



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

## House of Representatives

Vol. 2

Friday, September 20, 2019

No. 18h

### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 1:00 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Johnny Ty Pimentel presiding.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Secretary General is directed to read the title of the bills and resolutions.

### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

*The Secretary General read the following House Bills and Resolutions on First Reading, and Communications, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:*

### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4685, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS”

By Representative Mendoza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 4686, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CABUGAO SCHOOL OF HANDICRAFT AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES (CSHCI) – CABUGAO CAMPUS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATO, CATANDUANES INTO A TESDA-SUPERVISED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE CATANDUANES POLYTECHNIC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Teves (Jose)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4687, entitled:

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

By Representative Chipeco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 4688, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS”

By Representative Chipeco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4689, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE STRATEGIC FUEL RESERVE SYSTEM OF THE PHILIPPINES, TO STABILIZE SPIKES IN FUEL PRICES, DEFINING ITS PURPOSES, PRIORITIES, AND FEATURES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 4690, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FREE INSURANCE FOR COVERED APPLICANTS OF OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Yap (Victor)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 4691, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OVERSEAS  
FILIPINO WORKERS HOSPITAL AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Yap (Victor)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4692, entitled:

“AN ACT TO DEVELOP AND PROMOTE  
THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES OF THE  
PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Yap (Victor)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 4693, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING  
THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AS  
THE INDEPENDENT ECONOMIC  
AND PLANNING AGENCY OF THE  
PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT, DEFINING  
ITS FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR  
THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER  
NO. 230 SERIES OF 1987, ALSO KNOWN  
AS THE REORGANIZATION ACT OF  
THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY”

By Representative Yap (Victor)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC  
AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 4694, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR  
COMPREHENSIVE ATOMIC  
REGULATION, CREATING FOR THE  
PURPOSE, THE PHILIPPINE ATOMIC  
REGULATORY COMMISSION, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lacson  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE  
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4695, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO.  
8794, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT IMPOSING A  
MOTOR VEHICLE USER’S CHARGE ON  
OWNERS OF ALL TYPES OF MOTOR  
VEHICLES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’,  
AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO.  
11239”

By Representative Salceda  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND HIGHWAYS

## RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 348, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES (HRep) TO  
CONSTRUCT A SEPARATE BUILDING  
FROM THE MAIN BUILDINGS OF THE  
HRep WITHIN THE BATASANG PAMBANSA  
COMPLEX THAT WOULD HOUSE DESK  
OFFICES AND THE LEGISLATIVE LIAISON  
OFFICERS FROM ALL GOVERNMENT  
AGENCIES”

By Representative Savellano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS

House Resolution No. 349, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING  
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE  
TO ESTABLISH THE PHILIPPINES  
STRATEGIC FUEL RESERVES AND  
EXPAND THE PANTAWID PASADA  
CASH GRANTS PROGRAM, USING THE  
MALAMPAYA FUND”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Resolution No. 350, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE MEMBERS OF  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO  
SUPPORT THE YOUTH FOR CLIMATE  
STRIKE’S NATIONAL DEMANDS”

By Representative Elago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND  
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 351, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON  
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
TO PROBE INTO THE SLOW DISTRIBUTION  
OF LAND TITLES FOR HOMEOWNERS  
IN RIDGEVIEW PARK AND OTHER  
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY  
PABAHAY PROJECTS”

By Representatives Gaite, Zarate and Cullamat  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 352, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING SPEAKER ALAN  
PETER CAYETANO THROUGH THE  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
TO RESTORE THE FISCAL YEAR 2020  
PROPOSED SUBSIDY FROM THE  
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OF PHP  
6.146 BILLION FOR THE NATIONAL  
ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION  
REDUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF

BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT TO PHP  
1.531 BILLION PESOS”

By Representatives Dagooc, De Jesus, Ebcas and  
Guya

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Resolution No. 353, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE  
CREATION OF A TRAFFIC CRISIS INTER-  
AGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF CONSOLIDATING AND  
HARMONIZING ALL TRANSPORT AND  
TRAFFIC POLICIES TO ADDRESS THE  
URGENT TRAFFIC CRISIS IN METRO  
MANILA AND IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Sarmiento

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated 8 August 2019 of Maria Anthonette C.  
Velasco-Allones, CESO I, Executive Director,  
Career Executive Service Board (CESB), furnishing  
the House of Representatives a copy of the CESB’s  
2018 Annual Report themed “Leading the Way to  
the Future”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE  
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

Letter dated August 22, 2019 of Caesar R. Dulay,  
Commissioner, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Department  
of Finance, forwarding to the House of Representatives  
the following Budget and Financial Accountability  
Reports (BFARs) as of June 30, 2019:

1. Statement of Appropriations, Allotments,  
Obligations, Disbursements and Balances  
(SAAODB) – FAR No. 1;
2. Summary of Appropriations, Allotments,  
Obligations, Disbursements and Balances by  
Object of Expenditures – FAR No. 1-A; and
3. List of Allotments and Sub-Allotments – FAR  
No. 1-B.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated August 30, 2019 of Sylvanna O. Reusora,  
RSW, MSWDO and Leonardo L. Uy, Jr., Municipal  
Mayor, Municipality of Libertad, Province of  
Misamis Oriental, submitting to the House of  
Representatives the Full Liquidation of LGSF FY  
2018 with ADA No. RO10-ALGU-9918120109  
value dated 12/10/2018 from January 10, 2019 to  
August 30, 2019 of said municipality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Reports of Receipts and Disbursements as of August  
28, 2019 of the Municipality of Alubijid, Province

of Misamis Oriental, noted by Emmanuel L. Jamis,  
DVM, Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 3 September 2019 of Rogelio Francisco  
M. Bantayan, Jr., Executive Director, Office  
of the President, National Commission on  
Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), providing the House  
of Representatives a copy of NCIP’s CY 2018  
Annual Accomplishment Report.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS  
CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Letter dated September 5, 2019 of Maria Gleda E.  
Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Audit  
Groups CGS I & II – Water Districts and Other  
CGS Stand Alone Agencies, Regional Office No.  
VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of  
Representatives a copy of the Annual Audit Report  
on the Metro Iloilo Water District, Iloilo City for  
the year ended December 31, 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4228

*Continuation*

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, under the Calendar of  
Unfinished Business, I move that we consider House  
Bill No. 4228, under Committee Report No. 8, and  
request that the Secretary General be directed to read  
only the title of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Is  
there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the  
Secretary General is directed to read the title of the Bill.

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. Pimentel). The  
Majority Leader is recognized.

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

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the deliberations on the proposed budget of the Department of Information and Communications Technology, including its attached agencies, and Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the Sponsor of this budget, the Vice Chair of the Committee on Appropriations, Rep. Luis N. Campos Jr. of the Second District of Makati.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Luis Campos is recognized.

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, before we begin with the sponsorship speech of the Sponsor, may we acknowledge first the presence of our guests from the DICT family and its attached agencies, headed by Sec. Gregorio Honasan II, Usec. Eliseo Rio Jr., Usec. Denis Villorente, Usec. Eleazar Almalbis Jr., Usec. Jose Arturo De Castro, Usec. John Henry Naga, Asec. Ivin Ronald Alzona, Asec. Emmanuel Rey Caintic, Asec. Felino Castro V, Asec. Vicente Luna Cejoco, and Asec. Alan Silor. For NPC, we have Comm. Raymund Liboro, Dep. Comm. Ivy Patdu, Dep. Comm. Leandro Angelo Aguirre; and for NTC, Comm. Gamaliel Cordoba, Dep. Comm. Edgardo Cabarios, and Dep. Comm. Delilah F. Deles.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Sec. Gregorio Honasan and the officials of the Department of Information and Communications Technology, including its attached agencies, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, may we now recognize the Sponsor of the budget of the DICT, Rep. Luis Campos Jr. from the Second District of Makati.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Luis Campos Jr. is hereby recognized.

REP. CAMPOS. Your Honor, this Representation is ready to be interpellated. Thank you, Your Honor.

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

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, as we begin with the interpellation, may we recognize, from the ACT TEACHERS Party-List, Rep. France L. Castro.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. France Castro is recognized.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

So, iyong atin po bang distinguished Sponsor ay magpapaunlak sa ilang mga katanungan mula sa Representasyong ito kaugnay ng budget ng DICT?

REP. CAMPOS. Opo, Your Honor.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. So, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, my interpellation would be about the illegal profiling against the NPC, the National Privacy Commission. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, last 2018 and early part of 2019, may mga ginawa ang PNP na profiling at may kaakibat itong harassment, even death threats laban sa Alliance of Concerned Teachers at mga miyembro nito. Tinutulan ng Representasyong ito ang malawakang profiling na ginagawa sa unyon ng Alliance of Concerned Teachers dahil sa tingin namin, massive ito at nakakita na tayo ng mga dokumento na talagang ginagawa ito all over the Philippines o sa buong bansa.

So, gusto ko lang magpakita ng appreciation doon sa ginawa ng National Privacy Commission dahil maagap namang tinugunan ng NPC ito at nagbigay ng opinyon ang NPC partikular na po iyong chief natin si Chief Liboro kaugnay nitong profiling na ito. Sabi niya, and I quote:

The processing of personal data especially those of sensitive nature, should only be to the extent necessary for the purpose. This means collection should always be consistent with full respect of human rights and the Constitution, particularly the right of the information privacy.

He said further that under the law, the person's philosophical or political affiliation is considered sensitive, personal information, the processing of which is strictly guided by specific conditions.

So, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ito po ba ay patuloy pa ring pinaninindigan ng NPC, distinguished Sponsor? Ito po bang pahayag ng ating hepe ng NPC ay patuloy pa rin bang pinaninindigan?

REP. CAMPOS. Honorable Castro, thank you for your manifestation or appreciation.

Mayroon pong lawful criteria ang personal-data processing, so tama po iyong sinabi ninyo. Sa kasalukuyan po, tuloy-tuloy ang pag-observe nito. Mayroon pong Data Protection Office ang PNP na nasabing nangangalaga rito po sa pribadong data ng mga indibidwal. Si PNP Chief Albayalde po, he disowned ang naunang ginawa ng mga kawani ng PNP na pagkalap ng pribadong data na nabanggit ninyo.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Ito po bang pangangalap ng mga pangalan, ng mga miyembro ng isang organisasyon na massively na hinihingi ay pinapahintulutan po ba ng batas under the National Privacy Law, G. Ispiker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. CAMPOS. Mayroon pong lawful criteria, katulad ng binanggit ko kanina, ito po ay mayroong sinusunod na mga pamantayan na kung maba-violate po ay puwedeng idulog po at pati ireklamo po sa ating Privacy Commission.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Puwede po bang ma-enlighten ang Kinatawan ito about doon sa sinasabi ninyong criteria kasi sa mga nakita naming memoranda, bagama't itinatangi o hindi inaamin ng PNP itong mga ito ay malinaw dito na sa isang eskwelahan humihingi sila ng listahan ng lahat ng mga miyembro na affiliated daw sa Alliance of Concerned Teachers. So, sa sinasabi ninyo, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, sinasabi ninyo na hindi ganap na pinangangatawanan ng NPC itong sinasabi niya na, under the law, a person's philosophical or political affiliation is considered sensitive personal information. So, ibig pong sabihin ba, kapag mayroong dahilan na inilagay doon sa information ay puwede na itong mga massive na pagkuha ng mga impormasyon, like political affiliation, G. Ispiker, G. Isponsor?

REP. CAMPOS. Sa kasalukuyan po, Representative Castro, wala pa pong natatanggap ang NPC na pormal na hinaing tungkol diyan, pero asahan po ninyo na aaksyunan kaagad iyong kung anumang reklamo ang matatanggap nila dahil mayroong formal agreement na sila ni PNP Chief na aaksyunan kaagad any such complaints.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. So, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor. For the information po of the Body at ng ating ahensya, nagpapatuloy po itong ginagawa ng PNP na ito na data gathering at mga paniniktik sa mga miyembro ng Alliance of Concerned Teachers. Sa katunayan, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, dito halimbawa sa Ateneo at sa Kalayaan College, pumupunta ang PNP at nagtatanong, "May nagre-recruit ba dito ng NPA?" May ganoong mga tanong.

Naranasan din ito sa Iloilo ng All UP Faculty and Employees Union na kung saan nakatanggap din ang Presidente ng letter asking for the list of members ng union. So, lahat itinatatanong ang mga pangalan ng miyembro ng union. Salamat na lang at malinaw ang naging tugon ng administration na ipinagbabawal ito ng batas. So, nagpapatuloy ito, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor. So, ano pong masasabi dito ng NPC, komo hindi sila nakatanggap ng reklamo? I note, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, doon sa ginawa ng NPC

na *motu proprio* investigation kaugnay noong leaks sa passport, it exercised its *motu proprio* powers to investigate on the matter. Ngayon, sasabihin ng ating NPC na kailangan pa ng reklamo eh massive na nga itong nangyayari. It was all over the papers noong mga panahong nagkakaroon ng profiling itong PNP na ito, and you said, kung walang reklamo ay hindi aaksyunan. Bakit itong ano, iyong passport data leaks, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor?

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, Representative Castro, the NPC will conduct an investigation immediately. Ngayon po na sinabi ninyo, ipapatawag po ang Data Processing Office ng PNP sa pangunguna po ni General Binag.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Handa pong makipagtulungan ang Representanteng ito para matigil na itong mga iligal na mga profiling na ginagawa ng PNP dahil, tingin natin, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, paglabag ito sa batayang karapatan ng mamamayan para sa self-organization. Pangalawa po, magsasagka po ito o pipigil sa karapatan ng bawat indibidwal na miyembro ng isang organisasyon o union na magpahayag ng anumang kanyang gustuhing ipahayag kaugnay noong mga hinaing, sosyoekonomiko at iba pa.

So, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, aasahan natin ang kagyat na gagawing aksyon ng National Privacy Commission.

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, the NPC commits to update Representative Castro regarding this issue.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Pangalawang issue po, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, another similar move of the government agencies which warrants the intervention of the NPC, it is the massive data gathering against citizens by this national task force.

Nakita ko po sa PNA report na sinabi po noong RDC o Regional Development Council ng NCR, si General Lim, that they involve iyong mga LGUs para mag-ipon ng data para magkaroon tayo ng database. So, ano po iyong opinyon ng NPC kaugnay nito? May basis daw ito kaugnay ng EO 70. So, ano po iyong opinyon ng NPC kaugnay dito sa ganitong massive data gathering din na gagawin sa mga LGUs, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor?

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, ang pinakamaganda ho niyan ay ipunin po natin iyong mga sinasabing instances ng pangangalap ng data. Isa-isahin po natin kung ano-anong klaseng data iyong gina-gather nila, kinakalap nila at iimbestigahan po ng NPC. Nagko-commit po ang NPC na ia-update po ang Kinatawan tungkol sa gagawing imbestigasyon.

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

Isa pang insidente, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, dito sa DSWD-AFP Memorandum of Understanding, may kaugnayan pa rin ito sa EO 70, dated August 28, 2019, kung saan nakalagay doon sa agreement that the DSWD commits to agree with the other party, which is the AFP, within the limits of existing applicable laws to exchange information and documentation to the fullest extent possible on matters of common interest. So, hindi po ba dobleng delikado pa ito dahil may mga nondisclosure and confidentiality agreement pa sila na gaya nito? Ano po iyong opinyon ng ating NPC, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor?

REP. CAMPOS. Tungkulin po ng NPC na pangalagaan ang pribadong data ng mga indibidwal, kaya naman po there is a legitimate data sharing agreement between government agencies. Ito po ay subject sa parameters set by laws, at maging panatag po sana ang kalooban natin na ito po ay pangangalagaan ng Komisyon.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Dagdag pa po, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, na nakalagay sa agreement, and I quote:

Both parties agree that all information, records and documents disclosed by one party to the other; the latter's employees and agents pursuant to this agreement; and all plans, reports and results made by either both parties under this document; shall be in strictest confidence.

So, ibig sabihin nito, sinasabi dito na talagang iyong lahat halos ng mga data ay may exchange ang DSWD at ang AFP. So, puwede po ba na iyong ganitong kalaki o massive na data ay ibibigay ng isang ahensya sa isang ahensya rin na alam naman natin iyong record ng AFP?

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, makaaasa po tayo na ang NPC will be a watchdog upang pangalagaan itong nasabing data ng mga pribadong indibidwal. Hindi po puwede na wantonly o lantarang i-share iyong mga pribadong data na hindi naman po pinapayagan ng batas. So, kapag may nilabag po tayo na parameters o criteria, mag-i-step in po ang Komisyon natin upang i-ensure at siguraduhin na hindi po mauulit, pero hinihingi po ng Komisyon, hinihingi po natin ang tulong ng mga katulad ng ating Kinatawang Castro upang maisiwalat kung may mga insidente na nagwa-warrant po ng imbestigasyon.

Maraming salamat po.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Panghuli, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ang una nating pinag-agree-han ay

magko-commit ang ahensya kaugnay sa motu proprio investigation sa profiling ng PNP sa mga miyembro ng Alliance of Concerned Teachers; pangalawa, ire-review itong mga MOU na ito na pinapasok ng mga ahensya with the national task force; at pangatlo po ay itong mga ginagawa ng DSWD at saka iyong MMDA na mga ahensya natin.

