the normalization process. In one article, Chairman and now Chief Minister Murad stated that there are almost 80,000 MILF combatants waiting for the approval of the Bangsamoro Organic Law and then in the latest press release, I believe, of OPAPP, the number has dwindled to 40,000 MILF combatants. What is the latest inventory of MILF combatants who will be decommissioned?

REP. BIAZON. Yes, the OPAPP confirms, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the number of 40,000 combatants.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, may I have the breakdown of the 40,000 combatants by province. I will also accept that it just be submitted to the Committee Secretariat, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I am told that the list is confidential and the OPAPP would be restrained from providing the list of the individuals.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, that is not acceptable—one million per MILF combatant and that is a confidential list? How can we ensure that that one million will not go to ghost combatants?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I am told that, with regard to ensuring the integrity of the list, a special technology is being employed using biometrics to ensure that there is an existing person and there is no duplication. However, the list is confidential as part of the rules of the IDB.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Well, Mr. Speaker, that sounds like a contradiction to me, that the list is confidential and at the same time we will involve high technology using biometrics and so forth. It should be as simple as our COMELEC voters database where we do our biometrics and all of that. It is there, you can see it, and we can cross-check, for example, the list in the database of the PNP, if any of those decommissioned MILF combatants have standing arrest warrants.

I do not see any reason as to why there should be any confidentiality but I will accept, Mr. Speaker,

honorable Sponsor, that the Secretary of the OPAPP just submit to the Committee Secretariat the breakdown of the numbers of MILF returnees per province—for example, Maguindanao, of the 40,000, 20,000; Lanao del Sur, 10,000; Lanao del Norte, maybe 300. I will accept that, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, so we can move forward to my next question.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the OPAPP will endeavor to do that, although this Representation has been informed that the list is with what is called an International Decommissioning Body which has a policy of confidentiality with regard to the list.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, my next question will be with regard to the firearms. If we have 40,000 MILF combatants who will be decommissioned, how many firearms will be returned or submitted to the relative security forces of our national government?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, initially, around 7,000 firearms were submitted although it is still an ongoing process. So, the OPAPP may also provide a list as soon as it becomes final.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). So, Mr. Speaker, if I can just get this clarified—we have 40,000 intended MILF rebels to be decommissioned but of the 40,000, only 7,000 are bearing firearms. Am I correct in saying so?

REP. BIAZON. That is not necessarily correct, Your Honor. Initially, there are 7,000 but it is still an ongoing process and so, the OPAPP may submit the final list once it is completed, Your Honor.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, I would like to ask—is this information on 7,000 firearms also confidential?

REP. BIAZON. For now, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the details on the firearms may not yet be released yet although once validated and completed, it may be shared with the Gentleman, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

Now, my next question is with regard to the firearms. If the honorable Secretary does not trust the House of Representatives, does the honorable Secretary of the OPAPP, at the very least, trust the PNP? Will those 7,000 firearms be turned over to the Philippine National Police?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, once the complete list is validated and completed, the list may

be shared—will be shared with the security forces. As of now, as part of the agreement, the International Decommissioning Body is the one that is the custodian of the information, Your Honor.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). So, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, please make this very clear. The MILF will be turning over or surrendering 7,000 firearms. There is no intention of the OPAPP to turn that over to the Philippine National Police so we can reduce the number of loose firearms in the Mindanao Region.

REP. BIAZON. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the eventual destination of the firearms will be destruction, to put them beyond use. That is part of the agreement, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). For clarification, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman, will there be coordination, at the very least, with the PNP? Will the serial numbers be inventoried by the PNP?

REP. BIAZON. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Will the bolts be checked by the PNP?

REP. BIAZON. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, in coordination with the security forces.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you for that answer.

My last question, Mr. Chairman, is with regard to MILF combatants with criminal cases. When will their identities be turned over to the PNP? These MILF combatants who have been decommissioned, their names are supposed to be confidential, and it is very clear in the Bangsamoro Organic Law and in the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro that any amnesty should be specifically for the charge of rebellion. So, if there are any criminal cases against MILF combatants, their names should be turned over to the PNP and the Department of Justice so that they can undergo the proper due process.

So, I would like to know the timeline for this. When will this be happening?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the identities of the surrenderees will be made known once the decommissioning process is completed. The list will be made public, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Okay, Mr. Speaker. My last and final question, which is very personal to us and the Secretary knows this, is with regard to Commander Bravo. Commander Bravo is the rebel commander of

the forces in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur. He has, according to the Department of Justice, 29 pending criminal cases in the RTC of Iligan City. I would like to get an answer from the Secretary of the OPAPP, have these cases been absolved, have these cases been cleared?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, with regard to the individual mentioned, the OPAPP says that the processing is still ongoing to validate all information, including the cases mentioned by the distinguished Gentleman. So, the process is not yet complete for Mr. Bravo, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Can the good Secretary and the honorable Sponsor explain the process?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, if the Gentleman would accept that the OPAPP will give documents to show the process involved.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you. Well, I know it is getting late and I will not keep anybody up any longer. I would just like to close, Mr. Speaker, honorable Chairman, by saying that we had a discussion already with the Department of Justice, and the Department of Justice acknowledged and verified the 29 cases against Commander Bravo. My position, without prejudice, is simply that Commander Bravo should not be fooled. I would assume that the Secretary of Justice knows what he is doing. He knows the realm of justice. He knows that you cannot simply waive or dismiss these 29 criminal cases and yet, we are being told in the province of Lanao del Norte na wala na iyong mga kaso ni Commander Bravo when, in fact, I spoke with the honorable Secretary of the OPAPP in the lounge and he told me inayos na niya, which is the reason I am speaking in the Plenary today because you have to understand our maratabat, the pride of the Maranaos. If at the end of the Duterte administration, Commander Bravo will see that he has been fooled, babalik iyan sa bukid and he will start another rebellion and threaten the province of Lanao del Norte. That is what I am trying to avoid. If we have a chance to fix the problem now and have closure in our province, then let us do it because the best hope for Mindanao is when President Duterte is sitting in Malacañang.