In light of the worsening human rights situation, the crackdown on progressive groups, and the bleak record of security agencies—AFP, PNP, NTF, et cetera—these plans and activities must not be tolerated. Makikita sa kaso ng profiling ng PNP laban sa mga teacher na ang violation ng privacy rights ay nanganganak at kasabay ang paglabag sa iba't iba pang mga karapatan gaya ng labor rights, right to organization, right to life, liberty and security.

Iyon lamang po, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor. Salamat po.

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

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the next interpellator, Rep. Bayani F. Fernando, of the First District of Marikina City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Bayani F. Fernando is recognized.

REP. FERNANDO. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, at sa lahat ng tao. Tayo po ay may cellphone, may DICT sa bawat isa sa atin, dala-dala natin araw-araw. Ganyan kahalaga ang ginaganap na tungkulin ng ahensyang ito. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, the Department of Information and Communications Technology is mandated to plan, develop and promote the national ICT development agenda by virtue of RA 10844. Am I correct, Mr. Speaker?

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

REP. FERNANDO. What are the other crucial functions of the Department?

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, unang-una po, policy and planning; pangalawa po, mayroon po tayong improved public access; pangatlo po, mayroon po tayong resource-sharing at capacity-building para po maging episyente ang operations natin; pang-apat po, of course, nandoroon po ang consumer protection and industry development; panlima po, isa sa pinakaimportante po, cybersecurity policy and program coordination; pang-anim, mayroon po tayong countryside development. Iyan po ang mga pangunahing functions na kritikal sa nasabing ahensya, sa ating DICT.

REP. FERNANDO. Is it not that in line with this mandate and the current administration's ICT agenda, the DICT will develop a National Broadband Program, a National ICT Portal and the provision of free Wi-Fi in public places, among others?

REP. CAMPOS. That is absolutely correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERNANDO. It also includes the interconnectivity of all line agencies of the government, including local government units?

REP. CAMPOS. That is correct, Mr. Speaker. This is what you call the Shared Government Information System.

REP. FERNANDO. So, have you developed a master plan for the realization of this mandate?

REP. CAMPOS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERNANDO. Is it coupled with the appropriate funding requirements?

REP. CAMPOS. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, as far as the proposed budget in the NEP is concerned, hindi po.

REP. FERNANDO. Why? How much is the NEP of the Department?

REP. CAMPOS. It is P3.76 billion.

REP. FERNANDO. How much is your proposal to implement your master plan, specifically for 2020?

REP. CAMPOS. Ang nasa unang hiling po ay P36,393,599,000 po.

REP. FERNANDO. Napakalaking halaga, Mr. Speaker. Assuming that this august Body will grant you this ideal figure you are proposing, can you fully utilize this fund considering the very low fiscal performance of the agency in the previous years?

REP. CAMPOS. Yes, Sir. Absolutely, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERNANDO. We have a new Secretary, with the caliber of a military man and a former Senator who now gives us an assurance to perform. I believe that it will be a quantum leap for the agency if this commitment will come into reality, but this commitment alone will not bring us results as to reality check, Mr.

Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. The Secretary faces an enormous task of modernizing the government ICT systems, safeguarding information and enhancing digital connectivity and access with such a meager budget allocation for the Department, if we will not consider his new proposal. As presented, the DICT proposes P36.93 billion to fund its programs and operations. However, only P3.76 billion was allocated in the NEP.

Mr. Speaker, ICT is now a must in the implementation of social programs and services. It is also vital to national security. We cannot compromise our national security by relying on private and foreign providers, and we need to have fully government-controlled ICT facilities. We need to invest on a digital government to improve public service delivery with ICT "infostructure," as proposed.

The DICT needs an additional P33 billion to effect their set programs to serve the needs of the whole bureaucracy. Falling short of the agency's financial requirement now will deprive us of the benefits of technology which the world is now dependent upon. We will be left as a third-world country for another decade.

Going back to the proposed increase of P33 billion in the current proposed P3.76 billion in the NEP, I can surmise that it is just 0.085 percent of the total budget of government agencies, if we consider that 85 percent of each government agency's budget is spent for operations. May I therefore recommend that each agency give a share to the DICT, at least 0.085 percent of its budget allocated for operations. This amount taken off the budget of every agency will not reduce their budgets as they will save whatever they are now paying to the service providers. This is but fair and reasonable as everyone would know that there is no free lunch. This brings me to my manifestation, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, on the need to allocate an appropriate amount for the DICT, so that it can deliver its mandate to our people. It is fine to mention that the volume users of this "infostructure" is the bureaucracy itself.

While I am in support of the Department for the reasons I have stated, I will yield to our Minority Leader for the final position of the Minority bloc.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good luck, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. CAMPOS. The manifestation of the Deputy Minority Leader is much appreciated, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

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

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the next interpellator, Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate of BAYAN MUNA Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate is recognized.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Magandang hapon ho sa ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor at sa pamilya ng DICT. Mga ilang paglilinaw lang po patungkol sa budget ng DICT. Una po, napabalita po na magsisimula na ang rollout ng ating national ID system. Tama po ba iyon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Kailan po magsisimula ito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Ngayon pong September ang rollout ng Phase 1.

REP. ZARATE. Phase 1, ibig pong sabihin, hindi ho sa buong bansa muna magro-rollout, tama po ba iyon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Tama po kayo doon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Puwede po bang mailahad sa Kapulungang ito, saan po ang unang implementasyon nitong national ID system natin or PhilSys, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Sa Metro Manila po ang unang rollout natin.

REP. ZARATE. Metro Manila lang po?

REP. CAMPOS. Sa Metro Manila po, sa mga Philippine Statistics Authority offices pa lang muna, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you po.

Kailan po tinitingnan ng Kagawaran ang buong implementasyon ng PhilSys or ang Philippine ID System after its rollout in Metro Manila this September, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Ang Philippine Statistics Authority po, Mr. Speaker, ang magko-commit ng timeline dito kaya hindi pa po natin masasabi ang eksaktong termination ng implementation.

REP. ZARATE. So, as we speak now, wala pong malinaw na timeline pa kung kailan ito magiging fully implemented?

REP. CAMPOS. Implementation-wise po, ang

mako-commit po ng DICT ay magsisimula po tayo mag-e-evaluate and continuous monitoring po ang implementation, pero ang final termination ay ang Philippine Statistic Authority po ang lead agency.

REP. ZARATE. Sa taon pong ito dahil iro-rollout na siya, magkano po ang pondong inilaan para po dito sa national ID system na ito at saan po ito nakalagak, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. G. Speaker, PSA po ang lead agency dito. Ang pondo po nito ay hindi mangagaling sa DICT. PSA po ang ...

REP. ZARATE. If the Sponsor knows, magkano po ang pondo nitong Philippine ID System?

REP. CAMPOS. Office of the President po, Mr. Speaker, ang may hawak ng budget nito. Ang participation po ng DICT dito is to provide technical assistance and monitoring.

REP. ZARATE. Provide technical assistance and monitoring.

REP. CAMPOS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. So, sa pondo pong P2 billion, ang pagkakaalam ko this year ay may P2 billion siya, wala hong pondo na nasa DICT nito even if you are in-charge of technical assistance and monitoring, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CAMPOS. Wala po sa DICT iyan, pero according to our figures, mayroong P2.4 billion, tama po kayo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. So, kung wala hong pondo ang DICT, bilang Kagawaran sa implentasyon nitong Philippine ID System, how will the Department or its attached agencies monitor and provide technical assistance in the implementation or rolling out of this national ID system, considering that the entire budget is lodged with the Office of the President, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Sa cyber security measures at sa Cyber Security Bureau at saka sa Digital Transformation Bureau po ng pamahalaan gagamitin ang participation ng DICT, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. So, wala pong dagdag o special na budget na ibinigay sa DICT at ang kanyang technical assistance and monitoring ay magmumula lamang sa kanyang regular na budget. Tama po ba ang pagkakaintindi ko, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?



REP. CAMPOS. Tama po kayo.

REP. ZARATE. Tama po. So, that is why I am wondering, iyong P2 billion na iyan na inilaan natin ngayon taon, inilagag natin ngayon taon, ano ang kanyang paggugugulan? Dahil mahalaga po ang magiging papel ng DICT dito sa implementasyon ng Philippine ID System, dahil ho sa mga ni-raise natin na pangamba noong mga nakaraang panahon, una po rian, halimbawa, naniniwala po ba ang ating Sponsor na dahil dito sa national ID system ay binibigyan natin ang pamahalaan ng unprecedented access to a huge cache of data of our citizens? Do you agree with that statement, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, not only ordinary data, but the personal data of our people?

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, ang pinangangambahan po natin na wanton na lantarang access sa pribadong data ay ipinagbabawal po ng batas, specifically. So, mayroon ho tayong mga ahensiya na nangangalaga diyan at mayroon po tayong mga sapat na measures in place to ensure that only data which are necessary for the conduct of business are divulged and shared.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Pupunta ho tayo diyan mamaya, pero ang una ko lang pong katanungan, kayo po ba ay naniniwala dahil dito sa national ID system natin ngayon, binibigyan ng oportunidad, binigyan natin ng unprecedented access ang pamahalaan doon sa napakalawak na personal data ng ating mga mamamayan, tama po ba iyong statement na iyan, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Tama po iyong statement na iyon, Mr. Speaker, pero ako po ay hindi naniniwala na walang limitasyon ang pagbibigay ng impormasyon tungkol sa mga pribadong indibidwal.

REP. ZARATE. Dahil po sa sinasabi ninyong safeguard pero sa katotohanan po, sa eksperiyensa ng maraming bansa, kapag ang pamahalaan ay binigyan natin ng unprecedented access to a large volume of personal data for its people, this is possibly the greatest danger it has posed to the rights of our people. Ngayon po, sinabi ninyo kanina na mayroon pong mga safeguard para mapangalagaan ito, puwede po bang mailahad ng Sponsor ano itong mga safeguard na sinasabi natin?

REP. CAMPOS. Mayroon po tayong tinatawag na privacy by design principle. Mabuti nga po at ngayon lang natin ini-implement ang national ID system, iyong katulad po ng nabanggit ni Honorable Zarate, Mr. Speaker. Natuto na po ang ating bansa sa mga pangyayari sa ibayong dagat tungkol sa violation ng pribadong data.

So, ito pong privacy by design principle, mayroon po tayong: number one, purpose specification; number two, consent and choice; and number three, collection and limitation ng data at minimization po nito, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Naniniwala po ba ang ating Sponsor na kapag nagkaroon tayo ng national ID system, it will inevitably lead to some sort of normalizing the surveillance of our citizens?

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, mahigpit pong ipinagbabawal ng batas iyan.

REP. ZARATE. Mahigpit na ipinagbabawal, but the possibility will be there. Will you agree with me?

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, we are not giving unprecedented access to information, kaya nga po mayroon tayong NPC or the National Privacy Commission, mayroon po tayong mga watchdog at may batas po tayo. Ito po ay pinangangalagaan natin. It is a realization na practical po iyong concerns ni G. Zarate at ng maraming mamamayan kaya nga po nandirito ang National Privacy Commission upang pangalagaan ito, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Tama po. Nandiyan ang National Privacy Commission, mayroon po tayong batas, ang Data Privacy Act but, of course, you will agree with me, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, na hindi 100 percent na masisiguro natin na itong mga data na ito ay hindi mapariwara. Tama po ba iyon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. I agree with the Honorable Zarate na mayroong nga pong risk. Wala naman pong absolute dito sa mundo lalong-lalo na po sa pag-implement ng mga programa ng pamahalaan, pero mayroon po tayong bentahe at may disbentahe, pero katulad po ng nabanggit ko, Mr. Speaker, nandirito po ang ating mga kawani upang siguraduhin na such violations will be dealt with to the full extent of the law.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Dahil po, kahit napakaliit na porsiyento iyan, talagang valid iyong pangamba ng mamamayan. Dahil kahit sa ibang bansa na abante o advance countries or advance jurisdictions, this is being weaponized. The collection of data, especially the government's collection of data is now being weaponized to place its citizens under 24/7 watch. The big brother is there.

So, iyan po ang isang nakapangangamba rian kaya salamat doon sa pag-amin ninyo na hindi ito absoluto. Kaya kailangan talaga nating maging mapagmatyag

dahil diyan ho nagsisimula sa surveillance at diyan nagsisimula ang violation and infringements of other rights. Kapag nabigyan ng maliit na puwang lalo na ang Estado, nasa ahensya na ang paniniktik ng State's security forces, and this will lead to the violation of other rights. The right for example, to peaceably assemble for a regress of grievances with the government, mag-join ng mga organisasyon, magpahayag at magbuo ng unyon ng mga manggagawa sa pampubliko at sa pampribado, at iyan ho ay nangyayari ngayon.

Kahit na nandiyan iyong mga safeguard na sinasabi natin, nangyayari ho iyan ngayon, iyong malawakang red-tagging vilification, red labeling ng mga kritiko at mga aktibista, gamit itong mga impormasyon na nakakalap nila, kaya po inirerehistro natin iyan. Totoo, nandiyan iyong sinasabi nating National Privacy Commission, nandiyan iyong batas ng Data Privacy Act, but any human rights defender, worth his soul, ay dapat hindi tayo mag-lower ng ground dahil mayroon itong mga batas na ito, dahil ito rin po ay naiikutan.

My next question, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, ito bang national ID system sa kanyang pagkakagawa, ito ba ay naglalayon din na mapigilan, halimbawa, not only for delivery of social services, but also to prevent criminality and acts of terrorism, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Ang DICT po ang lalabas na watchdog, the whole agency will be the watchdog, Mr. Speaker, at wala pong ganyang pakay ang PhilSys. Ang ibinibigay lang po nating detalye ay—halimbawa, si Congressman Zarate, kung saan po kayo officially nakatira, that is it. Wala po tayong—siguro edad, pero wala po tayong sensitibong data na pinapayagan ng batas na i-divulge o ipamigay.

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

Halimbawa po, isang theoretical example, mayroon hong sumabog at mayroong dinampot na tao, hinanapan siya ng isang national ID, iyon ho bang impormasyon na nakapaloob sa kanyang ID ay puwede na dahil he is a Person of Interest? Iyon ho bang impormasyon na nakalagak sa kaniyang ID ay puwedeng gamitin ng sinuman sa law enforcement agency, for example, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Hindi po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Ano po ang ating magiging safeguard ho diyan?

REP. CAMPOS. Nasa batas po na any unlawful use of data indicated on the ID will be dealt with by law.

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

I hope iyan po ay ating maiimplementa nang istrikto.

Doon naman po sa usapin ng, ito po, puwede po bang gamitin ng ibang ahensya ang mga nakalagak na impormasyon sa PSA, other than the PSA?

REP. CAMPOS. Kung iyon pong sinasabi ninyo iyong kakalapin na data ng Philippine Statistics Authority, ito po ay governed ng batas. Hindi po puwedeng ibigay ng PSA ang anumang data na makukuha nila na hindi po specifically pinapayagan ng batas, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Ano lang po ang pinapayagan ng batas na mai-share, halimbawa, sa ibang ahensya?

REP. CAMPOS. Unang-una ho, kailangang may lehitimong dahilan upang magkaroon ng data sharing ang mga ahensya ng pamahalaan. Pangalawa ho, iyong general data lang po na collected ng Philippine Statistics Authority ang puwedeng ibigay.

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

Tama po, puwede namang ibahagi ito talaga. So, there is a possibility na ang data na ito ay maibahagi sa ibang ahensya. Sinasabi ninyo lang po na kailangang mayroong lehitimong rason at kung anuman ang lehitimong rason na iyan ay hindi nakapaloob sa batas. Ang lehitimong rason na iyan ay nasa ahensyang humihingi ng data at nasa PSA kung ang kanyang appreciation ay legitimate iyong reason na iyan para i-share niya ang data. Tama po ba iyon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Tama po kayo.

REP. ZARATE. Tama po. Kaya po talagang mayroong posibilidad, halimbawa, ang NBI, ang AFP at ang PNP, na susulat sila na for data sharing and they will justify that. Maghahanap sila ng legitimate reason para they can have access to these data. Is that possible, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, may posibilidad nga po, kaya ang kaparusahan po sa gagamit ng datos na ito na government personnel ay mas mahigit pa kaysa sa pribadong indibidwal, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

Ang pinupunto ko lang po dito na puwede talagang mapunta sa kanila iyong impormasyon at data na iyan. Now, whether this will be used against the provisions of the law or legitimately, ay puwede hong maging debate iyan, kasi, halimbawa, si Mr. A, ako si A, humingi ho

ako ng data, legitimate iyong aking reason and I am with one of the security agencies, ginamit ko nang maayos, but dahil iyong data na iyan ay nasa akin na, nandiyan rin iyong posibilidad na some people will have access to that data and it can also be used for some other means. Iyon lang po iyong pinupunto ko rito na kung mayroon mga safeguard ay kailangang mas patindihin iyong pag-plug natin doon sa mga problemang iyan, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, tama po si Representative Zarate kung kaya naman continuous po ang upgrading natin ng data privacy measures. Continuously po nire-review ito at continuously po mino-monitor din. Kung kaya naman po dahil may posibilidad nga po iyan, pinaghihigpitan po nating pilit, lalong-lalo na po ang may access dito, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po.