So, sana lang, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, and the good Secretary of the OPAPP, there should be clarity and transparency especially when it comes to the peace process because lives are at stake. The last time that we had war in Lanao del Norte, 100,000 civilians were evacuated, 77 innocent Filipinos were killed. I do not want that to ever happen in my province again.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, honorable Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BIAZON. Thank you, my distinguished colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Carlos Zarate of Party-List BAYAN MUNA.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Carlos Zarate is recognized.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to our good Sponsor. I will just make a short manifestation, Mr. Speaker.

September is designated as the National Peace Consciousness Month by virtue of an executive order in 2001 where it was laid down that one of the purposes therein is to instill peace consciousness and for the government to pursue a just and lasting solution to the ongoing armed conflict in our country. Officially, the name then of this office was Office of the Presidential Assistant for Peace Process and recently, it was, if I am not mistaken, renamed “Office of the Presidential Assistant for Peace, Reconciliation and Unity.”

Nagtataka lang ako, Mr. Speaker, kung talagang gusto ng ating pamahalaan na magkaroon ng kapayapaan, rekonsilasyon at pagkakaisa ang ating bayan, ay taliwas dito ang aking nakikita. Nitong nakaraan, sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte na all-out war ang solusyon sa halos mahigit limang dekadang tunggalian o rebelyon dito sa ating bayan na isinusulong ng mga rebeldeng CPP at NPA. Taliwas ito doon, and this call for an all-out war happened in the midst of a strong call, especially coming from the religious sector—our bishops, priests and other groups—for the government to go back to the negotiating table instead of pursuing a process that, actually, the purpose of which is only to entice the rebels to surrender, for the rebels to capitulate, without resolving the root causes of the armed conflict.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, sana balikan natin iyong diwa noong executive order na inilabas in 2001. Bakit ba mayroong National Peace Consciousness Month, ano? During the Seventeenth Congress, I was designated as a member of the official House observers on the peace talks between the GRP and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and candidly, I have to say na in a very short period of time, between August 2016 and February of 2017, napakahaba ng iniusad ng usapang pangkapayapaan ng GRP at NDFP. Ang hindi nangyari sa loob ng labinlimang taon sa nakaraang dalawang administrasyon ay nangyari sa napakaiksing panahon—August of 2016 to February of 2017.

In fact, sa aking pagkakaalam ay mayroong mga nakahandang kasunduan na puwedeng lagdaan

ang dalawang grupo, subalit mayroong mga anti-demokratikong puwersa sa ating lipunan na ang gusto pa rin nilang solusyon sa tunggalian sa ating bayan ay militaristang solusyon—fascist solution—kaya nga ngayon, ang ating naririnig, “Ibalik ang Anti-Subversion Law.” Ang mga aktibista ay nabi-vilify, lahat sila ay nare-red tag, lahat na lang sila ay kalaban ng gobyerno, at wala nang pagtatangi sa armed combatants and noncombatants.

So, again, Mr. Speaker, pinapaalala natin sa Kagawarang ito na kung ang tunay na papel ng Kagawarang o opisina ng ito ay ang pagtutulak para magkaroon ng pangmatagalang solusyon dito sa mahigit limang dekadang rebelyon na sa ating bayan, ang sinasabi ko nga ay balikan lang nila ang nakasaad doon sa executive order na inilabas at bumalik sa usapang pangkapayapaan, itulak ang pagbabago o reporma, ang Comprehensive Agreement on Socioeconomic Reforms, itulak ang Comprehensive Agreement on Political and Constitutional Reforms sa ating lipunan, dahil ito iyong nakita at naitakda doon sa Hague Joint Declaration of 1992 na ang mga ito iyong magiging puwedeng solusyon—political solution—sa tunggaliang ito sa ating bayan.

Iyon lamang po ang aking manipistasyon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. If the good Sponsor will respond, we will gladly appreciate that.

Maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Irene Gay F. Saulog from the KALINGA Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Rep. Irene Saulog is recognized.

REP. SAULOG. Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as there is no other Member of the Minority who wishes to ask questions, I move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, we join the Minority in their motion and move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). There is a joint motion to terminate the period of interpellation

and debate on the proposed budget of the OPAPP. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the OPAPP is hereby terminated.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). The session is suspended.

It was 9:01 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 9:02 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we begin the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, allow us to acknowledge the presence of some of our guests from the DFA family. They are: Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro Locsin Jr.; Undersecretary for Administration Jose Eduardo Malaya; Undersecretary for Policy Enrique Manalo; OIC Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Lourdes Yparraguirre; Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns Brigido Dulay; Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Sarah Lou Arriola; Undersecretary for Strategic Communications and Research Ernesto Abella; Assistant Secretary of the Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs Meynardo Montealegre; Assistant Secretary of the Human Resource Management Office Antonio Morales; Assistant Secretary of the Maritime and Oceans Affairs Office Generoso Calonge; Assistance Secretary of the Office of Consular Affairs Neil Frank Ferrer; and Acting Assistant Secretary of the Office of Fiscal Management Services Myla Grace Ragenia Macahilig.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Secretary Teodoro Locsin and the officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs, you are welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado of the First District of Bulacan and Hon. Manuel T. Sagarbarria of the Second District of Negros Oriental, Vice Chairmen of the Committee on Appropriations, to sponsor the proposed budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Honorable Sagarbarria is recognized.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. At this point, I would like to have your permission to read my sponsorship speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Please proceed.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. SAGARBARRIA

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Thank you very much.

May I start by saying that our Department of Foreign Affairs serves as the vanguard of the Philippine government abroad. It is the nation's face and first line of defense overseas. Through our embassies and consulates, the DFA champions the rights and interests of Filipino overseas. They serve as the refuge of victims of abuse, exploitation, and human trafficking. The DFA stands resolute in promoting our independent foreign policy and the Duterte government's commitment to deliver world-class front-line services to Filipinos, wherever in the world they may be.

What had been the DFA's key achievements since 2018? Nothing short of spectacular. First and foremost, the DFA continues to fortify relations with traditional allies, as well as to forge and revitalize exchanges with nontraditional partners. To name a few, President Duterte undertook official visits to Israel and Jordan in September 2018, during which agreements on labor cooperation, investments and defense cooperation were signed. Moreover, the Department of Foreign Affairs completely backstopped President Duterte as he paved the way to reenergize bilateral relations with China.