I am down to my last two concerns, iyong technical complexity and logistical issues related to the implementation. Maliban ho doon sa budget, una kasi sa tingin talaga namin kung P2 billion iyong budget na iyan, marami hong ahensya natin ngayon ang tinapyasan iyong budget—pabahay, ospital, edukasyon—sa tingin namin ang pangunahing problema ngayon ay iyon. Ang mga magsasaka natin sa palay, for example, kailangan nila ng augmentation para bilhin iyong kanilang pondo. So, hindi ho, sa tingin namin talaga, pangunahing pangangailangan ngayon iyong nation ID, but be that as it may, iyong P2 billion na iyan ay P2 billion na puwede sanang mapakinabangan ng mamamayan. But, doon ho sa usapin pa ng paano po mapasisiguro natin na this will be, at least on the technical side, fully implemented according to its objectives, alam ho naman natin sa napakaraming bansa at kahit dito sa Pilipinas napepeke nga ho iyong mga ID at iyong ating mga credit card, minsan naha-hack o naa-access ng ibang tao, how much more with this PhilSys now or national ID, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Unang-una po, kailangan natin maging vigilant din po ang mga ordinaryong mamamayan at ng mga Kinatawan katulad ni Kinatawang Zarate at naririto po ang ating DICT upang siguraduhin ang full implementation nito dahil bagamat ang PSA ang lead agency, nandirito po tayo para maging watchdog ng data. Iyan po ang tungkulin ng ating ahensya sa kabuuan ng pamahalaan natin.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

Finally, my last concern, I understand na PSA talaga ang pangunahing agency dito, but since you are the watchdog, tinitingnan ninyo rin po ba iyong kung sino ang pinal na hahawak or mag-i-implement nitong programang ito? Dahil po diyan sa PSA, nitong

nakaraan, ang atin hong civil registry system, na data rin ho, involving our civil documents, ito po ay ibinigay nila, mayroon ho silang service provider na ang pangalan po ng kumpanyang ito ay Unisys, ang Unisys ho ay isang local subsidiary ng foreign or multinational information company based in the US.

So, nitong mga nakaraan, nag-raise ho ng red flag ang ating COA dahil ho sa ilang mga maling implementasyon ng ating civil registry projects. So, dito po ba sa ating PhilSys or national ID, tiningnan ninyo po ba iyong posibilidad na hindi talaga PSA ang mag-i-implement nito, baka ibibigay na naman nila ito sa isang service provider na magbubukas ng puwang na iyong data ng ating mamamayan ay hawak-hawak pala ng isang pribadong kumpanya at hindi lang simpleng pribadong kumpanya kundi ho kumpanya na dayuhan. Katulad ho ng Unisys, isa ho sa mga kliyente ng Unisys ay ang Pentagon. Can you imagine that they have an access doon sa ating civil registry records, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, there will be—bago po ang full implementation niyan, pag-rollout, mayroon po tayong systems audit and then continuous po on a regular basis ang audit nito, at 14 po na miyembrong agency, lead agency po ang PSA ng PhilSys, na mangangalaga po dito sa data na ito at ang pag-implement ng programa, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you po. So, isa ito sa mga punto na dapat nating bantayan. As it is now, dahil magro-rollout na tayo, puwede po bang maipahayag ng ating Sponsor, sino po ang may hawak ng system ngayon? Is it subcontracted also with the other agencies or talagang ang PSA lang ang may hawak nito kaya binabantayan ito ng DICT?

REP. CAMPOS. Sa kasalukuyan po, Mr. Speaker, wala pa pong may hawak nitong programang ito at ng budget. Ito po ay dadaan po sa bidding na makasisiguro po tayo, Mr. Speaker, na dadaan po sa masusing review.

REP. ZARATE. Okay, salamat po sa inyong mga sagot at sana po, sa pag-review natin nito ay iyong mga concern na ni-raise natin ay mabigyan ho ng katugunan.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Sponsor. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CAMPOS. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker, G. Zarate.

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

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we

recognize Hon. Sergio C. Dagooc of the APEC Party-List for his interpellation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Sergio Dagooc is recognized.

REP. DAGOOC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor.

Simple lang po iyong tanong ko. We are from the electric cooperatives. In the process of implementing your projects, are you utilizing our distribution lines?

REP. CAMPOS. Yes, Sir, Mr. Speaker, gagamitin po ng DICT iyan.

REP. DAGOOC. If that is the case, can you inform this Representation on the basic terms of reference, paano ninyo gagamitin? How are you going to utilize, just for the record, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. CAMPOS. For the record po, Mr. Speaker, para sa national backbone po, iyong NGCP po ang gagamitin, para po sa middle mile at last mile parts, bahagi po ng pag-rollout ng broadband network, gagamitin po ang mga linya ng electric cooperatives at saka ng mga cable operators na maliliit, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAGOOC. So, one of these days, you will be roaming around the country to coordinate with or through the National Electrification Administration?

REP. CAMPOS. That is correct, Mr. Speaker. It is actually ongoing now.

REP. DAGOOC. That is all, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. Thank you po.

REP. CAMPOS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Second District of Cagayan de Oro, Cong. Rufus B. Rodriguez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Pimentel). Hon. Rufus Rodriguez is recognized.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. Good afternoon to Sec. Gringo Honasan and to the family of the Department of Information and Communications Technology.

May I ask our distinguished Sponsor if he would yield to some interventions from this Representation?

REP. CAMPOS. It would be an honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. First, may we know the share percentage of China Telecom in the Dito Telecommunity?

REP. CAMPOS. It is 40 percent, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Clearly, the 40 percent follows our constitutional provision that public utilities, like communications, will have a maximum of 40 percent for foreign investors and 60 percent for Philippine investors. Is that correct?

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

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, there is now an agreement between the Dito Telecommunity and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, through General Madrigal, of installing in our military camps communications equipment which have a 40-percent Chinese interest. Is that correct?

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, although the NTC has jurisdiction over the tower system, it is subject to the security protocol of the military, kahit mayroon naman pong Smart at Globe doon din sa mga nasabing lugar, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. I would like to know from the NTC, which is regulating the telecommunication companies in the Philippines including Dito Telecommunity, the former Mislattel, has there been a policy or an approval by the NTC that telecommunications equipment where China has an interest and from whom we have a conflict in relation to the West Philippine Sea—where we have won in all points in the arbitral ruling last July 2016—are they already saying that they are approving the installation of communications equipment in our military camps and reservations?

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, this approval would have to be with the clearance of the military.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. No. My question is, does the NTC have the power—we are talking here about jurisdiction. Installation of telecommunications equipment is lodged with the NTC and not the DND or the Armed Forces of the Philippines. May we know whether they are going to determine that, to approve or disapprove it? May we know?

REP. CAMPOS. It is not the NTC, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. It is the Cybersecurity Bureau of the DICT which has jurisdiction over review.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Okay, so we go to that. If the NTC is washing its hands, I do not know why they are not—they are the National Telecommunications Commission, can you explain why it will not be the NTC but that Bureau? What is that Bureau again?

REP. CAMPOS. It is the Cybersecurity Bureau, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Yes, that is the Cybersecurity Bureau, but all telecommunication companies get their approval from the NTC. Why is that with the Cybersecurity Bureau?

REP. CAMPOS. The NTC is in charge, Mr. Speaker, of the infrastructure aspect, but the review and approval of cybersecurity measures are lodged with the DICT under the Cybersecurity Bureau, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. I would believe that the Cybersecurity Bureau would be recommendatory because there should only be one. May we know, under the law, the power of the Bureau *vis-à-vis* the NTC, because the NTC should have all—it should be in one agency. It will be recommendatory for the Bureau but infrastructure is with the NTC. Is that correct? Because we are talking here of infrastructure of a Chinese investments company on communications in our military camps. The Chinese will be going there because they are part-owners. The Chinese will be there in our camps and they will be able to deliver to their home base what is happening in the Philippine military camps. That is dangerous and against national security. May we know.

Let us read the function now of the NTC and the function of the Bureau. Kindly read the law because this is on record. What is the law regarding the Bureau and its powers *vis-à-vis* the NTC? The NTC will not be in charge of giving the authority to install in military camps, but the Bureau of Cyber Crime will be.

May we know who has the authority to approve the construction of telecommunications equipment in our military camps where there is Chinese interest.

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, first of all, for the sake of clarification, the cyber security management systems fall under the purview of the Cybersecurity Bureau. This includes the protection of the critical infostructure, the establishment of cybersecurity assessment and compliance, national cyber drills and exercises, and securing of continuous operations to prevent malicious cyber attacks. These also include

the protection of government networks, public and military, Mr. Speaker. It also includes the establishment of the National Computer Emergency Response Program, together with its structure which needs to develop cybersecurity professionals to be able to secure Philippine cyberspace. This is prospective, but this is part of the program and the scope of responsibility of the Cybersecurity Bureau.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Now, where does it state there that it is the approving authority on the installation of telecommunications equipment in military camps?

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. CAMPOS. May I ask for a suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

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

*It was 2:08 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 2:10 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Rodante D. Marcoleta presiding.*

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

*It was 2:11 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 2:12 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Cong. Rufus Rodriguez to continue his interpellation.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you very much, Majority Leader, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much, distinguished colleague.

Mr. Speaker, the point is that the DICT, whether it is the Cybersecurity Bureau or the NTC, will be the one that will approve the installation of communications equipment in military camps. Is that correct?

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

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Therefore, even if there is an agreement between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Dito Telecommunity, it cannot just be simply through that agreement to establish these communications equipment and facilities in our military camps. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Yes, Mr. Speaker. That is correct.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. In fact, the DND has had a standing rule ever since, that no foreigner will be allowed into our camps. Is that correct? No foreigner, even in golf clubs of the military—the DND is not allowing foreigners to be in our camps. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Yes. That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Therefore, the more that a telecommunications company, which is 40 percent owned by the Chinese government, should never be allowed in our military camps. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague?

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

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Clearly, the agreement between General Madrigal and the Dito Telecommunity to build telecommunications equipment in military camps is invalid and in violation of the national security provisions of the Constitution, including the DND policies and directives. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Yes, that is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the points are very well-taken. In other words, the DND has no business violating its own rules and prevailing over the jurisdiction of the DICT led by our hero who is Sen. Gringo Honasan. I consider him a hero. His father is also a hero, a World War II veteran and was the one who established the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate in Cagayan de Oro City. I had a chance, as a young senior Board Member at the age of 30, to work with him because the PHIVIDEC is in the province of Misamis Oriental. This Representation was the youngest senior Board Member and we coordinated the plans. That is why, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, it is now clear that the DND itself does not allow the entry of foreigners in our camps, and therefore, when the time comes, Secretary Honasan and the DICT will put a stop and will not grant the installation of communications equipment in the military camps and reservations,

because there is a 40-percent Chinese interest in Dito Telecommunity, formerly Mislattel, and they have to look for other venues but not the military camps. Is that correct, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. CAMPOS. That is correct, Mr. Speaker, and the Honorable Rodriguez can rest assured that there will not be a breach of national security as long as we have the DICT and the NTC watching over this.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you for the concern of the DICT and Secretary Honasan for our national interest.

My next point, Mr. Speaker, everybody is waiting for the third telco to be able to already open for business. Each one of us has a chance to get our third telco operator. When do we expect this Dito Telecommunity to already accept applications for numbers, in other words, for us to already avail of its services? When is that because we have been waiting? We were told that with three telcos, the cost of communications in the Philippines will go down. There will be three competing establishments, not only Globe and Smart, but now with the Dito Telecommunity. With the three telcos, there will be more availability even in remote places. When is this going to happen, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, in the first quarter of 2020.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. In the first quarter, meaning, from January to March 31, 2020.

REP. CAMPOS. Yes, that is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. That is good news that they will already be available. The next question is the common tower policy. It has been debated so much. We have those who believe that there should be one common tower for all of the three telcos and there are those who are saying, “No, it is open to everyone.” What is the policy on common towers with the end in view of being able to construct towers in the least served communities of our country? What is now the policy of the DICT on common towers to make them available especially to my far-flung barangays of Balubal and Indahag in Cagayan de Oro? When will we have that?

REP. CAMPOS. By the end of the month, Mr. Speaker, we expect the draft of the common tower agreement, and by the end of the year, we are expecting that 400 towers will be erected already.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. What is the policy direction? I am going to ask for policy because we have not yet

finished that particular circular. What is the policy? Is it the policy of having a common tower in each place for the three telcos, including the ones coming in March? Are they allowed individually as a company to put their own towers with a commitment as to how many towers every year? May we know the policy direction of the DICT.

REP. CAMPOS. Your previous question was, correct, one tower for all the players.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Okay.

REP. CAMPOS. That is why it is a common tower policy, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Very good. So, therefore, this policy, when will this start? Now, because they are now already constructing or when the third telco comes, at the latest, March 30, 2020? When will this one common tower be implemented?

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, once the common tower policy is implemented, all towers erected can be availed of by all carriers.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. I think we should use the word “constructed” instead of “erected” because ...

REP. CAMPOS. Constructed.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. ... we have other connotation.

So, therefore, the construction of these towers will be, once you have the policy written, there will be a construction. Then, who will bear the expenses of these three common towers? Will they be divided into three?

REP. CAMPOS. Mr. Speaker, the common tower provider will bear the cost of the common tower construction. There are currently 27 accredited common tower providers. If the information that we have is correct, the first common tower will be constructed within the premises of Congress.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. That is very good.

REP. CAMPOS. So, we will have better signal.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. So, therefore, there are now 27 providers. These are companies devoted exclusively to build towers, and these 27 have been accredited to construct these towers.

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

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Okay, and when they construct it, the expenses will be divided among the three telcos, once the third telco is in. Is that correct?

REP. CAMPOS. That is correct, Mr. Speaker. In a way, the business model is that they will lease out the common tower facilities to all the carriers.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. So, with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to end this very short intervention and, therefore, first of all, I give my full support to the budget of the DICT, especially as it is led by our Secretary, former Senator Gregorio “Gringo” Honasan, and therefore, I am going to end this with a manifestation that I support the budget of the DICT including all its attached agencies with the proper amendment to augment and increase their budget.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. *(Applause)*

REP. CAMPOS. The manifestation of Honorable Rodriguez is much appreciated, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Sixth District of Manila, our Minority Leader, Cong. Bienvenido M. Abante Jr.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Marcoleta). The honorable Minority Leader is recognized.

REP. ABANTE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Distinguished Sponsor, I have been standing here for a long, long time waiting for the Gentleman from Cagayan de Oro to finish his lengthy questions. *(Laughter)*

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor of the budget of the Department of Information and Communications Technology, my esteemed colleagues in the House, magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat. I would just like to make a manifestation here.

You know, we are now living in a world of artificial intelligence, that even the DOST is embarking on a bold AI program. I hope they would succeed. Looking at that, Mr. Speaker, that artificial intelligence is now being used in Europe and in the States, in the medical field, also in science, in military intelligence, and now, it can even predict earthquakes, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. I hope it can also prevent earthquakes, but of course, it cannot.

This Representation does not wish to ask questions regarding the proposed budget of the Department; instead, I would like to manifest that we in the Minority

believe that the budget of the Department is woefully inadequate given the pressing need to improve the ICT infrastructure of the country. We have been very far behind. Because of this, we propose that the budget for the Department's operations be increased from the proposed P3.76 billion to P36.93 billion. I even fully support the proposal of Cong. Bayani Fernando to improve the financial capability of the Department for the benefit of the Filipino people so that the questions asked by Congressman Rufus will be fully answered, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

The increase in the components of the DICT operations is as follows:

1. Digital Connectivity and Access, from P2.26 billion to P23.05 billion;
2. Digital Government, from P827.7 million to P7.21 billion;
3. Digital Literacy, from P179.18 million to P4.93 billion; and
4. Cybersecurity, from P120.73 million to P504.64 million.

Mr. Speaker, I beg your indulgence as we try to make our case for such an increase in as concise a manner as possible.

Distinguished colleagues, I am not a young man anymore, although I still look very young, but as a dual citizen, or a Filipino senior citizen, I can appreciate how critical it is for our country to be fully prepared to embrace the digital age. To fail to do so, Mr. Speaker, would be an injustice not just to our countrymen today, but to future generations of Filipinos because we must lay the foundations for building a digital Philippines today or we risk being left behind by other developing nations.

The increase in the budget is necessary and beneficial, Mr. Speaker, because: one, improving the country's Internet speed is critical to our growth; two, transitioning to an e-government is the best way to ensure the proper delivery of basic services; and three, we must lay the groundwork and infrastructure for the adoption of new technologies like financial technology and application development.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, increasing access to the Internet and boosting Internet speeds are critical to our growth, as studies have shown that a 10-percent increase in broadband penetration can lead to a 1.38 percent increase in our Gross Domestic Product. With our GDP in 2018 at P17.26 trillion, a 10-percent increase in broadband penetration could translate to a P238-billion increase in our GDP. Given this, Mr. Speaker, the close to P30 billion more that we propose be added to the DICT budget is more than justified.

Huwag nating hayaan na mas mabilis pa ang Internet sa Zimbabwe o sa Sri Lanka at mabilis pa ang mobile Internet ng Syria, because we can do better, Mr. Speaker. We have to do better.

Improving our ICT infrastructure will benefit our e-government initiatives, which could very well be the key to improving the delivery of government services and positively impacting our efforts to improve the ease of doing business in the Philippines. Wala ho tayong talo dito, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

Given the speed in which technology is shaping the way we live, with financial technology now allowing our cellular phones to replace our wallets and do the most tedious of chores, like going to the bank, we must act now to put the digital infrastructure in place so that our children and grandchildren can be ready for the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century digital workplace or risk losing out to our neighbors, all of whom have already invested in ICT infrastructure and now are already reaping its benefits.

Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, let us put our money where our future is. Let us give the DICT the funds it needs to properly fulfill its mandate, and let us not wait another month, another year, another generation to do so.

With this, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, with no more among the Minority who would like to ask any questions, therefore, I move that we terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Department of Information and Communications Technology, including its attached agencies.

For the Minority, I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, we join the Minority in the motion and move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Department of Information and Communications Technology.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Marcoleta). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the DICT is approved. (*Applause*)

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. SUAREZ (D.). Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session for a few minutes.

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

*It was 2:33 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 2:35 p.m., the session was resumed.*



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

#### CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Congress of the Philippines.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, to sponsor the proposed budget of the Congress of the Philippines, I move that we recognize Rep. Isidro T. Ungab, the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, to answer questions, if any.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Marcoleta). The Honorable Ungab is recognized.

REP. UNGAB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to sponsor the proposed budget of the Congress of the Philippines for Fiscal Year 2020 in the amount of P22,881,045,000 broken down as follows: Senate of the Philippines, P7.4 billion; Senate Electoral Tribunal, P0.292 billion; Commission on Appointments, P0.817 billion; House of Representatives, P14.0 billion; and the House Electoral Tribunal, P0.216 billion. Again, for a total of P22.881 billion.

Mr. Speaker, this Representation is now ready to answer questions.

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

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, next to interpellate the Sponsor, may we call on Rep. Abraham Tolentino from the Eighth District of Cavite.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Marcoleta). Hon. Abraham “Bambol” N. Tolentino is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. TOLENTINO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, my dear colleagues, just a manifestation about the budget of the House.

For the record, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, we did not prepare the budget of the House for 2020. Remember, starting February 2019, we are all busy campaigning in our different districts. Some are also busy campaigning with national candidates. After election, Mr. Speaker,

we were all busy again, campaigning and waiting who will be the Speaker of the House. Two weeks after the SONA, the budget, the NEP was submitted to the House.

Nakapagtataka lang po, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, bakit po DBM ang nasusunod sa budget ng House.

After the SONA, we did not expect that there will be additional Deputy Speakers. We did not expect that there will be additional Vice Chair of the Committees on Appropriations, and Ways and Means. We did not expect either that there will be newly created Committees.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, we are not talking of the budget only of the Members of the House. We are talking here of all the employees, 4,000 plus, 4,322 to be exact, including the contractuels, consultants, permanent and other employees. With this, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, there are a lot of increases in our expenses for 2020, including equipment, new offices for additional Deputy Speakers—a lot of expenses really.

Huwag po nating kalimutan, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, na tayo po sa House ang nagde-defend, nag-i-sponsor at ipinagtatanggol po natin ang budget ng different departments and agencies ng pamahalaan. Huwag naman po nating kalimutang ipagtanggol din ang budget ng House. Ito po ay para sa buong House. Maliit lang po ang hinihingi naming karagdagan for 2020. Hindi naman po gaanong kalakihan, hindi naman po gaanong kaliitan.

Mr. Speaker, we only just need additional for 2020 dahil hindi nga po tayo—citing all the reasons—hindi po tayo ang nag-prepare ng budget for 2020. Ibinigay na po sa atin ito, printed from the NEP. Hindi naman po na-anticipate all those increases sa different employees and officials.

We are only asking for additional. Kung iyong iba po naipagtatanggol natin na nahingi po tayo ng additional amount. We are only asking for additional amount for the Congress budget at around P1.5 billion—P1,598,765,432 only, Mr. Speaker. In short, rounding up to P1.6 billion. Just to be sure that for 2020, all will be given to all employees—permanent, contractuels, consultants—increases and other equipment and offices needed by the House. Just a manifestation for the record, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

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

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize Rep. Bienvenido Abante Jr. from the Sixth District of Manila.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Marcoleta). Honorable Abante is recognized.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker, there being no more questions to be asked by the Minority, I move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Congress of the Philippines.

I so move. *(Applause)*

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

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, we join the Minority in the motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Congress of the Philippines.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

REP. BARONDA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Department of Transportation.

I so move.

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

REP. BARONDA. Mr. Speaker, to sponsor the proposed budget of the Department of Transportation, I move that we recognize Rep. Micaela S. Violago of the Second District of Nueva Ecija.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Marcoleta). Rep. Micaela Violago is recognized.

REP. VIOLAGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BARONDA. Before we proceed, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the presence of the man with a vision for what is best for the Filipinos, my favorite secretary, Secretary Arthur Tugade; Undersecretaries: Atty. Garry De Guzman, Atty. Timothy John Batan, Mr. Mark Richmond M. De Leon, Mr. Ruben Reinoso, DDG Manuel Antonio Tamayo, Atty. Reinier Paul Yebra and Ms. Anelli Lontoc; and the rest from the DOTr family, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Marcoleta). To the officers of the Department of Transportation including its attached agencies, welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BARONDA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Micaela Violago. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Rep. Gabriel Bordado, Third District of Camarines Sur, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Marcoleta). Rep. Gabriel Bordado is recognized.

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mme. Sponsor. Well, according to the CPBRD Budget Notes, the Department of Transportation has one of the biggest budgetary allocations for 2020. Is this correct, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

REP. BORDADO. In fact, according to the Budget Notes, the Department of Transportation's P147 billion total obligations will account for 3.6 percent of the proposed budget for 2020. Is this correct, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. So, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, from P39.3 billion in 2019, the budgetary allocation for the DOTr's major programs will increase more than threefold. Do you agree, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. This will increase to P118.1 billion in 2020. Is that correct, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. And the biggest allocation will go to the Rail Transportation Program which will increase by 311 percent. Is that correct, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Three hundred eleven percent meaning, from P26.1 billion to P107.6 billion. Am I correct, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, while it is understandable that there should be a spike in the budget of the railway system, in the budget of the transport system, a 111.9 percent increase in the Department's budget would still give you a pause. Do you agree, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Now, can the Department justify this increase in the budgetary allocation?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, the rail sector is building too many rails and we have here ongoing projects.

REP. BORDADO. How is that again, Mme. Sponsor? How is that again?

REP. VIOLAGO. We are building so many lines from LRT 1 with Cavite Extension, LRT 2 with East and West Extension ...

REP. BORDADO. Okay.

REP. VIOLAGO. ... and MRT 3, PNR upgrade, MRT 7, and MM Subway, Subic-Clark Rail, PNR Clark-Calamba po, Mr. Speaker, also building for Mindanao Rail 1 and PNR Bicol, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. So, in other words, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, the increase in the budget has been fueled by this construction of railway lines?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Could you give us an update on the railway system covering Manila and the Bicol Region, Mme. Sponsor?

Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, you were telling us a while ago about the LRT systems here in Manila, the MRT systems, okay. Now, I am asking you, can you update us on what is happening in the Manila to Bicol railway system?

REP. VIOLAGO. The Project Management Consultancy or PMC contract for the project was signed last November 17, 2018. Since then, the PMC has done advanced works including the preparations, designs and bidding documents for the design and build contract. The loan agreement for the PMC was signed on August 29, 2019, procurement for design and build contract will begin on November 2019 and will be completed by the year 2020.

REP. BORDADO. Okay, thank you, Mme. Sponsor.

What is the timeline of this particular project? It started when?

REP. VIOLAGO. Sa 2020 po ang construction and first—second quarter po—tapos ang partial operability po will be in the 2022.

REP. BORDADO. Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, kindly give us the definitive timeline. It started when and when do we expect it to be completed?

REP. VIOLAGO. Ang actual construction po is not later than June 2020.

REP. BORDADO. Are you telling us that the project will be completed by June 2020?

REP. VIOLAGO. Start po.

REP. BORDADO. The start of what?

REP. VIOLAGO. Construction.

REP. BORDADO. Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, kindly make some clarificatory statements. The project started when?

REP. VIOLAGO. Iyong preparation po was last November 17, 2018, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Two thousand eighteen?

REP. VIOLAGO. Preparation po, opo.

REP. BORDADO. And so, what is happening right now?

REP. VIOLAGO. Ngayon po, nasa preparation and bidding documents and designs po tayon.

REP. BORDADO. Okay. Then next year?

REP. VIOLAGO. Construction na po ng second quarter ng 2020, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. So, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, the actual construction will start next year?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. And, the project is expected to be completed when?

REP. VIOLAGO. Partial operation po will be in 2022, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Partial what, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Operation po.

REP. BORDADO. Partial operation of the railway system, meaning, this will operate from what area to what area?

REP. VIOLAGO. From Manila to Naga po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. From Manila to ...

REP. VIOLAGO. To Naga.

REP. BORDADO. ... my home city?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. And, that is expected to start in 2022?

REP. VIOLAGO. Sa 2022, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Okay. Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, kindly give us the amount of money the government will be spending on this project?

REP. VIOLAGO. It is P175 billion, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. One hundred seventy-five billion pesos?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. And, what country is supporting us in this project?

REP. VIOLAGO. China, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. China?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. What is the percentage being ...

REP. VIOLAGO. Eighty-one percent from China and 19 percent from the Philippine government po.

REP. BORDADO. How is that again?

REP. VIOLAGO. Eighty-one percent from China and 19 percent from the Philippines.

REP. BORDADO. Okay, but let me just ask this question, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor. What is the interest rate being charged by China?

REP. VIOLAGO. It is 2 percent po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Two percent?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Versus the interest rate which should be charged by another country like Japan?

REP. VIOLAGO. Ang Japan po is 0.1 percent po.

REP. BORDADO. So, ...

REP. VIOLAGO. It is 0.1 percent. ...

REP. BORDADO. Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, why did we choose China?

REP. VIOLAGO. Kasi po it is still cheaper, mas cheaper po manghiram tayo sa China kaysa sa ibang bansa.

REP. BORDADO. So, you are telling us, Mr. Speaker, that despite the higher interest rate, it is still cheaper with China?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, and besides, Japan is not offering the loan for Bicol, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Okay, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, we will proceed to the next question. You have been discussing something about the MRT.

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. We have a note here, also coming from the CPBRD, that from a P1-billion allocation in 2019, the budget for the MRT 3 rehabilitation project will increase to P5.1 billion in 2020.

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, what assurance can the Filipino public get that with the sizeable increase, from a budget of P1 billion to P5.1 billion, the MRT operations would greatly improve this year?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, si Sumitomo po ang pinaka-experienced at may capability po, backed-up ng Japanese government, para po gumawa.

REP. BORDADO. So, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, are you telling us that there will be significant improvements?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Do we have other projects here?

REP. VIOLAGO. We only have one project po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. So, we are focusing only ...

REP. VIOLAGO. A single point.

REP. BORDADO. ... on one project. So, there is this assurance that there will be significant improvements, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Okay. Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, the Department of Transportation, thank you very much. Thank you.

REP. VIOLAGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, next to interpellate is Hon. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento of the First District of Samar.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Marcoleta). Hon. Edgar Sarmiento is recognized.

REP. SARMIENTO. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, my dear colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, magandang hapon po sa ating lahat.

I will not interpellate the honorable Mme. Sponsor, rather, manifestation po ito.

Mr. Speaker, the country is losing P3.5 billion a day—if you count that to a year, that is P1.2 trillion of economic losses, my dear colleagues, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor. It is a sad note that we are lagging behind in terms of mass transportation system. The reason why this Representation would like to appeal is, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, what was requested by the Department of Transportation was P397 billion; however, Mr. Speaker, what was allotted to them is a mere P147 billion. Napakalayo po. If you want to modernize the country, mass public transportation is a must. Kaawa-awa po. Bakit? Sa DOTr na lang, kailangan pa po nila ng additional na P2.9 billion para po tumakbo ang opisina nila. That is the reason why, Mr. Chairman of the Committee on Transportation, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, I seek and I plead to the Members of Congress to help the Department of Transportation come up with the additional fund of P2.9 billion. I plead, again, Mr. Speaker.

Sa Philippine National Railways, for the first time, for us to know, we will finally have a brand-new train we ordered from Indonesia. First time po ito na ang PNR ay magkakaroon ng brand-new train, Mr. Speaker, kaya

itinatanong siguro ng DBM bakit hindi nagagastos ang pera. Noong 2018, naglagay po ng P3.5 billion; 2019, P1.63 billion, pambayad po natin ng train, mauubos po ito pag-deliver ng train. Now, for 2020, Mr. Speaker, the Philippine National Railways is pleading for P8.68 billion, pero wala man lang ibinigay sa kanila; zero po ang budget nila for 2020. Kaawa-awa po. Sana naman mabigyan ng kaunti. Sinasabi po nila, kailangan nila kahit man lang P1.4 billion para tumakbo sila. Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, this is the reality right now that our constituents in Manila are taking the Philippine National Railways. Sana naman ay mabigyan ng additional funding po.

Sa LRT, kawawa rin. Humingi po sila ng P510 billion, ang ibinigay lang po ay P117 billion, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor. Kailangan din po nila ng tulong.

On the PUV Modernization Program, wala pong inilagay, zero po.

Sa maritime naman—please do remember, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, we are an archipelagic country. Kailangan po nating i-modernize ang sistema. Kailangan po natin ang ship classification—zero rin po ang budget. I am appealing, so much more that the Department of Budget and Management is here, on my watch as your servant of the House in the Committee on Transportation, I am working closely with the executives of the Department of Transportation to finally, finally provide the roadmap we need for aviation, the roadmap for maritime industry, the roadmap for rails and, finally, the roadmap to roads so that one day, our constituents not only here in Manila but in the entire country, will be proud that we, finally, have one of the most modern public transportation systems we have ever had.

Humihingi po ako ng tulong sa DBM, kung puwede po ay lumuhod, kung puwede magmakaawa po sa kanila, sana naman bigyan po nila ng additional funding po ang pamilya ng Department of Transportation.

Iyon lang po, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor. Marami pong salamat sa ating lahat. Good afternoon, everyone.

REP. BARONDA. Thank you so much, Rep. Edgar Sarmiento, from the First District of Samar.

Next to interpellate, Mr. Speaker, we move to recognize Rep. Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat of the MAGSASAKA Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Marcoleta). Hon. Argel Cabatbat is recognized.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor.

I would like to confirm, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, is it true that for the rehabilitation and construction of small ports, the Department proposed only around P1 million? Is this true?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The reason why I am bringing this up is because of the importance of these small ports to farmers. Alam ninyo po, kung hindi natin mai-improve iyong mga small ports na iyan, how can the farmers bring their products to the right market, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor?

So, do you think, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, that P1 million is enough for the improvement, rehabilitation and construction of small ports around the country?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, wala po tayong gagawing port ngayong taong 2020 kasi po hindi po tayo binigyan ng sapat na budget para diyan.

REP. CABATBAT. I see, but I suppose the Department recognizes the importance of these small ports?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor.

I suppose there is a need for us to raise funds and appropriate more budget for the Department to carry out these projects. Tama po ba, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor.

Since kailangan po natin ng budget, mayroon po akong napansin na isang malaking project, particularly by the LTO, that perhaps we can revisit and review, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, the road transportation IT infrastructure project. Is it true that this was awarded—this contract amounting to P3.1 billion?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, tama po.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor.

Is it also true that the Notice of Award was dated May 17, 2018, and the Notice to Proceed was dated last May 28, 2018?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, and according to the contract, is it true that it should be delivered within six months. Tama po ba?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CABATBAT. Na-deliver po ba? Na-deliver po ba by around December 2018?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, may mga nauna na pong mga delivery, pero ongoing pa rin po kasi may mga inaayos pa po at pinag-iisa po iyong delivery...

REP. CABATBAT. Is this ...

REP. VIOLAGO. ... at may mga dinagdag po kasi tayong mga hinihingi po na karagdagang gamit, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor.

So, there is partial delivery, parang ganoon po?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CABATBAT. I also learned that there is a COA Audit Report concerning this project, instructing the agency concerned to submit a justification kung bakit may partial delivery lang. Was this already complied with?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, may schedule po kasi ang mga delivery, hindi po sabay-sabay, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CABATBAT. Yes, I understand, but as to the instruction of the Commission on Audit, was this complied with by the agency concerned?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker, nag-comply na po tayo sa COA.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor.

I suppose there is a provision in the contract that imposes penalty in case of delay. Na-enforce po ba ito ng agency? I think there is a provision for liquidated damages in case of delay.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, yes po, Mr. Speaker. Magko-comply po tayo kung magkakaroon po ng delay, pero sa ngayon po kasi, wala pa naman po kaya wala pa ho tayong penalty.

REP. CABATBAT. So, wala pang delay?

REP. VIOLAGO. Wala pa po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CABATBAT. So, ibig sabihin, hindi tama iyong sinabi ng COA because according to the COA Report, the agency is being asked to submit a justification for the delay. So, there is a finding of delay

already for this. This is a huge amount, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, that we can actually channel to other projects of the Department. So, mayroon po ba talagang delay? According to the COA Report and according to your admission that there is partial delivery, mayroon po ba talagang delay?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, kung magkakaroon po ng delay ay pag-aaralan po at ipe-penalize po natin kung sakaling magkakaroon po.

REP. CABATBAT. Ginawa na ho ba ng ahensya ito na mag-imbestiga sa delay na ito?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, sa ngayon po kasi, ang progress po—maayos po iyong ating pagde-deliver, kaya wala pong dahilan para sa ngayon po ay mag-penalize.