The spirited relation between the Philippines and China has been sustained with high level exchanges, including the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping in Manila last November 20-21, where a total of 29 documents and agreements were signed, most notably, on oil and gas, and the Belt and Road Initiative.

Such bilateral visits supportive of our collaborative mechanisms create an improved environment for tackling issues on the West Philippine Sea.

The DFA continues to pursue actively the Philippines' advocacy in the West Philippine Sea by working towards the full and effective implementation of the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea. This document embodies the collective commitment of ASEAN and China to promote peace, stability and mutual trust while ensuring the peaceful resolution of disputes in the South China Sea.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Pimentel relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Roberto V. Punzo.

Secondly, the DFA has taken large strides to protect the rights and promote the interests of our overseas Filipinos across the globe. It continues to ensure that the Assistance for Nationals Fund and the Legal Assistance Fund are fully allocated for the direct benefit of the distressed overseas Filipinos. In 2018 alone, the P1-billion Assistance to Nationals Fund significantly helped 101,916 distressed Filipinos. Furthermore, 3,735 Filipinos in desperate need of legal assistance had availed of the P200-million Legal Assistance Fund. With the expansion of the Legal Assistance Fund Guidelines, an overseas Filipino may avail of the Legal Assistance Fund from the time of arrest or apprehension until after judgment and filing of appeal. This ensures that the rights of our kababayans are protected throughout the legal and judicial processes.

Under the leadership of the former Secretary of Foreign Affairs and now our esteemed House Speaker Alan Peter "Compañero" S. Cayetano, the DFA's improvement of its delivery of front-line services now see Filipinos and foreign clients alike leaving with smiles on their faces. Sec. Teodoro Locsin Jr. fully supported the former Secretary's policies and programs, and ensured their continuity.

The following are highlights of the DFA's commitment to their clients at home and overseas:

1. extension of passport validity from five to 10 years and without increased fees—I quote, "without increased fees";
2. overall reduction of passport processing time by about 20 percent;
3. removal of backlogs in the appointment system and improving its efficiency to afford passport applicants as early as one-day waiting time to secure an appointment;
4. opening of new embassies and consulates, bringing DFA's service closer to our kababayans abroad for their convenience and reduced travel time and expenses;
5. opening of five consular office in 2018 and two

in 2019, with four more to follow this year, namely, in Olongapo City; Paniqui, Tarlac; San Jose, Antique; and Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur, for a total of 11 consular offices;

6. launch of Passport-on-Wheels, which serves 284 sites and processed 200,192 applications in 2018, making passport services more accessible and convenient to the public; and

7. opening of the first authentication center in the Visayas and Mindanao, in addition to existing centers in Luzon, and most of all, sustained satisfactory passport services by the consular offices in the Asiana and the provinces.

May I stress this, Mr. Speaker: Even with these impressive results, the DFA still has plenty of work to do, work that needs steadfast support, and sustained and substantial financial resources—again, "and substantial financial resources."

For 2020, the DFA is intent on significantly expanding the Philippine's global presence in strategic areas by opening embassies in Sri Lanka, Utopia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Luanda and Tunisia. It aims to increase consular offices throughout the Philippines and to ensure that there will be enough Philippine passports and visas throughout the year.

For the sake of personnel public safety, as well as uninterrupted public service delivery, the DFA will also embark on a much-needed retrofitting project. Therefore, the DFA requests Congress' staunch support to ensure full funding of its Tier 1 and Tier 2 Programs to enable the Department to perform at its optimum, including the following items for reconsideration:

1. continuing provision of funds for six foreign service posts to be opened in Fiscal Year 2019 in the amount of P699,383,000;
2. continuing provision of fund for consular offices to be opened in Fiscal Year 2019 in the amount of P69,045,240; and
3. Tier 2 proposal amounting to P8,076,569,000. This Tier 2 includes additional funding for technical items such as heavily-demanded e-passport booklets and the immediate rehabilitation and retrofitting of a 50-year old DFA building to address its safety hazards and failing systems. The retrofitting project includes related expenses such as the transfer to the temporary office; the fit-out of the temporary office; relocation of records and properties; and lease of storage space.

The abovementioned additional budget will supplement the DFA's budget under the Fiscal Year 2020 National Expenditure Program in the total amount of P 22,650,000,000 as follows: Department for Foreign Affairs (DFA) – P22.5 billion; Foreign Service Institute – P70.71 million; UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines – P23.59 million; and Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines (TCCP) – P3.75 million.

The NEP Budget of the DFA and its attached agencies is only 0.55 percent of the P4.1 trillion proposed for Fiscal Year 2020 national budget—not even 1 percent. I know that the DFA, on an average, brings in P2.35 billion annually to the national government's coffers and is the sixth among the top 10 fee-collecting agencies of the Philippine government.

Your Honor, the DFA puts the Filipino people in front and center. The DFA's budget is an empowering and critical investment in safeguarding national security, sustaining economic growth, and protecting the welfare of our kababayans abroad. As the Sponsor of the DFA's budget, I call on the House of Representatives to ensure that the DFA will be provided with sufficient financial resources for the continued effective performance of its mandate. I trust that my fellow Members of the House of Representatives also share the DFA's vision for a strong and independent foreign policy, and a compassionate, client-centric consular service and assistance to nationals.

That said, I hope you will all join me in giving full support to the dedicated and passionate DFA family.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Deputy Minority Leader, Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, to interpellate the Sponsor on the budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Hon. Carlos Zarate of the Party-List BAYAN MUNA is recognized for his interpellation.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good evening to the DFA family and to our good Sponsor. I only have four items, clarificatory questions on the budget of the DFA.

First, there were several statements issued by the President related to the decision that the Philippines won in the Arbitral Tribunal related to our claims in the West Philippine Sea. As the good Sponsor knows, ito pong arbitral ruling finally settled the issue as to sino talaga ang mayroong karapatan sa mga katubigan sa West Philippine Sea, especially itong nasa Reed Bank. Ito ay part ng ating exclusive economic zone. Now, ang sinabi po ni Pangulong Duterte, kaya hindi niya ini-invoke at ini-insist itong desisyon ng tribunal, ang sabi niya ay baka giyerahin tayo ng China.