REP. CABATBAT. Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, I am confused about the whole status of this project. I do not know if the contractor really incurred a delay or not. According to the COA, it did. According to your admission, it did, but it appears that no investigation yet has been conducted. Tama po ba?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, kami po ay mag-iimbestiga kung sakaling mayroon pong delay.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor.

Also, I noticed from the GAA of 2017, 2018 and 2019, we already appropriated P4.8 billion for this project. Out of this amount that we have appropriated from 2017 to 2019, how much was already obligated?

REP. VIOLAGO. Ito po ba ay for the entire Department, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CABATBAT. No, for the project only.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, 15 percent pa lang po ang naibigay natin for mobilization.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

Forgive me, pardon me, for getting into the details of this contract because I have been going around different departments now looking for spare budget that we can instead allocate to the Department of Agriculture. So, pasensya na at ako ay nakikialam dito, but you know, my ulterior motive is to have spare funds for the farmers.

Nonetheless, there are some projects that the Department has that will definitely help the farmers, like the improvement and construction of small ports.

So, after all of these and from the answers that I have elicited from the good Mme. Sponsor, I would like to recommend that we do not appropriate any fund for this project, but instead look for other projects of the Department. The good Secretary has an array of excellent projects that we can fund, and most of them are already being implemented, although some remain without budget, so that is my recommendation. I also call for an increase in the budget for the construction and improvement of our small ports, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor.

So, I have no further questions, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor.

Thank you. Thank you.

REP. VIOLAGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BARONDA. Thank you so much to Hon. Argel Joseph Cabatbat.

Next to interpellate the Sponsor, may we recognize Hon. Carlos Isagani Zarate of BAYAN MUNA Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Marcoleta). Hon. Carlos Zarate is recognized.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Magandang hapon ho sa ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor at sa pamilya ng DOTr.

Will the Sponsor yield to some questions pertaining to the budget of the DOTr?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Sponsor. In the budget of the DOTr, there is a provision for multi-year obligational authorities that include these entries: Integrated Transport Terminal System Project, Southwest Terminal, dated February 24, 2015, with MYOA BMB-A15000007, period covered 2017 to 2049. Again, there is another entry, Integrated Transport Terminal Project, South Terminal, with MYOA BMB-A-15-00035 dated October 27, 2015, period covered 2015 to 2049.

My question, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, may I inquire what are these Integrated Transport Terminal System Projects as contained in these Multi-Year Obligational Authorities provided in our budget?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, ito po ay para sa annual grantor payment po.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Marcoleta relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano.*

REP. ZARATE. Come again, Mme. Sponsor.

REP. VIOLAGO. Para po sa annual grantor payment po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Annual?

REP. VIOLAGO. Grantor payment.

REP. ZARATE. Okay. So, maitanong ko na lang po, how much will we pay in total for these projects every year? Kasi napansin ko po napakahaba ho ng proyektong ito, imagine, from 2017 to 2049. Ito po ba iyong panahon? Ano po ang ibig sabihin nito, 2017 to 2049?

REP. VIOLAGO. Ang atin pong gastos dito, Mr. Speaker, ay P100 million sa loob po ng isang taon. Ito po ay part ng concessionaire natin.

REP. ZARATE. Lilinawin po natin uli, itong terminal na ito, halimbawa, iyon hong covered ng MYOABMB-A15007, iyong Southwest Terminal, saan po ba ito located?

REP. VIOLAGO. Sa Parañaque po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Sa Parañaque, so ang sinasabi po ninyo, itong period covered ng 2017 to 2049, ito iyong panahon na ang concessionaire ay magbabayad? Iyon po ba iyong sinasabi ninyo, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Hindi po. Ito po iyong bayad ng gobyerno sa pag-o-operate po ng concessionaire.

REP. ZARATE. I see. So, ang gobyerno...

REP. VIOLAGO. Pero napa-waive na po ito ng ating mabait na Secretary Tugade.

REP. ZARATE. So, ibig pong sabihin, ang gobyerno po ang magbabayad? Tama po ba iyon?

REP. VIOLAGO. Doon po sa under sa agreement ng concessionaire, opo, pero ngayon po kasi, napa-waive na po ito ng ating Secretary Tugade.

REP. ZARATE. Ah, napa-waive na po ang...

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker, kaya...

REP. ZARATE. Magkano po dapat sana ang ating babayaran dito bago po ito napa-waive? Kada taon po magkano ang babayaran natin? Halimbawa, kasi ang sinabi rito, 2017 to 2049, noong 2017 po ba may ibinayad tayo? Noong 2018, may ibinayad tayo? Magkano po ito kung mayroon man?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, wala po tayong ibinayad noong 2017 hanggang ngayon po.

REP. ZARATE. Hanggang ngayon.

REP. VIOLAGO. Wala po tayong binayaran.

REP. ZARATE. Okay. So, ito pong sinabi rito na Multi-Year Obligational Authorities, ano lang po ang lalamanin nito? Bakit ho mayroon tayong MYOA from 2017 to 2049 period covered?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, sa ngayon po kasi, pinapa-cancel na po natin ngayon iyan.

REP. ZARATE. Pinapa-cancel pa po?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Hindi pa po siya na-cancel?

REP. VIOLAGO. Kasi po ito po ay kontrata galing sa past administration po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. I see. Okay. At any rate, pabigay na lang po ng isang detalyadong report dito dahil nasa loob po ito ng ating GAA proposed budget.

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. At ang binibigyan po natin ng MYOA, halimbawa, iyong isang proyekto hanggang 2049.

I will now go to my next item for interpellation. The biggest items in the Rail Transport Program, according to your committee briefing, are the following: North-South Commuter Railway Systems of the PNR amounting to P84.7 billion, this will be funded by a JICA loan; second, Metro Manila Subway Project Phase 1 amounting to P9.8 billion, again, this will be funded by another JICA loan; then, we have a subsidy for mass transport amounting to P6.1 billion which, under our MOOE, it includes the operation and maintenance of MRT worth P6.06 billion; and finally, the MRT Rehab Program amounting to P5.1 billion and, again, to be funded by a JICA loan.

Mayroon pong dalawang proyekto rito: iyong NLEX-SLEX, again, sumunod dito, mayroon kayong proyekto, NLEX-SLEX Connector Road and North-South Commuter Railway Project. Dito po sa mga proyektong ito, mayroon hong mga humigit-kumulang 3,500 informal settlers in 38 barangays; 1,043 privately owned lots with a total land area of 8.7 hectares that would be affected by the project; 428 homeowners' associations; and the Sampaloc People's Alliance appealed to suspend and review the project. They



said that massive demolition of houses in at least 38 barangays, mainly houses and small businesses, will be affected. So, ang tanong ko po, does the Department know about the petition of the 428 homeowners' associations and the Sampaloc People's Alliance that will be affected by these twin projects?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Considering that the Department is well aware of the petition and the concerns raised by our affected residents, made-demolish sila, madi-displace sila, 3,500 informal settlers, 1,043 privately owned lots, will the Department still push through with the implementation of these projects despite the petitions raised by these associations, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. So, itutuloy pa rin ninyo? Then, what are the measures that the Department used or implemented in response to the valid concerns of our kababayan, iyong mga informal settlers, iyong mga may-ari po ng mga privately-owned lots and residences in those areas affected by these twin projects?

REP. VIOLAGO. Ito po ay ire-resettle po sila. Bibigyan po sila ng lilipatan, pero habang wala pa ho silang lilipatan, hindi po pupuwedeng i-demolish iyong kanilang lugar, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. I see. So, mayroon ho bang mga konsultasyon na ginanap o ginawa ang inyong Kagawaran patungkol dito at lalo na doon sa mga concerns na ni-raise ho ng mga kababayang maapektuhan ng proyekto?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mayroon po, Mr. Speaker, kasama po natin ang MHU, JICA at ang LGU po.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po.

Muli, humihingi ho kami ng detalyadong report kung kailan naganap ang mga konsultasyong iyan.

REP. VIOLAGO. We will supply po. We will give you the full details po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you.

Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, you mentioned a while ago that these affected residents will be resettled. There will be a resettlement program for them, and before they will be resettled, habang inaayos po iyong kanilang resettlement program, they will not be demolished, wala hong demolisyon na mangyayari sa mga residenteng ito habang nag-uusap pa doon sa kanilang resettlement program.

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Is that correct?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Ang ibig ho bang sabihin ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, ang naiiwang alternatibo na lamang ng Kagawaran para sa proyektong ito ay talagang i-resettle sila, wala na hong iba?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Sponsor.

So, just for the record, can we get the firm commitment of the Department that these residents—3,500 informal settlers in 38 barangays and 1,043 privately-owned lots with a total land area of 8.7 hectares—that will be affected by these projects, will not be demolished pending the finality of any alternative program, resettlement or otherwise for them, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker, ito po ay under sa rules ng JICA at ng ADB po. Ito po ay babantayan dahil kung hindi po natin masusunod ito, maka-cancel po ang ating loan sa ADB, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Sponsor.

By the way, how much budget did we allocate for their resettlement?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, para po sa North mula Clark hanggang Calamba po ay P48 billion po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. P48 billion ...

REP. VIOLAGO. Pero hindi po lahat ay maibibigay sa taong 2020, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. I see, but for next year's budget, magkano po ang ating inilaan dito, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Ang total po, Mr. Speaker, ay P18 billion para po sa right-of-way.

REP. ZARATE. P18 billion.

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Saan po nakalagak ang pondong iyan, sa DOTr ba or sa DPWH?

REP. VIOLAGO. Nasa DOTr po, pero nasa Support to Operations po, Mr. Speaker.

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

Again, we request a detailed report on that to be furnished to this Representation, as well as to the Committee on Appropriations.

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Balikan ko lang ho iyong alternative na resettlement na sinasabi ninyo. Ang plano ninyo po ba ay in-city or off-city resettlement program for these affected residents?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, ang priority po natin ay in-city, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. The priority is in-city. So, dito ho sa affected na areas na ito, may nakita na ho ba tayong potential na lugar na paglilipatan nila?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, tayo po ay nakikipag-coordinate na with the LGUs po.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Sponsor. Again, puwede pong mailagay ito sa ating report na gagawin, iyong plano for resettlement?

I will now move on to another issue, Mme. Sponsor, ...

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. ... Mr. Speaker, but still related to our aim to have an affordable and efficient mass transportation system in the country.

In our budget, there is an MRT-3 Rehab and Maintenance Program. The MRT-3 revenue operations is said to be the lowest in the last four years. The 2018 annual ridership declined by 25.6 percent, while revenue from ticket sales also went down by 25.6 percent. The COA Report says that the regressions are largely attributed to the decreased number of operational train sets with only an average of 13 train sets as against the desired 20 train sets during peak hours. So, these are the causes of long lines or longer waiting time. In 2012, the waiting time was only three minutes; in 2014, it increased to six minutes, and during peak hours, it was already 40 minutes.

So, ang una ko pong katanungan, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, ano po ba ang ipinagkaiba ng operation and maintenance of MRT-3 budget na worth P6.97 billion, sa MRT-3 Rehabilitation Project na pinopondohan din natin sa ating budget sa susunod na taon?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, iyon pong operation and maintenance, ito po iyong pang-araw-araw na gastos at ang rehabilitation naman po ay iyong ayusin ang mga sirang train natin, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. So, iyong P6.9 billion po, ito ay para mapatakbo natin iyong ating mga train araw-araw, para sa kuryente at para sa suweldo. Tama po ba iyon?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. At ang Rehab Project ay iyong inutang natin para ayusin iyong mga riles at iba pang problema ng MRT-3. Tama po ba iyon?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Sponsor. So, on my next point related to that, last December 28, 2018, the Department signed a Rehabilitation and Maintenance Agreement with the Sumitomo Corporation, wherein Sumitomo Corporation as the contractor, this is worth P18.371 billion. Is this correct, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Opo, correct po.

REP. ZARATE. So, this is an P18.3-billion Rehabilitation and Maintenance Agreement. Just for confirmation, this contract includes provisions for a payment of interest of 2 percent per annum if it is made in dollars. Is that correct, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, mali po, 0.1 percent lang po ang interest na sa JICA po.

REP. ZARATE. 0.1 percent?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Okay, at any rate, in that Rehabilitation and Maintenance Agreement, it is stated in page 5 of the Agreement, and I will read the provision which defines "Rail Vehicles":

"Rail Vehicles" means the remaining seventy-two (72) rail vehicles delivered to MRTC under that certain amended and restated Turnkey Contract for the engineering/design, procurement, construction and commissioning of the EDSA Rail Transit System, Line 3, Phase 1, by and between contractor and MRTC, dated as of October 14, 1996, (the "Turnkey Contract"), and that are located at the Site (including the Depot) and the subject of this Agreement.

My question, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, when we say rail vehicles as contained in this Rehabilitation

Contract, does it include the Dalian trains or they are not part of this Rehabilitation and Maintenance Agreement?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, as of December 2018 po, hindi po ito kasama, pero ngayon po, makakasama na po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. I see. So, when this agreement was signed in December of 2018, hindi pa po naisama rito ang Dalian trains. Tama po ba iyon? Pakiulit lang po.

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker, kasi po kailangang pag-aralan ng Sumitomo ang Dalian trains, kaya pinag-aralan po muna nila. Mula May po, pinag-aralan na ito para makita po nila kung paano i-maintain ang Dalian trains, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, but the good Sponsor will confirm that as of December 18, 2018, alam na ng Sumitomo ang presence ng Dalian trains?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Okay, and in fact, iyong Dalian trains na iyan, we spent, was it US\$50 million or more than that? Nagkaroon ho tayo ng isang consulting firm na pinag-aralan kung pupuwede itong patakbuin o hindi. Tama po ba iyon, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, P3.8 billion po ang amount ng buong kontrata ng Dalian trains po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Sponsor.

So, sinasabi po ninyo ngayon na noong December 18 ay hindi pa naman kasama ang Dalian trains, pero ngayong nag-uusap na po tayo, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, ang sinasabi ninyo, kasama na iyong Dalian trains.

My next question, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, was there an amendment to the December 18 contract or a supplementary agreement related to that whereby it was specifically stated that the Dalian trains are now included in the definition of rail vehicles, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes po, Mr. Speaker, dahil tapos na pong pag-aralan ng Sumitomo Corporation ang Dalian trains mula pa ho noong May hanggang ngayon po. Pina-finalize na lang po ang mga documents.

REP. ZARATE. Ano po iyong pina-finalize?

REP. VIOLAGO. Iyong documentations po ng amendments po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. So, it is still being finalized, but as it is now, wala pa ho kayong supplementary or amended contract related to this? Tama po ba iyon, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Sa ngayon po, Mr. Speaker, ay wala pa po, pero ito ngayon ay magde-deploy ng Dalian trains ngayon pong buwan na ito.

Malapit na rin pong matapos ang documentations and we will submit a copy as soon as ma-finalize po ng Sumitomo ang contract.

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

So, ide-deploy na iyong Dalian trains. Ilan nga po ba itong trains na ito na galing sa Dalian?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, 48 po na mga bagon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Forty-eight na mga bagon. Hindi pa po ito tumatakbo as we speak now?

REP. VIOLAGO. Sa ngayon po, Mr. Speaker, hindi pa po.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Sponsor, for that statement.

Now, dahil po sinasabi ninyong pina-finalize na iyong terms of reference or supplemental agreement as to this, mahalaga po iyon dahil nakasaad sa orihinal na kontrata na bawal pong gamitin ang ibang rail o ibang bagon na hindi nakapaloob doon sa October 14, 1996 original agreement, the Turnkey Agreement noon with LRT. Will the good Sponsor affirm that?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, tama po.

REP. ZARATE. Tama po, dahil po kapag ginamit natin iyan nang wala pong bagong kontrata or supplementary contract na kasama ang Dalian trains ay we will violate this very Rehabilitation and Maintenance Agreement worth P18.3 billion contract. Tama iyon, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Just to confirm, sinasabi ninyo po kanina na may documentation na. In principle, was there already a meeting of the minds between Sumitomo Corp., and DOTr that these Dalian trains will be used and will be included in this Rehab Program, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker, pina-finalize na lang po ang kontrata between Sumitomo Corp. and the Department of Transportation, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. And the good Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, will affirm that these Dalian trains will not be used if there will be no contract signed between Sumitomo Corp. and the DOTr in relation to its being included in the original Rehab Program.

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes po, Mr. Speaker, tama po iyan.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po.

So, ano po ang timeline na tinitingnan natin dito sa pagpinal noong agreement between Sumitomo Corp. and DOTr in relation to this, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Posible po, Mr. Speaker, na next week ay mapirmahan na iyong kontrata po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Sa susunod na linggo po, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po. Kung mayroon na pong lalagdaan sa susunod na linggo ay maaari pong mabigyan ang Kinatawang ito at ang Committee on Appropriations ng kopya po noong dagdag na kasunduan in relation to this rehabilitation.

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker, we will provide you every detail that you want from DOTr.

REP. ZARATE. So, muli po, nirerehisto natin iyan dito dahil alam po ng kagalang-galang na Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, na napakakontrobersyal po nitong usapin na ito ng MRT, lalong-lalo na noong usapin nitong Dalian trains. Sabi nga noong mga nakaraan, “Mukhang nadali tayo rito.” So, kailangan po talagang busisiin natin dahil ito pong P18 billion na kontratang ito na Rehab Program ay utang po ito, hindi po ba?

REP. VIOLAGO. Tama po. Tama po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Utang po ito. Ilang taon po nating babayaran itong pagkakautang na ito?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, 40 years po.

REP. ZARATE. Forty years.

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo.

REP. ZARATE. Four, zero po.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mag-uumpisa po tayong magbayad after 12 years, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Until what year po natin pagbabayaran itong P18 billion na utang na ito?

REP. VIOLAGO. Until 2058 po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. So, 2058. Nandiyan pa kaya tayo niyan? Ang ibig pong sabihin, kaya kailangan po talagang busisihin natin ito, because when this administration is no longer in Malacañang, ang magbabayad po ng utang ay ang ating mga kababayan, ang mga anak at mga anak ng anak natin, kaya mahalaga po na ang lahat ng ito ay ating busisihin at dahil po sa mga nakaraan, napakarami pong pondo natin, mga pagkakautang na sa halip na makinabang ang bayan, ang nakikinabang po ay ang iilan, pero ang mamamayan po natin ang naghihirap sa pagbabayad ng mga utang na ito.

Katunayan, sa susunod pong taon, sa ating pinag-uusapan na P4.1 trillion na budget, halos one-fourth po ng budget natin sa susunod na taon ay utang, pagbabayad ng utang at interes sa utang at itinataya na sa susunod po na mga taon dahil mangungutang at mangungutang tayo ay palaki nang palaki po ang magiging bahagi ng utang sa ating taunang budget.

Sana po ay talagang tingnan nang maigi ito ng Kagawaran para po sa kapakinabangan at interes ng ating mamamayan.

Maraming salamat po, Mme. Sponsor.

REP. VIOLAGO. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, sa pagkakataon na makapagpaliwanag at maglinaw sa budget ng DOTr.

Magandang hapon po.

REP. BARONDA. Thank you so much, Hon. Carlos Izagani T. Zarate.

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

REP. BARONDA. Next to interpellate, Mr. Speaker, is Hon. Jesus “Bong” C. Suntay of the Fourth District of Quezon City, Mr. Speaker.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The Hon. Bong Suntay of Quezon City is recognized.

REP. SUNTAY. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, if I may be allowed to propound some questions.

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUNTAY. For Fiscal Year 2020, the allocation of the Department of Transportation will increase by more than double, from P69.3, it will be increased to P147 billion. Of this increase, P107.6 billion will be used for the Rail Transportation Program.

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUNTAY. Mme. Sponsor, earlier, during the interpellation of Congressman Bordado, you were asked why the Dalian trains were secured as the supplier for the MRT 3 and you answered, because they were cheaper. Is that correct?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUNTAY. When their services were secured, it presupposes that the trains could be utilized. Is that correct? However, it seemed that since the time of the delivery up to this time, we have not utilized the Dalian trains.

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, tama po.

REP. SUNTAY. Mme. Sponsor, akala ko ho noong binili natin iyong Dalian trains, it presupposes two things: una, makatitipid tayo; at pangalawa, magagamit natin ang mga ito. Pero hanggang ngayon, itong mga trains na ito ay hindi nagagamit. Ano ho ba ang dahilan kung bakit ang mga ito ay hindi nagagamit hanggang ngayon?

REP. VIOLAGO. Last 2017, may mga naging issue po na nagkaproblema sa mga signals, sa mga weights, at sa compatibility ng mga trains. So, 2018 po, ito naman po ay para makasigurado tayo na nag-hire po tayo ng mga independent auditor para makita kung ano ang naging diperensya ng ating trains. By 2019, ngayon naman po natin gagamitin ang naayos at ngayon po natin magagamit ang Dalian trains.

REP. SUNTAY. When the supply for the trains were bid out way back in 2016, among the bidders were the Czecks suppliers, the original suppliers of the trains. The advantage of that particular supplier was that they were the ones who originally supplied the trains for the MRT 3, which presupposes compatibility.

Dito ho sa inyong sagot, ngayon, sa aking katanungan, sinabi ninyo that there were glitches due to compatibility problems. Then I guess there was a breach of contract that the Philippine government entered into with the suppliers of the Dalian trains considering that the trains that they supplied were not compatible with the requirements that we gave.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, kaya nga po inayos ng supplier iyong mga nakita nating mga naging problema po. Under the TUV Rheinland po, ito po ang nag-audit.

REP. SUNTAY. May I know if the supplier of the train is paying damages to the government?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo. We are going to charge po.

REP. SUNTAY. Ibig ninyong sabihin ay hindi pa nagbabayad, kung ang plano pa lang natin ay maningil?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, actually, hindi pa tayo nagbabayad sa kanila. Wala pa po tayong binabayaran, advance payment pa lang naman po ang ating naibibigay, 15 percent pa lang naman po.

REP. SUNTAY. Then mayroon tayong nabayaran kung mayroon nang advance payment na ibinigay.

REP. VIOLAGO. Ang nagbayad po, Mr. Speaker, ng 15 percent ay ang previous administration po. Tayo po ngayon...

REP. SUNTAY. Wait, wait, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, whether it was the previous government that paid or the current government or administration that paid, it is still the money of the Filipino people. So, it comes from the same pocket. Ang nag-iba lang ay iyong nagdi-disburse.

May I know if there was someone who was held liable for this on the part of the DOTr?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we already filed a case sa Ombudsman po para doon sa mga dating officials, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUNTAY. Gaya ho nino?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, si Secretary Abaya and Secretary Roxas po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUNTAY. Well, kaya ko lang ito naitanong dahil as part of the P107 billion, which was allocated to the rail transport project, P6.1 million shall be used as subsidy. Is that correct for the MRT 3?

REP. VIOLAGO. Correct po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUNTAY. This actually increased from P4.7 billion in 2019. Now, the government subsidy in MRT

3 is needed to cover the deficiency between the equity rental obligation of the government for the MRT 3 and the revenues obtained by the DOTr. Is that correct?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is correct.

REP. SUNTAY. Then, as part of the BLT contract, the build, lease and transfer contract between the government and the MRTC, the government is required to make, monthly payments to the following: first, monthly equity rental payments to the MRTC; second, shoulder the maintenance cost of the whole system; and third, guarantee the loans of the private concessionaire. Is that correct?

REP. VIOLAGO. Correct po, Mr. Speaker

REP. SUNTAY. Now, as part of the ERP, the following should also be considered: guarantee for the loans of the private concessionaire, equity payment, fix and guarantee the economic rate of return of 15 percent, and some other expenses related to the construction, operation and maintenance of the MRT 3 ...

REP. VIOLAGO. Correct po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUNTAY. ... which is also cost on the part of the government. Considering that the cause of the delay is due to the failure of the supplier to give compatible trains to our country, why is the Philippine government made to shoulder the subsidy? Should we not charge the supplier for this?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, ang P6 billion po ay hindi po pambayad sa Dalian trains kundi po, ito po ay pambayad ...

REP. SUNTAY. Hindi po pambayad. As I have mentioned, the P6.1 billion shall be used to cover the deficiency between the equity rental obligation and the DOTr revenues which are supposed to come from the operation of the Dalian trains. Pero dahil hindi nga nag-o-operate nang mabuti iyong ating MRT 3, lumalaki iyong subsidiya na kailangan. In fact, in the COA observation in 2018 it stated: "Annual ridership declined by 25.6 percent while revenues from ticket sales went down to 25.6." So, it just means na kaya lumaki rin iyong subsidiya, from P4.7 million to P6.1 billion, ay dahil bumaba nang husto iyong revenues na nangagaling doon sa MRT 3.

So iyong aking katanungan ho, bakit ho considering that it is the fault of the supplier kung bakit bumaba iyong ridership ng MRT 3, why is the Philippine government now being made to shoulder?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, iyong nagtayo po ng MRT 3 noong 2000, binabayaran po natin ito over 25 years.

REP. SUNTAY. Yes, I know.

REP. VIOLAGO. Fixed payment po ang ating—tama, ang bayaran po doon.

REP. SUNTAY. In fact, if you read the original contract with the company that constructed the MRT 3, the government practically absorbed all the risks related po to the operations of the MRT 3. Pero babalik ho ako, whether ang binabayaran natin is based doon sa kontrata which the Philippine government entered into with the company that constructed the MRT 3, ang sinasabi ko ho, kaya nag-increase iyong subsidy, it is because of the failure of the supplier of the Dalian trains to supply trains which can be operated.

REP. VIOLAGO. That is correct po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUNTAY. So, hindi ho ba dapat eh ...

REP. VIOLAGO. Kasi po, Mr. Speaker, bumaba po talaga ang revenue natin ng MRT 3 dahil nasira po ang MRT 3 in the last five years po.

REP. SUNTAY. Opo, kaya nga ho tayo hindi ba bumili ng bagong trains, at magdadagdag tayo ng trains para masuportahan iyong mga lumang train na mayroon tayo. Kaya bumaba nang husto iyon dahil nga bukod sa kakaunti na iyong mga train ay lagi pang nasisira, dahil kumuha rin ang DOTr ng maintenance operator noong mga lumang train natin, na hindi naman na-maintain nang mabuti iyong mga train kaya lalong kumaunti. So dahil ho lalong kumaunti iyong numero ng trains, eh lumiit iyong kita. Pero, hindi ba, kaya nga bumili tayo ng bagong trains, it presupposes na gusto nating pataasin iyong kita. Papaano ho tataas iyong kita kung iyong mga train na binili natin ay hindi naman natin magamit?

I just want to know, ang katanungan ko po, considering that hindi natin magamit iyong trains due to the fault of the supplier, the supplier of the Dalian trains should be made to answer.

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we will charge the supplier.

REP. SUNTAY. Ibig pong sabihin nito, puwede nating bawasan iyong P6.1 billion na subsidy at saka ninyo na lang singilin sa operator ng Dalian trains, kasi kapag sasabihin ninyo sa akin, opo sisingilin natin, pero hindi naman natin nasisingil.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, siguro po hindi puwedeng mabawasan iyong P6.1 billion dahil magkaiba iyong contractor natin doon at iyong contractor natin dito.

REP. SUNTAY. Okay, Mme. Congresswoman, doon na lang ako as part of the big allocational programs which is related to the Land Transportation Regulation. In fact, P1.9 billion was allocated for this. May I know how the P1.9 billion will be utilized?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, ito po ay pambayad natin para sa IT projects ng LTO.

REP. SUNTAY. Mme. Sponsor, kapag sinabi nating pambayad sa IT projects, what do we mean? Dahil every time magpaparehistro ka, you are charged a computerization fee which presupposes payment sa IT providers natin. In fact, dati-rati, naaalala ko pagka magbabayad ka ng computerization fee sa LTO, handwritten pa rin ang OR/CR na hindi naman dumaan sa computer.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, ito po iyong ating bagong IT provider, kasi natapos na po ang kontrata ng nakaraang provider. So, may bago po tayong IT provider ngayon at doon natin ipambabayad...

REP. SUNTAY. May I know when the contract of a new IT provider was signed?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, last 2018 lang po pumasok ang new IT provider natin. Kaya ongoing pa rin po ang procurement hanggang ngayon.

REP. SUNTAY. Kung pumasok last 2018, bakit hanggang ngayon binabayaran pa rin natin to the tune of P1.9 billion?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, phasing in and phasing out po tayong.

REP. SUNTAY. Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor, dahil po tinitingnan na ako ng aking kaeskuwela, marami pa sana akong katanungan dahil wala pa ako sa LTFRB, pupuntahan ko na lang sila at tatanungin to give way to the other questions. Siguro nandito naman si Secretary Tugade at nakaeskuwela ko rin, so kakausapin ko na lang nang personal, pero mahaba pa po sana ang mga tanong ko.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, we will just provide you the full details ng mga kailangan ninyo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BARONDA. Thank you so much, Hon. Bong Suntay, for being so generous of your time.

The next to interpellate, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, may we recognize the Hon. Lito Atienza.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The Hon. Lito Atienza from BUHAY Party-List is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Maraming salamat po, Majority Leader, and with the kind indulgence of the Lady Sponsor, we would like to ask some questions about problems affecting all of us.

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. With regard to transportation, it is our number one problem today in the country because it affects practically all of us, private enterprise, government and the whole citizenry, specifically, in Metro Manila, Metro Davao, Metro Cebu. In Metro Manila, sabi ng DOST, mayroon na raw silang na-develop na mass transport system which is now available during our hearing with them. Is that a correct statement, that the DOST already offered to the government a system that is locally developed and locally available and will save a lot of money for all of us?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker. May ongoing testing na tayo ng train ng DOST under the PNR.

REP. ATIENZA. Gagamitin po ba ng DOTr ito?

REP. VIOLAGO. Ongoing pa po ang testing.

REP. ATIENZA. Ongoing ang testing.

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mga 2023, tapos na iyong testing, hindi kayá? Ano ang timetable nila? Kailan kaya maaari nating makita ang mga ganyang pagbabago?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, kapag po na-resolve na ng DOST ang mga nakitang issues na kailangang baguhin at gawin, kagaya ng technical issues.

REP. ATIENZA. Mabuti naman at nag-iingat tayo at baka naman masayang ano?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Sang-ayon po ang inyong lingkod doon. Dahil hindi tayo nag-iingat sa pagbili ng Dalian trains kaya malaking aksaya ng salapi iyon. Nagagamit na po ba iyong mga tren na galing sa Tsina?

REP. VIOLAGO. Hindi pa po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Hindi pa rin.

REP. VIOLAGO. Ngayong buwan pa lang po natin gagamitin, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Pero wala tayong idinedemanda ano? Dahil ang tagal-tagal na niyan, noong nakaraang administrasyon pa pero wala po tayong naidemanda, wala pang nakakulong.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, mayroon na po tayong idinemanda. Nasa Ombudsman na, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Dapat ay pinananagot ang mga may hawak ng kapangyarihan kapagka mali ang desisyon, dahil kung hindi, tuluy-tuloy na pagkakamali iyan. Hindi tayo gagaan sa ating kalagayan kapag ganyan ang ating ginagawa. After one administration, everybody happily steps aside and enjoys life while the country shoulders the burden of their bum decisions. One such decision is the Dalian train purchases. Hindi nagamit sapagkat, ano ba, masyadong mabigat ang tren o mahina ang riles? Dalawang bagay lang naman po iyan.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, may issue po kasi iyong signaling compatibility.

REP. ATIENZA. Iyon na nga po, basic ang compatibility. Kung hindi bagay, bakit binili? Ito po ay sa nakaraang administrasyon pa at sa administrasyong kasalukuyan. Ang itinatanong ko lang, mayroon na po bang nanagot sa mga tren na binili pero hindi tugma sa ating mga riles?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mayroon po.

REP. ATIENZA. There is a tinge of naivety, katangahan and an overdose of stupidity kung ako ang tatanungin ninyo. Ikaw ang namamahala pero bumili ka ng tren na hindi puwedeng tumakbo sa ating riles, dapat panagutin ka para matuto ang mga susunod. Iyong mga bagong papasok, mag-iingat dahil alam nilang mananagot sila. Hindi po ba nagkakaisa tayo diyang?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Accountability po.

REP. VIOLAGO. Sang-ayon po ako sa inyong mungkahi, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Ang problema po ng traffic,

lalong-lalo na dito sa Metro Manila, palala nang palala. May araw na gagaan nang konti subalit tuloy-tuloy na naman ang paglala pagkaraan noon.

Ang tatanungin ko po ay iyong pagbuo ng mga solusyon katulad po ng MRT Line 7 na dadaan dito sa Commonwealth. Kailan po ba matatapos itong ginagawang linya ng tren?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, sa taong 2021 po.

REP. ATIENZA. Year 2021. Tatanggapin po natin sapagkat iyan ang sagot. Itatala natin na sa 2021, tumatakbo na po ang tren.

REP. VIOLAGO. Partial operation po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Sana hindi sila magaya na naman sa mga nakaraang administrasyon. Iyong nakaraang Pangulo, ang sabi niya, “Pag hindi tumakbo ang tren na iyan magpapasagasa ako.” Hindi tumakbo ang tren pero hindi naman nagpasagasa, ang taumbayan ang nasagasaan.

Katulad po ng Skyway na binubuo galing sa South papunta ng Norte. Ito iyong nasa Osmeña Highway. Anim na taon na po itong ginagawa pero hanggang ngayon ay ginagawa pa rin, parang walang problema. Para tayong nananaginip na walang kaproble-problema sa Pilipinas as far as traffic is concerned because there is work going on, although everyday that I pass by that area, I do not see many people working. They are doing their work as if time is not an issue, but in reality, we suffer every day because the solutions are very slow incoming. Ano po ba ang timeframe ng ating Department dito sa Skyway sa Osmeña Highway na patungo sa Norte? Mayroon ba tayong timeframe? Mayroon po ba tayong deadline? Mayroon ba silang ibinigay na schedule para sa kontratista niyan at tapusin ang trabaho sa lalong madaling panahon?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, ang Buendia to NLEX po bale sa first quarter ng 2020.

REP. ATIENZA. Sa 2020.

REP. VIOLAGO. Tapos ang ramps po sa susunod na taon naman.