So my question is, on this threat of war from China, is this factual or is this just part of, you know, iyong pananakot ng gobyerno to justify or to cover its soft stance on the issue of China vis-à-vis the West Philippine Sea, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Okay, Mr. Speaker, there is really a possibility of war and the President is very concerned about human rights. Nevertheless, the Philippines continues to engage other countries, including China, on the issue of the South China Sea/ West Philippine Sea, through bilateral and multilateral platforms. This includes ASEAN China meetings and the Philippine-China Bilateral Consultation Mechanism. These are the ways to open the lines of communication, enhance corporation and manage and prevent incidents at sea, for that matter.

REP. ZARATE. Well, thank you for that answer, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. There is that possibility of war, but the Philippines is not the only claimant. Ang Pilipinas po ay hindi lang ang claimant sa Spratlys, sa mga kaislahan diyan at katubigan sa Spratlys. I cannot remember, and correct me if I am wrong, that when other claimants were aggressive in pursuing their claims, kung nagkaroon po sila ng giyera against China. In fact, ang Vietnam is also very aggressive in pursuing its claims sa Spratlys but hindi naman nagkaroon ng giyera, pati ang Indonesia and the others. So why do we keep on foisting this war scenario, especially since we have a validly won decision in the Arbitral Court, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. For the information of everyone, Mr. Speaker, during the first encounter between the Chinese and the Vietnamese, there were 79 who were shot in the seas by the Chinese.

So, meaning to say, what is relevant is that it is the policy of the Philippine government today to be friendly with everyone and go into multilateral dialogues or talks with all the different countries involved in the West Philippine Sea.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

Well, granting, for the sake of argument that China, if we will be aggressive in pursuing or invoking the decision of the Arbitral Court, will indeed declare a war on the Philippines, on us, may I solicit the opinion or the stand of the good Sponsor—what do you think the reaction will be of the United States? Will the United States be dragged into a war with China, considering that we have a Mutual Defense Treaty with the US?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Well, as they say, with China, they agree to disagree. Meaning to say, as far as conflict is concerned, the bilateral relations we have with China today is more than just the West Philippine Sea. It encompasses more than the conflict of interest we have right now with the West Philippine Sea. Meaning to say, we have interests in trade, tourism, culture and the arts, even military. Remember, during the Marawi

conflict, China gave arms to the Philippines. So, in other words, that is a mutual relationship, the friendly mutual relationship stands strong up to this moment. So, the possibility of conflict is, I think, far beyond truth as of this moment.

REP. ZARATE. At any rate, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, in relation to our claims or our already undisputed claims in the West Philippine Sea, there are now 84 agreements or memoranda of understanding, program of cooperation, et cetera, that the Duterte administration, that the Philippines, entered into with China. In fact, noong binilang ko ho ito, since we established our diplomatic relationship with the People's Republic of China, ang 84 agreements na ito, halos 46 percent of all the agreements that we entered were with China. So, napakaraming pinasok na agreements ng Pilipinas with China, including loan agreements, and several memoranda of understanding.

I am just very curious about one of the MOU entered into by Philippines on November 20, 2018, which was the subject of a statement recently by the President when he said that it is now moving forward, itong Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Oil and Gas Development between the government of the Republic of the Philippines and the government of the People's Republic of China, which was signed on November 20, 2018 and sets the framework for both countries to negotiate, to facilitate oil and gas exploration and exploitation in relevant maritime areas consistent with applicable rules of international law. Iyon ho ang nakabanggit doon.

After the visit of the President in China last month, sinabi po niya, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, that to pursue this MOU, the Philippines will set aside the arbitral ruling. Is that not against our Constitution, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker? It is very clear in our Constitution na kailangang i-pursue, proteksiyunan natin ang ating national patrimony, ang ating exclusive economic zone, and the like. So, gusto ko pong malinawan kung bakit po kailangang i-set aside natin itong arbitral ruling in pursuance of that memorandum of understanding for the supposed cooperation on oil and gas development, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Mr. Speaker, it has been emphasized, time and again, that our maritime friction with China does not represent the sum total of our bilateral relations with China. The President had pledged to resolve this issue through friendly dialogues as a sovereign state in accordance with international law, including the UNCLOS. We continue to enhance relations with China, but always with a conscious effort to protect our interest—I would like to repeat it again, to protect our interest in the West Philippine Sea and the larger sea which is the South China Sea. Meaning

to say, we will never, ever, do away with the decision of the International Tribunal, in a sense that we will emphasize or really exercise our sovereign rights over the EEZ for that matter.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

So, is the Sponsor saying, just pursue this memorandum of understanding on the joint exploration because that is an area where we are saying that we will not invoke the arbitral ruling, as this is just something that relates to an economic activity na puwedeng pag-usapan ng dalawang parties. Is that what the Sponsor is saying?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. By the way, Mr. Speaker, we did invoke the arbitral ruling, the international Arbitral Tribunal's ruling on the West Philippine Sea, that the Philippines has sovereign rights over it but nevertheless, as what the President has always been saying, he is always looking for a win-win situation all the time. So, very recently, as I heard it from the news, I think it was two or three nights ago, he has made mention that he is going to create a committee to further study the bilateral agreement concerning the oil and gas exploration in our West Philippine Sea.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In relation to that memorandum of understanding, we were told that there is already the creation of an intergovernmental steering committee that will negotiate the terms and conditions of how this joint oil and gas exploration will be carried out, and that it was already mentioned in the agreement that there will be a 60-40 sharing. So, pinag-uusapan pa lang iyong terms of agreement or ang parameters of how this joint exploration will move on, but there was already a 60-40 sharing scheme. Is that confirmed, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Well, Mr. Speaker, in the latest pronouncement of the President, there is no such thing yet as 60-40 sharing, and what was discussed is that he is going to create a new committee that, more or less, will focus on the gas and oil exploration in the West Philippine Sea. So, nothing final has been done yet, and that is the reason this new committee is going bilaterally, one way or the other, to come up with a framework on how to explore the West Philippine Sea, especially concerning oil and gas.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

We asked these clarificatory questions because the President, being the chief policy-maker when it comes to foreign relations, has been issuing policy statements.