REP. ATIENZA. Palagay ko malabo iyon sapagkat dumadaan ako roon araw-araw at wala naman akong nakikitang pagtatapos by 2020. At the rate work is going on, masuwerte na po around 2022 o 2023. So I would like to ask the Department to stay on their post. Madaliin naman ang mga proyektong ito sapagkat solusyon ito sa ating problem. Rather than talk about emergency powers, let us talk about hastening the



completion of projects. We have the Skyway, we have the MRT Line 7, lahat iyan makapagpapagaan ng traffic flow sa EDSA.

Iyon lamang Skyway, kapag gumana na from the South to the North, you do not have to pass by EDSA anymore. I cannot understand, therefore, why that pace of work is very slow. They can have a three-shifts schedule, they can work overtime at night. Nagagawa po lahat iyan pero kung walang puso ang ating paglilingkod at paghawak ng tungkulin, talagang easy easy lang tayo. Manigas na kayong lahat diyan sa traffic basta kami nagtatrabaho, iyon ang naririnig ko. Kailan po ba matatapos, 2021 ang sabi ninyo?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, may partial po tayo sa 2020.

REP. ATIENZA. Sa 2022?

REP. VIOLAGO. Sa 2020 po.

REP. ATIENZA. Again, I will take that as a statement of truth dahil may mga kontrata naman, may mga kasulatan iyan na siguro nakasulat doon na by 2022, mayroon na tayong Skyway as a major step towards solving the problem of traffic.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, year 2020 po.

REP. ATIENZA. Sa 2020, mas malapit na.

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo.

REP. ATIENZA. So mas malapit na. Puwede po bang makakuha ng kontratang iyan para mayroon naman akong maipakita sa tao?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, we will provide you a copy.

REP. ATIENZA. Still on the problem of traffic and solutions, I do not subscribe to the emergency powers as the only solution. We have had major infrastructure projects and when completed, baka magaan na magaan na ang takbo natin sa Metro Manila. Like for instance, the Cavite Extension, are you aware that there is such a thing as the Cavite Extension of the LRT, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Technically, iyong tren ng LRT 1 ay tutuloy hanggang Cavite. Gagaan po ang buhay ng ating mga kababayang taga-Cavite, mga miyembro ng Kongreso na taga-Cavite tinatawagan ko ng pansin, marinig kayo ng inyong mga kababayan na ito ay ating

pinag-uusapan sa Kongreso, ating pinagmamasdan at ating sinusuri upang bumilis-bilis ang trabaho.

Sino po ba ang nakakuha ng kontrata sa Cavite Extension, would you know, Mme. Sponsor? You can ask the Gentleman behind you. Sino ang nakakuha ng kontrata ng Cavite Extension noong panahon ni Pangulong Aquino?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, ang Light Rail Manila Corporation po.

REP. ATIENZA. Again. I beg your pardon.

REP. VIOLAGO. The Light Rail Manila Corporation, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. The Light Rail Manila Corporation.

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Sino po ang major stockholders diyan.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, 55 percent po ay pag-aari ng Metro Pacific; 35 percent sa Ayala; at 10 percent sa GSIS.

REP. ATIENZA. Metro Pacific.

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Ayala Corporation.

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. At ang pangatlo?

REP. VIOLAGO. Ang GSIS po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Ang GSIS.

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Masuwerte ang mga ito. Alam po ba ninyo na nakalagay sa kontrata noong nagpirmahan sila na ang koleksyon ng LRT Line 1 ay sa kanila na. Napupunta na sa kanila ang salapi na dapat pumapasok sa kaban ng ating bansa. Mas malaki sana ang pondo ngayon na pinag-uusapan natin.

Totoo po bang ang koleksyon ng LRT 1, according to this concession agreement or PPP project ay pumupunta na sa kontratista. Tama po ba ito o pinabubulaanan ninyo?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, tama po.

REP. ATIENZA. Tama po. Ano ang estimate ninyo araw-araw? Since LRT Line 1 is the only money-making line of the LRT Corporation, malaki po ang nakukuha nila diyan. Magkano po kaya araw-araw?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, P9 million a day po.

REP. ATIENZA. Is that P9 million, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. That is P270 million a month and around P3.2 billion a year. For four years now they have been collecting but not building. Mayroon na po bang naitayong bahagi ang Cavite Extension?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, ngayon pa lamang po magkakaroon.

REP. ATIENZA. Ngayon pa lang?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Eh iyong koleksyon, papaano po iyon?

REP. VIOLAGO. Ang koleksyon po nila, Mr. Speaker, ay ginagamit po nila sa...

REP. ATIENZA. Iniipon nila siguro.

REP. VIOLAGO. Ginagamit po nila ...

REP. ATIENZA. Iyon ang gagamitin nila sa proyekto? Eh di ang tawag diyan ay ...

REP. VIOLAGO. Ah, ito po ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... ginigisa tayo sa sarili nating mantika. Aba, ay napakagandang kontrata. Sana ang kumuha ay kayo na. Sana ang kumuha ay iyong mga mahihirap dahil kumikita, walang ginagastos. Ano po ba ang posisyon ng ating DOTr ngayon diyan? Iyan ba ay mamadaliin natin? Iyan ba ay kakalimutan na natin? Iyon bang pera ay mananatili sa kanila o iyong pera ay isosoli sa bayan o itigil kaya muna natin ang koleksyon?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, ang koleksyon po na nakukuha nila ay gagamitin po nila, pampatayo po ng extension.

REP. ATIENZA. *(Laughter)* Iyon nga po ang kontrata eh. Itatayo nila iyong extension, sila ang kontratista pero napakaganda ng kanilang probisyon sa

kontrata. Iyong koleksyon sa LRT-1, kanila na, when they signed the contract.

REP. VIOLAGO. Hindi po ganoon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Hindi ganoon?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mayroon din po silang binayaran na P9 billion na as concessionaire fee po sa atin.

REP. ATIENZA. O, hindi po ganoon? Saan napupunta iyong pera?

REP. VIOLAGO. Ito po ay ...

REP. ATIENZA. Wala sa gobyerno.

REP. VIOLAGO. ... nasa Treasury po ang P9 billion.

REP. ATIENZA. Nasa Treasury?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo.

REP. ATIENZA. Ano ang ginagawa sa Treasury? Bakit hindi natin gastusin?

REP. VIOLAGO. Ito po ay nauuwi sa General Funds, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. *(Laughter)* Mr. Speaker, we have to smile off this kind of situation because otherwise, baka ako ay nagdadalang-tao, makukunan ako, dahil hindi po tama ang sitwasyon. Naghihirap tayo sa traffic, ang mga taga-Cavite, naku, gumagastos nang pagkalakili. Araw-araw, mayroon sanang train na tumatakbo na. Nangako ang Pangulo noon, iyan ay bubuuin ko. Kapag hindi ko nabuo iyan, magpapasagasa ako. Hanggang ngayon, hinihintay kong magpasagasa iyong dating Pangulo, hindi pa nagpapasagasa. Hinihintay kong ipasok ito sa kulungan. Doon siya pumasok sa Muntinlupa para matuto siya. At siguro mag-a-apply siya sa GCTA na papalakpakan din nila.

Ano po ba ang timetable ng ating kasalukuyang administrasyon?

REP. VIOLAGO. Sa 2021 po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Sa 2021?

REP. VIOLAGO. Partial operation po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. In two years' time, magkakaroon tayo ng Cavite line. Ganoon po ba iyon?

REP. VIOLAGO. Sa ngayon po, Mr. Speaker, nagtatayo na po tayo ng mga poste na magagamit po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. May mga poste na?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker. Nag-uumpisa na po—ongoing na po ang project.

REP. ATIENZA. (*Laughter*) In 2021. Ako ay natatawa sapagkat ilang taon na tayong binobola eh, pero hanggang ngayon, nagpapabola pa rin tayo. Napakatiyaga talaga ng Pilipino.

Ang hinihingi natin sa ating Kagawaran ngayon—hindi naman sila ang nagsimula nitong katarantaduhang ito—tapusin nila.

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Patakbuhan nila ang Cavite line. Malaking tulong iyan sa problema ng mga mahihirap na dalawa at tatlong sakay bago makarating sa kanilang pinagtatrabahuan. Kapag tinapos nila iyong Osmeña Highway flyover, malaking solusyon sa EDSA iyan. Iyan ay giginhawa ang ating pagmamaneho pagpunta natin sa mga lugar-lugar sa Metro Manila. Kapag binuo nila iyong Line-7, malaking tulong po iyan. Iyong mga taga-Bulacan, mga taga-Norte, at lahat tayo ay makikinabang. Pero iyong ating common station doon sa lugar na iyon—are you aware of that, Mme. Sponsor, that there will be a meeting point of Line-7, Metro MRT-3, and LRT-3, na noong panahong nakaraan, panahon pa ni Pangulong Arroyo ay napagkaisahan na? Iyon ay itatayo doon sa SM side. Miyembro po ako ng Gabinete doon, isa ako sa mga natuwa sa napakagandang project na iyon. Magdudugtong-dugtong ang lahat ng tren at doon ang meeting place sa mayroong SM. Nagkaroon na ng downpayment iyan, nagkaroon na ng pirmahan iyan, nagkaroon na ng pagbabao ng mga malalaking pillars sa ilang lugar at mabubuo na sana noong nakaraang administrasyon pero napigil, napigil, natigil ang proyekto, nagkaroon ng malaking pagtatalo. Inabot ko na po iyan dito sa Kongresong ito, 2014, 2015 na malaking gusot ang nangyari sapagka't binago ng gobyerno ang plano. Nagkaroon ng mahabang kaso sa Supreme Court tapos nagkaisa, ewan kung ano ang pinagkaisahan nila pero nagkaisa.

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker. Ongoing na po ang project na ito, naitatayo na po.

REP. ATIENZA. Ano ang ongoing, Mr. Speaker? Ano ang ongoing? Iyong pagtatayo po ng...

REP. VIOLAGO. Ang construction po ng common station.

REP. ATIENZA. ... common station?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Maitatayo nila iyong common station ng hindi titigil ang traffic sa EDSA? Nakita ko po iyong kanilang mga plano noong una. Kapag iyon ay inilagay nila, itinuloy nila sa kabila, sa Ayala side—maswerte talaga itong mga Ayala, lahat ng mga proyekto nakukuha nila, nakuha na iyan sa SM side, nalipat sa Ayala side na lahat ng impracticality ay nandoon. Kapag iyon ang kanilang ginawa, titigil ang traffic sa EDSA. Saan tayo padadaanin kaya? Palagay ko iikot tayo sa bandang gawi ng Antipolo. Doon tayo dadaan sapagka't gagawin ninyo ang common station.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mayroon po tayong traffic management para po...

REP. ATIENZA. Traffic management.

REP. VIOLAGO. ... maisaayos ang traffic sa EDSA, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Napakaganda po noong traffic management, Mr. Speaker. I wish we had traffic management in EDSA because right now we are in one big stagnated condition. Traffic sometimes does not even move. Sometimes, it moves very slowly but meanwhile again, the main reasons for these are the illegalities of the use of EDSA. We are allowing 47 bus terminals to hold office there. Buses go in and out. We are all stalled along EDSA. So, what does the DOTr say about this? The MMDA is trying to experiment and I agree with them that the bus terminals have to go. Wala po akong alam na super highway sa buong mundo na may mga bus terminals, dito lang po sa atin. Ano po ang posisyon ng DOTr diyan? Wala? Let us put it in record. Hindi namin alam iyan, hindi kami taga rito.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, mayroon po tayong 46 terminals—provincial terminals po along EDSA. Ang plano po ng ating DOTr, ito po ay ilabas na, kaso nga lang po sa ngayon hindi sila makakilos dahil may TRO po sila.

REP. ATIENZA. Pareho kaya iyong pinag-uusapan natin? I am talking about bus terminals. Doon po gumagarahe ang mga bus. Ang mga garahe nila ay nagkalat po ryan sa kahabaan ng EDSA. Iyong mga bus na galing sa probinsya, umaabot po hanggang diyan, pumapasok sa kanilang terminal na garahe nila. Every time a bus goes in and a bus goes out, we at EDSA are stalled. Hindi tayo makagagalaw. Eh iyan eh kapag

pinagsama-sama po ninyo ang isang libong bus na gumagamit ng ganyang klaseng paraan. Iyon po ay isa sa mga malaking dahilan kaya may problema tayo.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, we agree sa inyo po.

REP. ATIENZA. Ano po iyon?

REP. VIOLAGO. Kami po ay sumasang-ayon sa inyong sinasabi.

REP. ATIENZA. They are in favor of removing the terminals?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo. Iyon po. Sa ngayon po, iyon po ang plano ng DOTr, ilabas lahat ng provincial bus stations ...

REP. ATIENZA. We are happy to hear that, Mr. Speaker, ...

REP. VIOLAGO. ... sa EDSA.

REP. ATIENZA. ... that the DOTr realizes that there are solutions. We just have to enforce the law as it is the law. Ang batas po naman ay malinaw, hindi puwede ang terminal along a national highway. The only freeway that we can call a freeway in the whole of metro area is cluttered with bus terminals. That does not make sense. If we straighten out all of these, gagaan po ang traffic sa EDSA.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Lady for her candidness, but I would like to ask the Department of Transportation, the Secretary is here, he is a friend of mine, but I would like to ask him to hurry up on the projects that I have mentioned because we do not want him to be considered as the past administration leaders na considered na hindi nagtrabaho, hindi ginawa ang para sa tao, ngayon ay pinagdurusahan natin ang kanilang pagkukulang. Kaya nakita po naman ninyo, hindi na mananal sa tiwala ng bayan iyang mga iyan because they have failed in their tasks. Tayong mga halal, huwag tayong gumaya sa mga hangal. There is a big difference between halal and hangal. Tayo halal, sila hangal, kaya tayong lahat ay nagtrabaho.

Maraming salamat po.

REP. VIOLAGO. Thank you po, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BARONDA. Thank you so much, Hon. Lito Atienza.

Next to interpellate, Mr. Speaker, to the Sponsor, is Rep. Ferdinand R. Gaitan—Gaita, sorry, of BAYAN MUNA Party-List.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Honorable Rep. Ferdinand Gaita is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Pahihintulutan ba ang Kinatawang itong magbigay lang ng ilang clarifications sa budget ng DOTr, Mme. Sponsor.

Mme. Sponsor, noong 1987, may lumabas na sine, *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*, ano ito, drama-comedy. Parang ganoon din yata ang ating problema sa transportasyon, drama at may comedy din.

Magsisimula po ako mula sa maliit—smallest to biggest. Simulan po natin sa problema sa automobiles, specifically iyong ating problema sa jeepney phase out. Noong 2017, naglabas ang Department of Transportation ng Department Order No. 2017-011, Public Utility Vehicles Modernization Program. Binasa ko po at ang sinasabi—ano ho ba talaga ang layunin ng programang ito, ang sabi po, fleet modernization. Tama po ba iyon, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Tama po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Layunin daw ng Department Order na ito na magkaroon ng environment-friendly, safe, secure, and convenient public utility vehicles sa ating mga kalsada. Tama po ba iyon, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Tama po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Mme. Sponsor, tama po ba na kapag sinabing bago o fleet modernization, automatic ho bang mas maganda o mas environment-friendly, mas safe, mas secure at mas convenient, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Tama po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Siguro po alam po ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor na mayroon din pong lumalabas na “lemon,” iyong termino po sa Estados Unidos na ginagamit nila kapag ang isang behikulo ay may mga posibleng sira na hindi nakita doon sa development at production, tinatawag nilang “lemon.”

Mayroon ngang pagkakataon kahit bago ito nire-recall dahil mayroong mga gamit na hindi necessarily angkop sa pasahero, sa safety requirements, at mga environmental provisions. Nabalitaan ninyo siguro noong nakaraan iyong Volkswagen, dinaya nila iyong kanilang emissions, pero lumalabas hindi pala umaangkop iyong vehicle na ito doon sa standards na

sinasabi nila doon sa kanilang inilabas na air emissions doon sa kanilang inilabas na bagong vehicle. So, hindi ho automatic na kapag modern, mas maganda. Tama po ba ako, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, ang DTI po ang nagse-set ng standards para sa specs ng ating mga sasakyan through the Bureau of Standards po. Ang DENR naman po ang nagse-set ng environmental standard, hindi po ang DOTr.

REP. GAITE. Okay. Maraming salamat po, Mme. Sponsor, para sa paglilinaw na iyon, pero ang naglabas po kasi ng guidelines na ito ay ang Department of Transportation. Pero nabasa ko rin po sa naturang Department Order na medyo hindi consistent. Nakalagay din po rito na may provision regarding Vehicle Useful Life Program. Ibig sabihin, kahit matagal na ang vehicle na ginagamit ngunit maganda ang maintenance, maaayos ang patakbo at mayroong mga ganyang mga sasakyan na hindi lamang 10 years, minsan 20 years, maganda pa rin dahil maganda ang maintenance, iyong kanyang useful life ay napapatagal. Ang tanong ko lang po, ano ba talaga ang programa, fleet modernization ho ba o iyong pag-apply ng regardless of age, ay iyong Vehicle Useful Life Program, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, tayo po ay imo-modernize po natin ang ating mga jeepney. Pero ito po ay kailangan—MVIS po ang magde-determine po ng road worthiness po noong sasakyan, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Gusto ko pong malinawan dito kasi marami nga po iyong ating mga jeepney operators ang affected sa policy na ito. Dahil doon sa mga bagong kautusan, may mga bagong pagtatag ng mga standard kung paano at kung pahihintulutan na manatili pa ang ganitong uri ng mga pampasaherong sasakyan, hindi lamang po iyong jeep, utility vehicles, pati iyong ating mga buses, taxis, at iba pa.