In fact, before, he said na kaya daw nangingisda iyong mga Tsino doon sa karagatan sa may Scarborough ay dahil there was an agreement between him and President Xi Jinping, a verbal agreement. Then, after coming from China, once again, he said that “I will set aside the arbitral ruling para mapakinabangan natin iyong Recto Bank”; and now, again, the Palace and the Foreign Affairs office are clarifying the statements, na iba ang pagkakaintindi.

Now, my final question on this issue, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor— is there already a timeline on when this negotiation will have to be consummated, and will this be a government-to-government exploration and development of oil and gas areas of the West Philippine Sea, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Well, to the first question, Mr. Speaker, the President has made a pronouncement that he is not going to accept anything below a 60-40 sharing on the product of the development concerning oil and gas in the West Philippine Sea; but as to the second question about the timeline, best efforts, in one year but it does not mean to say that we will have to solve it within one year. As it has always been said, best efforts all the time for us to be able to take off and have a better relationship, especially with China.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

On my last item, our party, BAYAN MUNA, our constituents include the migrants. Migrante International is an affiliate of BAYAN MUNA and we received some complaints from migrant workers, mula sa mga migrante, so, we are assisting them pagdating sa mga complaints na ito or mga requests for assistance. My question, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, under the present setup, how long is the Department processing the requests for assistance from our migrant workers, especially assistance to nationals who are in distress, regardless of whether they are covered by a contract or not covered by any contract at all, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Well, in terms of assistance, 12 hours for the extremely urgent and 24 hours for normal requests, if we talk of timeline.

REP. ZARATE. The normal processing time is 24 hours?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. The normal processing time is 48 hours. I stand corrected.

REP. ZARATE. So, 48 hours or two days?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes.

REP. ZARATE. May I inquire as to what level is the approval of a request for assistance? Puwede bang sa level na lang ng director iyan, ng assistant secretary for the processing of this assistance, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Mr. Speaker, the Department has allocated P1 billion for the Assistance to Nationals Fund and also P200 million for the Legal Assistance Fund. These funds are exclusively used for funding our distressed nationals abroad and in terms of legal assistance, we will be there until the end. So, that is the scope of the Assistance to Nationals Fund and the Legal Assistance Fund.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

Actually, ang tanong ko po, sino po ang nag-a-approve everytime na mayroong humihingi ng assistance, at saang level ina-approve iyan? We know that there is already a fund for that and in fact, in the past, we are advocating to increase that fund for assistance to our nationals. So, ngayon lang po, gusto ko lang malaman, sino ba talaga ang nag-a-approve ng assistance na ito?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. The Secretary signs it and instantly transmits it to the consulate for immediate action.

REP. ZARATE. It is the Secretary who approves it.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes, the Secretary, and it is transmitted immediately for action.

REP. ZARATE. Well, iyon po ang gusto kong malinaw dahil iyon nga ang natatanggap naming reklamo mula sa ating mga kababayan, sa ating mga migrante. If it is still the Secretary who approves that, and we know how busy our Secretary is, so, hindi ho ba puwedeng magawan sa ating Kagawaran, sa DFA, that the approval for assistance be delegated to officials other than the Secretary, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Mr. Speaker, the Secretary wants to be fully responsible for the P1 billion assistance fund for nationals and the P200 million for the Legal Assistance Fund.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ang sa amin lang naman po—of course, the Secretary will ultimately be responsible—as a way of suggestion, probably, the Secretary can possibly delegate that. Halimbawa po, mayroong isang migrante na hihingi ng assistance at kung ang Secretary pa po

ang mag-a-approve nito, iyong ating 24 or 48 hours, I think, will not suffice.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Okay. It is being said, when there is an emergency, the post pays and we reimburse, it is also being said, the Secretary never sleeps.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. He works 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for our overseas Filipino workers.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. We will relay that to our constituents na nagpaabot sa amin ng concern na ito.

Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. Once again, thank you to the Secretary and the DFA family.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, next to interpellate the Sponsor of the budget of the DFA is Hon. Edcel C. Lagman from the First District of Albay. I move that he be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Gentleman from the First District of Albay, Hon. Edcel C. Lagman, is recognized for his interpellation.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening to Secretary Locsin and the officials and personnel of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Will the distinguished Sponsor yield?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Is there any specific amount in the 2020 proposed budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs for the purpose of defending and enforcing our country's sovereign rights over the West Philippine Sea?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Can you please repeat? Mr. Speaker, as it has been said, it is a great idea, wonderful idea, but as of the moment, we do not have the budget for it.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. Is there any amount in the 2020 proposed budget of DFA to be used to pursue and enforce the arbitral award by the United Nations-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration on July 12, 2016, confirming Philippine sovereignty over most

of the disputed areas in the West Philippine Sea and rejecting the spurious claims of China, including its nine-dash line claim?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Mr. Speaker, the issue of the West Philippine Sea and the decision of the International Arbitral Tribunal has already been decided in favor of the Philippines. We have exclusive sovereign rights over the EEZ, but as of the moment, there is no budget placed into it.

REP. LAGMAN. No budget? I heard the distinguished Sponsor say that it has been decided, but previously he said that we are looking for a win-win solution. Is it not that we have already won?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the win-win solution means, on a friendly matter, having these negotiations with China over and above the West Philippine Sea. We can have trade, tourism, arts and culture exchange, even military advancement with China in terms of training on other substances, which we value on a friendly matter with China, not only concerning the West Philippine Sea, but also in terms of the Belt and Road Initiative which was initiated by China as a connectivity challenge for all of Asia and the whole world for that matter.

REP. LAGMAN. Let me follow up, Mr. Speaker, my first two questions which were answered in the negative that there were no specific appropriations. May we know from the distinguished Sponsor as to why or what were the reasons there was a lack or absence of appropriations?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. It is part of our regular duties under the regular budget, but if there is any way we can increase or augment the budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs, then, so be it, and we would be glad.

REP. LAGMAN. May we know whether in the proposal of the Department of Foreign Affairs to the DBM, there was a submission of any specific amount for these two purposes?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. No, because we already paid \$5 million dollars for the victory of the decision concerning the West Philippine Sea, that we be given the sovereign rights over it.

REP. LAGMAN. Of course, the lack of appropriation is not indicative that the Philippines is not going to defend its sovereign rights over the West Philippine Sea and is not going to pursue the arbitral award.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. We won, so, we are going to pursue it.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes. In other words, the lack of appropriation is not indicative of that adverse situation?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. At this point, Mr. Speaker, we have defended it even in the United Nations. When the Secretary was in the United Nations, he has already defended our rights over the West Philippine Sea, our sovereign rights for that matter.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, has the distinguished Sponsor come across the statement of the Spanish diplomat, Salvador de Madariaga, who had said, and I quote, “The gun that will shoot is more eloquent than the gun which has shot”?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. That is correct, Mr. Speaker, and that is why we are moving for a bigger national budget concerning our national defense.

REP. LAGMAN. Does the distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, agree that this statement means that a person or a country that steadfastly pokes its gun on another, will secure more advantages or concessions than one that tragically pulls the trigger?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. In realistic terms, yes, because they can destroy us, but we will fight until the end.

REP. LAGMAN. That is the lesson of the eloquence of the gun that we will shoot. Now, could the distinguished Sponsor place in context the relevance of the said statement of Salvador de Madariaga on the aftermath of the Philippines’ arbitral victory over China where there is a hesitance on the part of the country to really pursue and enforce the award?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. By diplomatic means, this Representation exercises his strongest objection to the matter.

REP. LAGMAN. I beg your pardon, I could not decipher the answer.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. We have objected in the strongest terms to the Chinese action.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. Well, to place it in context is that the President of China has virtually poked a gun at our President by threatening hostile acts against the Philippines if our country pursues the enforcement of the arbitrary award. Is that correct?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. No, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. What is correct?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. There were no threats, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, according to the President, the President of China said that if we insist on our claims, China is going to war against us. Is that not a threat?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Okay, the Secretary was present during the conversation, Mr. Speaker, and that there will be some trade consequences if we do so, but not military.

REP. LAGMAN. No. I am referring, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, to a previous statement of the President sometime ago that he could not pursue the enforcement of the award because the President of China said that if he does pursue this award, China will go to war against the Philippines.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Well, we were not there yet, Mr. Speaker, so, we cannot answer such a question now.

REP. LAGMAN. You were not present then? Is that what you are saying, Your Honor?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. The present Secretary was not present then.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay, but of course, you had read reports of what the President said, that he is desisting from pursuing the award because China will go to war against the Philippines and we will be vanquished by the military might of China.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. The Secretary will only go with—he can only speak about what he had witnessed, and...

REP. LAGMAN. Yes. I think, Mr. Speaker,...

REP. SAGARBARRIA. ...it has been amicable.

REP. LAGMAN. I think, Mr. Speaker, we should amend our rules during the plenary deliberation of the national budget. We should allow the Secretaries of the various departments to address the Body so that we will be able to really get the sense of the answers to the questions of the interpellator.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, let us go to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea or UNCLOS.

In the case of an arbitral award, is there any prescriptive period within the prevailing party can enforce the award?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. No, it is part of international law.

REP. LAGMAN. Is there a prescribed period? There is no prescribed period?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. None.

REP. LAGMAN. None?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. None.

REP. LAGMAN. In other words, the award is final. It is even unappealable. So, the award is virtually an award in perpetuity?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes. It is now part of international law, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes, and let me just quote Article XI on Finality of award under the UNCLOS which reads:

The award shall be final and without appeal, unless the parties to the dispute have agreed in advance to an appellate procedure. It shall be complied with by the parties to the dispute.

So, it is really an award forever?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes.

REP. LAGMAN. Unless, of course, the prevailing party unequivocally abandons or relinquishes the award.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes.

REP. LAGMAN. Is that correct?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Correct.

REP. LAGMAN. That is what we should avoid. Is that correct?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is correct.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, what is the rule when a party defaults or refuses to appear before the Arbitral Tribunal?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. It is still binding on him, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. Well, let me just quote the pertinent provision, Article IX of Annex 7 of the UNCLOS on arbitration reads:

If one of the parties to the dispute does not appear before the arbitral tribunal or fails to defend its case, the other party may request the tribunal to continue the proceedings and to make its award. Absence of a party or failure of a party to defend its case shall not constitute a bar to the proceedings. Before making its award, the arbitral tribunal must satisfy itself not only that it has jurisdiction over the dispute but also that the claim is well founded in fact and law.

In other words, this arbitral award is valid. The arbitral court has jurisdiction and its decision is founded on fact and law, so much so that there is no real reason for China to avoid the effects of this arbitral award. Is that correct?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, it could not be denied that, during the first three years of President Duterte's incumbency, he has failed to pursue the enforcement of the arbitral award and even refused to talk about the award with China. It was only lately that he attempted to talk about the award with the Chinese President. Is this correct?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Well, Mr. Speaker, in fairness to the President, he always brings it up during his meetings with no less than President Xi Jinping in China.

REP. LAGMAN. That is not documented.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. It is not, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. The only time he really talked about it with the Chinese President was during his last visit. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, would you agree that it is pathetic, as well as a comic scenario, when the head of the prevailing state would virtually ask permission from the head of the adversed or vanquished state whether they could talk about the arbitral award?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Mr. Speaker, he never asked permission, but he brought it up during the Belt and Road Initiative discussions.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. This posture of the prevailing state of appeasing a vanquished state is beyond comprehension and beyond compare. Would the distinguished Gentleman agree?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. No, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. No. Okay. Of course, you will not agree. Is the distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, knowledgeable or aware of the SWS survey conducted from June 22 to June 24, 2019 on what the Filipinos want their leader to do with respect to the arbitral award?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. No, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. You are not? Let me inform the distinguished Sponsor that the most recent survey of SWS from June 22 to June 24, 2019 validated that 90 percent of the respondents believe it is important for the country to regain control of the islands in the West Philippine Sea occupied by China. Correlatively, the Filipinos' trust in China plummeted to an abysmal low of minus 24 percent, according to the survey.

Now, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, President Duterte was reported in the *Philippine Star* on September 12, 2019 that, "The exclusive economic zone is part of the arbitral ruling which we will ignore to come up with an economic activity." Has the distinguished Sponsor read this news report?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. No, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. No? Well, I am telling you that there is such a report. Has the President the right or authority to ignore or set aside the subject arbitral ruling in favor of the Philippines?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. May I say, Mr. Speaker, that the President brought up the negative reactions of the Filipino people to China's provocative acts.

REP. LAGMAN. That is not my question anymore, that answer is too belated. I am now asking another question and my question is—has the President the right or authority to ignore or set aside the subject arbitral ruling in favor of the Philippines?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Mr. Speaker, the President is not setting it aside. In fact, during his last visit to China, he took it up with Pres. Xi Jinping, telling him about the problems we have at the West Philippine Sea.

REP. LAGMAN. I asked that question within the context of my previous question with respect to his statement that in order to have economic activity in the

Philippines' exclusive economic zone, there could be a need to ignore the award.

Anyway, let me go to another subject—you know, it is connected. Secretary Locsin corrected the President when the DFA Secretary said that the arbitral court ruling is "beyond the reach of compromise" and thus, "it cannot be set aside," from the *Philippine Star*, September 12, 2019. Is Secretary Locsin steadfast in his opinion contrary to the President's statement?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Mr. Speaker, the Secretary was quoting the President when he said it was Xi Jinping.

REP. LAGMAN. President Duterte was also quoted as having said that "Chinese Pres. Xi Jinping had offered the Philippines a controlling stake in the proposed joint energy venture in the West Philippine Sea if the Philippines would set aside an international arbitral ruling award that went against China." This was reported in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on September 12, 2019 or yesterday. Have you read this news report?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. No, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. No?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. We cannot offer anything that is ours already.

REP. LAGMAN. Again, Secretary Locsin appears to have contradicted the President when the DFA Secretary revealed that China did not attach such condition to the proposed exploration deal, again, per the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* dated September 12. Does Secretary Locsin maintain his position on this matter?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. With or without ignoring or setting aside the subject arbitral ruling, can the Philippines and China, as sovereign states, forge a joint exploration and development of gas, oil and other mineral products in the West Philippine Sea without violating paragraph 2, Section 2, Article XII of the Constitution?

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

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. It is very clear under this constitutional provision that:

The State shall protect the nation's marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone, and reserve use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens."

Yes?

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

REP. LAGMAN. That is right. The only thing the Philippines could do, with respect to third parties, is provided for also in Section 2. It provides:

The State may directly undertake such activities, or it may enter into co-production, joint venture, or production-sharing agreements with Filipino citizens, or corporations or associations at least sixty per centum of whose capital is owned by such citizens.

Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. Sixty-forty is our stand and it is constitutional.

REP. LAGMAN. Under the same provision, it is provided that:

The President may enter into agreements with foreign-owned corporations involving either technical or financial assistance for large-scale exploration, development, and utilization of minerals, petroleum, and other mineral oils according to the general terms and conditions provided by law.

So, in this particular case, the President has the right to enter into agreements with foreign corporations but it is limited to technical or financial assistance. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is correct.

REP. LAGMAN. In other words, the Constitution, more particularly paragraph 2, Section 2 of Article XII thereof, should be the guidepost for any joint exploration in the West Philippine Sea?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes, correct. That is true, Mr. Speaker. That is also the position of the Department of Justice.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The protection, promotion and fulfillment of human rights is a global concern which transcends national territories, sovereign realms and parochial biases. Does the distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, agree to this proposition?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we agree.

REP. LAGMAN. To express this international concern on human rights, there are more than a dozen covenants on the protection and promotion of human rights. Let me just enumerate, for the record, these covenants:

1. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
3. Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;
4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
5. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
6. Optional Protocol of the Convention Against Torture;
7. Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Aiming to the Abolition of the Death Penalty;
8. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
9. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
10. Convention on the Rights of the Child;
11. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
12. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict; and
13. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

Mr. Speaker, may we know from the distinguished Sponsor whether the Philippines is a state signatory to these conventions?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. As far as we know, Mr. Speaker, yes. We are still a signatory to the Convention on Human Rights.

REP. LAGMAN. We are, except for one, distinguished Sponsor. We are not a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. I hope you were correct, but no, there is one convention we have not yet ratified.

May we get from the Secretary, through the distinguished Sponsor, whether the good Secretary is going to work for the ratification of this convention.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. It is a disgrace not to do it.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. I hope I will not ask this question next year.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Thank you very much. If it is for ratification, this will depend on the Senate, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, although we have not ratified this convention, the Philippines has antedated the ratification by enacting Republic Act No. 10353 or the ANTI-ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCE ACT OF 2012.

Is the distinguished Sponsor aware of this Act?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes, we have a local legislation, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes, this is one of the triumvirate legislations on human rights, of which this Representation is the principal author.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

REP. LAGMAN. The Philippines is a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Is this correct?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes. We were voted on in that Council, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, on July 11, 2019, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution which calls upon the Philippines to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights by facilitating country visits and preventing and refraining from all acts of intimidation or retaliation, and which requests the High Commissioner to prepare a comprehensive written report on the situation of human rights in the Philippines. Is the distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, aware of this resolution?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes, we are aware, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. What was the response of the Duterte administration to this resolution?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. The President had no response, but the Secretary rejected it because it was not passed by a majority, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. In other words, Secretary Locsin

is rejecting the resolution because it was not passed by a majority.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. What is the rule of the United Nations Human Rights Council with respect to the passage of resolutions? Does it need an absolute majority of all members or a simple majority?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Mr. Speaker, a simple majority would do.

REP. LAGMAN. This resolution got a simple majority, for the record. The distinguished Sponsor said that there was no response from the Duterte administration or from the President himself. Let me inform the distinguished Sponsor that President Duterte denounced the resolution as infringing on Philippine sovereignty and he even went to the extent of asserting that Iceland, the author of the resolution, is virtually covered with ice and its people are ice-eaters. Is this not purely self-serving, off-tangent, undiplomatic and farcical, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Mr. Speaker, that is why the Secretary of Foreign Affairs is grateful to the President because he is supporting the rejection of that resolution.

REP. LAGMAN. I did not get the answer really well, but I will let that pass.

Last question—if, according to the Duterte administration, its war on drugs is legal and the killings are due to legitimate encounters, then the country has nothing to hide and nothing to fear in the conduct of an international investigation by the UNHRC. What is the take of the distinguished Sponsor on this?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Nothing to hide is what the fascist is always saying, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. That nothing to hide is what the fascist is always saying, Mr. Speaker. It is not a threat, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. You have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear. Then, let the investigation proceed so that at the end of the day, the country could be seen as a human rights adherent. In the language of Secretary Locsin, “the country has an unblemished human rights record,” which is questionable. If the investigation would proceed, then the facts will have to come out whether these extra judicial killings would be violating

the rule of law, due process and human rights.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago of KABATAAN Party-List for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Lady from the Party-List KABATAAN, the Hon. Sarah Jane Elago, is recognized for her interpellation.

REP. ELAGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the DFA family for their prompt and substantial response to this Youth Representation's request for additional information on the role of the Department of Foreign Affairs in the Climate Change Commission and the climate change negotiations. We welcome the assurance/the affirmation made by the DFA that they will continue to provide the technical assistance to the CCC negotiations. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, the DFA family also gave this Representation an update on the reported abuses on the J-1 visa for Filipino teachers in the United States. Nawa ay magkaroon po ng mga pagsisikap pa para mas maunawaan ng mga kabataan ang lahat ng mga ambag at ginagawa ng Department of Foreign Affairs pagdating sa paninindigan at sa pagtatanggol ng ating pambansang soberanya, ng ating teritoryal na integridad at ng promosyon ng ating independent foreign policy.

Ang Representasyong ito ay nagmula sa Zambales kaya po hindi bago sa akin na magpasa-hanggang ngayon ay nararanasan ng ating mga kababayang mangingisda ang kahirapan at minsan ang gutom, dahil sila ay talagang apektado pa rin sa ginagawang pagbabantay ng mga Chinese vessels sa ating fishing grounds sa Bajo de Masinloc o Scarborough Shoal. Ang usaping ito ay napalalim na po ng ating mga kasamahan dito sa Kongreso, ngunit asahan ninyo na ang kabataan ay mananatiling magbabantay pagdating sa pagtatanggol ng ating soberanya para sa kinabukasan ng ating bansa.

Mayroon lamang po akong isang tanong para sa UNESCO National Commission na andito sa Pilipinas. The UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines will have a budget of P22.7 million for the year 2020. I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, what has the UNESCO National Commission done so far to promote the signing of the Philippines of the "Safe Schools Declaration," which outlines the framework for protecting our schools and our universities from attacks, and in guiding governments in upholding schools and universities

as mutual grounds and safe spaces, so that students and teachers can fully enjoy the right to education and exercise their democratic rights, their fundamental freedoms to organize, to associate and conduct peaceful assembly, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Mr. Speaker, all the programs of the UNESCO have been aligned and the Secretary fully supports them.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, ang Deklarasyon raw po na ito ay nasa Malacañang na at dalawang taon na pong kinakampanya ng DepEd, pero magpasahanggang ngayon po ay hindi pa napipirmahan, kaya hinahamon po natin, hindi lamang ang UNESCO National Commission, kung hindi maging ang buong DFA, na tiyakin ang matibay na commitment dito sa Deklarasyon ng Safe Schools.

Sa ngayon po, napirmahan na ito ng 87 na bansa. Sa panahon po na nakakakaranas ng mga atake sa academic freedom, sa mga demokratikong karapatan sa loob ng schools, sa mga guro, mga mag-aaral, mga iskolar ng bayan, mga miyembro ng academic community, nararapat lamang na maigi na natin na paspasan lahat ng efforts para po ito ay mapirmahan na. Iyan din po ay kaugnay sa mga itinutulak na mga panukalang batas: pagbabalik ng mandatory ROTC sa senior high school, nandiyan na rin ho ang pag-e-establish ng mas malaki o mas marami na pulis at military presence sa loob ng mga universities and colleges.

Mahihirapan po tayong magkaroon ng tiwala sa pagpasok ng police and military sa loob ng mga eskuwelahan kung wala po tayong mga gabay para maiwasan na iyong mga abuso na nakita na po natin sa kasaysayan na nangyari na, kaya ganoon po kahalaga na mapirmahan na ang Safe Schools Declaration ngayong 2019.

May we get, again, the affirmation of the DFA family and the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines that they will exhaust all efforts to have the Safe Schools Declaration signed this year, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we will look into it and act on it as soon as possible then.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

Save our schools, stop the attacks, uphold academic freedom and democratic rights in our schools and universities.

Maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize our esteemed Minority Leader, Hon. Benny Abante, for his manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Minority Leader, Rep. Benny Abante, is recognized.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker, sa dahilan na wala na pong sino man sa Minorya ang interesadong magtanong sapagkat gumagabi na, I am constrained to move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the part of the Minority.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, we join the Minority in terminating the period of interpellation and debate on the budgets of the Department of Foreign Affairs, including attached agencies.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a joint motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budgets of the Department of Foreign Affairs and attached agencies. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budgets of the Department of Foreign Affairs and attached agencies is hereby terminated. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF H.B. NO. 4263

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of House Bill No. 4263 entitled: ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE ENTREPRENEURS ACADEMY, from the Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development, to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The session is suspended.

It was 10:25 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:28 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4228

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 4228.

I so move.

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

The consideration of House Bill No. 4228 is suspended.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize honorable Deputy Minority Leader Jose Christopher “Kit” Y. Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Honorable Kit Belmonte is recognized.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. BELMONTE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minority, I move for the election of the following Members to various Committees:

The Dep. Minority Leader, Rep. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 18, dated September 13, 2019.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

As members:

Rep. Stella Luz A. Quimbo vice Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr.

Rep. Janette L. Garin

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

As member:

Rep. Ferdinand R. Gaité vice Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The so-named Members of the Minority are elected to the committees.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no other business, I move that we suspend the

session until September 16, 2019 at one o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The session is suspended until September 16, at one o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 10:29 p.m.