Ayon sa kasalukuyang plano na modernization, marami pong mapapalitan na public utility vehicles, at ayon sa nakuhang information, napakamahal noong ipapalit na sasakyan, iyong modern na vehicles na aangkop doon sa bagong standard, mahal—P2.5 million ang bawat isa. Marami na pong grupo ng mga transport groups ang nagsabing hindi nila kayang bayaran ang isang napakataas na halagang jeepney lalo na iyong mga single operator o single unit jeepney operator. Nakita nga nila ito na sa halip na i-modernize, ang layunin talaga ay i-phase out iyong source ng kanilang livelihood at tinuring nila itong kontra-mahirap.

Liban pa niyan, may iba pang grupo ang nagsabi na iyong Department ay magbibigay daw ng loans para mabili ang mga bagong P2.5 million na bawat isang

sasakyan, pero dahil sa mahal nito, lalo lang silang mababaon sa utang at hindi nila ito mababayaran.

May isa pang organisasyon, ang Stop and Go Coalition. Sabi po nila, kung pagsasamahin ng mga individual franchise operators ng jeep at UV express na i-phase out ito dahil gusto ng DOTr, ipagsasanib sila into corporations or cooperatives.

Ang bilang na aabot ito ng 200,00 public utility jeeps na individual operators, isama na natin iyong 6,000 na tsuper dahil karamihan sa kanila ay nakikipasada lamang at halos 60,000 utility vehicle express o UV Express individual franchise operators ang mawawalan ng kabuhayan.

Nakikita ba iyong impact ng desisyon na ito sa ating maliliit na mga operator sa mga jeepney na iyong kanilang kabuhayan ay direly affected, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Ang gobyerno po ay nagbibigay ng P80,000 subsidy sa ating mga driver with an annual interest rate of 6 percent po payable in seven years. Puwede po nilang makuha ito sa LANDBANK. Puwede nilang magamit po as subsidy, and payable within seven years, at siyempre po, kailangan na rin sigurong mag-consolidate ng ating mga driver para maging isang kooperatiba para po makatugon sa ating panawagan ng Clean Air Act. Siguro po kailangan na natin para po sumunod tayo, maging compliance tayo sa ating batas po.

Ngayon din po, Mr. Speaker, ang atin pong mga operator na gumagamit ng sasakyang jeep po ay kumikita ng P500 araw-araw. Ito po ay may increase pong 20 percent in vehicle capacity—mayroon pong 16 to 20 passengers at mayroon din pong pang 20 to 30 passengers per unit po—at ganoon din po, ito po ay may 43 percent decrease in fuel expenses.

Tingin ko po mas efficient ito at mayroon na rin po—ang Taguig Transport Cooperative po ay mayroon na po tayong—kumbaga ano po ito, iyong ating good practice po na kumikita po ng P7,000 per unit per day, Mr. Speaker.

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

Doon sa mga nabanggit ng mga kasamahan natin na mga tsuper at operator, kasama na iyong ditong Stop and Go Coalition, nabanggit nila na lubhang mabigat para sa mga maliliit na operator ang mga bantayan na nilalabas ng LTFRB Memorandum Circular No. 2019-13.

Ibig sabihin, bunga ng mga karagdagang mga ini-impose na mga requirement, nahihirapan na sila makapag-comply at iyong iba nga, sa takot na mahuli, hindi na sila pumapasada—a loss of income for many of our lowly jeepney drivers who survive on a hand-to-mouth existence. Halos kung ano lang iyong kinita nila, iyon na rin ang gastusin nila. Malas pa kung sa

sobra ngang traffic, lumiit pa iyong kita nila, tumaas ang presyo ng diesel o ng gasolina, nabawasan pa iyong kanilang iuuwi sa kanilang mga pamilya kasama na iyong pagbayad ng boundary at ng iba pang mga gastusin sa kanilang operasyon.

Maliit po iyong nabanggit. Nabanggit ninyo po, may P80,000. Tama po ba ako, Mme. Sponsor, P80,000 subsidy?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Okay. Kung P80,000 ito at P2.5 million iyong halaga noong sasakyan ay parang napakaliit noong tulong ng gobyerno, ng DOTr, kung ihahambing naman iyong dagdag na mga pabigat tulad nga ng bagong mga requirement sa ilalim noong LTFRB Memorandum Circular No. 2019-13. Iyong mga problema nila hinggil sa isang requirement na kailangan several units o iyong fleet ng isang—whether through a corporation or cooperative—dahil alam naman natin na hindi naman ganoon kadali iorganisa ang ating mga maliliit na operator.

Liban po dito sa maliit lamang, P80,000, ano pa ba ang mga ginawa nang hakbang ng ating Departamento para matulungan itong mga small and single unit jeepney and UV Express operators. Talagang marami sa kanila ang makikita natin na nasa lansangan madaling araw pa lamang at nagsisikap na makapasada. Pero iyong kanila ngang inuuwi, bunga nga ng pagtaas ng presyo ng langis, traffic, paliit nang paliit ang kanilang inuuwi.

Ano ho bang mga hakbang na ginagawa natin para sa ating mga maliliit na mga jeepney operator at UV Express operator, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, sang-ayon po ako sa inyo na masyadong maliit ang ibinibigay nating subsidy sa ating mga tsuper, pero ito pong amount na ito ay nanggaling dito mismo sa Kongreso.

Puwede po kayong magpasa ng panukala na kung puwede ay madagdagan ang ating subsidy sa ating mga driver, kasi ang Kongreso lamang din po ang magdedesiyon kung magkano ang puwede nating ibigay. Sila po ang nag-a-allot ng budget, ang Kongreso.

Ngayon po, sa atin pong mga operator at sa mga driver, mayroon din po tayong mga Scholarship Training Program po under the TESDA, ano po, nagbibigay din po tayo nito, at ganoon din po, may mga pangkabuhayan para sa mga asawa ng ating mga jeepney driver. May ino-offer po ang DOTr para sa kanila, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mukhang talagang mabigat-bigat iyong suliranin ng ating mga maliliit na jeepney driver na tulad ng

nabanggit, ang kanilang kabuhayan ay derektang apektado nitong pagpapasya at paglabas ng kautusan ng DOTr at ng LTFRB para mabuhay nang maayos.

Tungkulin natin na silang nagbibigay ng isang napakahalagang serbisyong pampubliko, ang pagbibigay ng transportasyon na ginagamit ng mga ordinaryong maliliit na kawani, manggagawa, maralita ay ngayon ay papasanin ang napakaraming mga suliranin. Masasabi nating ano ito, heavy drama, sapagkat totoo po na itong problema sa kabuhayan ng ating mga maliliit na mga mamamayan, sana iyon pa iyong binibigyan natin ng pangunahing atensiyon at mabigyan ng prayoridad lalo na sa pagbuo ng budget para sa 2020.

Mula po sa automobiles, pumunta po tayo sa trains. Ang katanungan ko po, napakahalaga kasi nitong tinatawag na PNR South-Long Haul Project, at naitanong na po ng iba nating mga naunang nag-interpellate at gusto ko lang pong i-follow up iyong mga ilang katanungan.

Importante talaga iyong mass transport system at matagal na po itong isinisigaw ng maraming mamamayan para matugunan iyong problema ng pangmalawakang transportasyon para sa mamamayan para hindi araw-araw iyong suliranin sa trapiko na sakit ng ulo ng bawat mamamayan hindi lang po dito sa Metro Manila. Sigurado sa marami nating mga kasamahan dito sa Kongreso ay damang-dama na rin nila ang problema ng trapiko sa kani-kanilang mga distrito, mga siyudad, mga munisipyo at probinsiya. Kaya hindi po ito sole problem ng Metro Manila. Kaya iyong mass transport system ay napakaimportante.

Magfo-focus lang po ako dito sa PNR South Long-Haul Project. Gusto ko lang pong mag-clarify doon sa ilang points na na-raise during sa interpellation.

Nabanggit ninyo po kanina, napirmahan na po iyong PNR South Long-Haul Project with China as the financing arm. Tama po ba, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

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

Pa-clarify po, narinig ko kanina noong itinatanong po ng Kinatawan nating Congressman Bordado, sabi ninyo po doon sa P175.3 billion PNR South Long-Haul Project, pinili po natin iyong China over Japan dahil mas mura ang pautang through China. Puwede ho bang pa-clarify po ito. Sabi ninyo po kanina, ang China will be imposing 2 percent interest on the loan while Japan, paki-clarify lang po, 0.1 percent. Tama po ba ako, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, hindi po dahil sa mas mura ang China kundi dahilan din po na ang Japan ay may limit lang po ang puwede nilang ipautang at

hindi pa ho kasama dito ang Bicol, Mr. Speaker. Para sa South Long-Haul po, hindi kasama ang Bicol, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Ang pagkarinig ko kasi kanina doon sa tanong ni Congressman Bordado, mas makakamura daw tayo doon sa China na 2 percent, pero tama po ba iyong Japan ay 0.1 percent, kung tama ba iyong dinig ko kanina?

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Okay.

REP. VIOLAGO. Point zero one Zero point one percent po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Totoo naman na mayroong mga ilang restriction and limitation doon sa pautang ng Japan, pero naniniwala pa rin ang Kinatawang ito na may mga tulad na nabanggit na mga pautang ng Japan na puwede nating ma-access. Kung titingnan natin, parang napakalayo po ata noong 2 percent sa 0.1 percent. Eh, nag-compute ako kanina, kung straight out, loan interest, dito sa P175.3 billion kahit sa unang taon pa lamang, P3.5 billion ang babayaran nating interest doon sa utang, hindi pa kasama ang principal, kung ito ang gagamitin natin sa China. Kung Japan na 0.1 percent, P1.75 billion lamang. Hindi ba inaral nang maigi kung ano ba ang pinakamainam na—kung hindi man Japan, baka mayroon pang ibang facilities na nagpo-provide sa atin ng loans para i-develop ang napakaimportanteng mass transport system dito—iyong tinawag nating Bicol Express na ngayon ay hindi na gumagana. Inaral ba nang maigi ng DOTr ano iyong pinaka-beneficial to the government and to the people para sa programa ng Philippine National Railways South Long-Haul Project, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, makakamura pa rin po tayo sa China kahit ito po ay 2 percent ang interest rate natin compared po sa ADB na 3.5 percent interest o sa iba pa hong open borrowing natin na puwedeng puntahan na nasa 6 to 7 percent po ang interest rate, Mr. Speaker.

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

Napakahalaga na itong programang ito ay aralin nang maigi kasi kailangan talaga natin ng mass transport. Pero pardon the pun, hindi dapat natin i-railroad iyong proyektong ito sapagkat nakakabahala sa mga lumabas pong mga nakaraang utang na napabalitaan with China, tanong ko lang po, eto bang kontrata sa China, may mga kaduda-dudang probisyon ba tulad ng waiving of sovereign immunity? Mayroon ho bang probisyon

regarding collateralizing patrimonial assets? Mayroon ho bang confidentiality clauses at mayroon bang unfair arbitration proceedings like those seen in other loan deals with China such as the Kaliwa Dam Project with the government, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, wala po. Wala pong ganoong kasunduan na nakalagay sa kanila pong pinirmahang kontrata. Wala pong confidentiality. Wala rin pong arbitration sa Singapore. Wala po na ganoong nakasaad sa ating kontrata po at wala rin pong collateralized na ating national resources po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po doon sa inyong confirmation na ito, pero para sa kapakanan ng lahat at ng Kinatawang ito, puwede po bang makahingi ang Representasyong ito ng kopya ng kontratang ito, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, we will provide you a copy of the loan agreement, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Mme. Sponsor. From automobiles to trains, nasa planes na tayo ngayon, at eto naman ay patungkol doon sa pinakamalaki na yatang bagong proyekto, the New Manila International Airport in Bulacan, which is now turned as the aerotropolis. The DOTr formally awarded the contract to build and operate that P735 billion New Manila International Airport in Bulacan, Bulacan to conglomerate San Miguel Corporation or SMC. SMC secured a concession agreement with the Transportation Department for 50 years. The project involves a reclamation of 2,500 hectares of coastal waters, fishing reservation areas and mangrove forests. As of date, nakuha naming report na mayroon na raw 657 mangrove trees that have already been cleared at ang tingin po ng mga kamasahan namin dito, illegally cleared by SMC in Barangay Taliptip as of July 2019, ayon sa isang organisasyon ng mga mangingisda, ang PAMALAKAYA.

Sa isang pag-aaral na ginawa ng isang scientists group, iyong AGHAM, they said that each hectare of mangrove destroyed to pave the way for reclamation projects would result in a loss of fish catch of about 670 kilos. Ganoon kalaki ang mawawalang huling isda. Noong 2016, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, may pagsusuri na sinasabi na kapag binarahan, nagkaroon ng obstruction sa ilog, sa mga naturang lugar, magreresulta ito ng malubhang pagbaha.

Ang isang grupo po, KALIKASAN, sabi po nila iyong “continuing land subsidence, aggravated by groundwater extraction, is already worsening flood vulnerabilities of Bulacan. Add to that the urban sprawl resulting from the expected influx of over a million

workers and 100-200 million air passengers constantly in transit in the area, if the aerotropolis were built, would intensify land subsidence and increase the exposure of populations to flooding hazards.”

Sabi rin ng grupong KALIKASAN, hindi sila naniniwala na iyong binabalak na spillway na itatayo ng SMC na nagkakahalagang isang bilyong dolyares ay makakatulong sa problema ng pagbaha. Ayon sa KALIKASAN, the waterways course, coursing from Bulacan’s ridges down to its reefs are complex systems that cannot be simply resolved by just a simple spillway. Floodwaters come not only from the headwaters in Sierra Madre but also from extreme rainfall directly falling on Bulacan’s river basin and from other coastal floods.

Wala po ngayong surrounding infrastructure like roads and highways na sufficient na mapupunuan ng pangangailan ng bagong airport. Ano po ang ibig sabihin nito? Liban po doon sa madi-dislocate na residente doon sa pagtatayo ng proyekto na magreresulta rin ito ng mga demolisyon dahil doon sa bubuuing proyektong imprastraktura ay magbubuo ng mga bagong pasilidad, kalsada patungo sa bagong airport.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang sabi po ng SMC mayroong 150 housing units na in-allocate ang SMC para sa mga madi-displace na fisherfolk. Pero may isang barangay captain ng Taliptip ang nanakot na kapag hindi sila sumang-ayon sa proyekto, sila ay hindi kasama sa relokalasyon.

Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, nakonsider na po ba ng ahensiya ng DOTr kung ano ang impact ng proyektong ito sa kalikasan, sa produksiyon ng isda, sa kabuhayan ng mga residente at posibleng paglala ng baha hindi lamang sa Bulacan kung hindi sa mga karatig pang probinsiya at possibly baka rin dito sa Metro Manila, Mr. Speaker, Mme. Sponsor?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, ito po ay walang, sabi nga po, harm sa ating kalikasan.

Ang San Miguel po ay tutulungan pa ang Bulacan, maghuhukay sa ating mga ilog upang lumalim po ang mga ilog nang hindi po binabaha ang lugar ng Bulacan. Tutulungan po tayo ng San Miguel na tanggalin ang mga barado sa ating mga kailugan upang ang pagdaloy po ng tubig ay tuloy-tuloy hanggang sa Manila Bay. Kaya, ito po ay hindi makakasira o magdudulot ng anumang baha sa bayan po ng Bulacan.

Ganoon din po, sa atin pong mga pamilya na tinamaan po ng airport na ito. We have 212 identified families po in nine sitios in Bulacan. Mayroon na rin po silang relocation at may kasama na rin pong compensation and livelihood training program po na ibinibigay para sa ating mga affected families po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Salamat po doon sa information na binanggit ninyo, sapagkat ang ilang mga grupo na mga

naninirahan sa nabanggit na lugar, sa Barangay Taliptip, ay dumulog sa aming opisina at nagpahayag nga sila ng kanilang concern dahil doon sa napakagrandiyosong proyektong ito, marami ang apektadong mga naninirahan at gayun din iyong mga mangingisda.

Nabanggit ninyo po na may plano para sa ating iilang mga apektadong mga kabahayan. Para sa ating mangingisda, mayroon ho rin bang proyekto, lalo na iyong madi-displace bunga ng proyektong aerotropolis, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, kasama na po sila sa 212 identified families po na mabibigyan ng relokalasyon at panibagong trabaho po, Mr. Speaker.

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

Naniniwala ang Kinatawang ito na mas marami pa ang maaapektuhan, hindi lang ho 225 families, sapagkat itong lugar na ito ay napakarami po ditong mga maliliit na mangingisda at sigurado ay may impact sa kanila ang pagtatayo ng aerotropolis.

Ganoon pa man, hinihiling po ng Kinatawang ito na kung maaari rin po kaming mabigyan ng master plan nitong proyektong ito para lalong mapag-aralan kung ano ang magiging impact sa ating mga mamamayan, sa ating mga mangingisda, at iba pang mga mamamayan na naninirahan malapit o karatig sa naturang proyektong aerotropolis, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, Mr. Speaker, we will provide you with a copy. Thank you po.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po sa kasagutan, Mme. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Iyon lang po, maraming salamat sa lahat ng inyong kasagutan.

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

REP. BARONDA. Thank you so much, Rep. Ferdinand Gaitan, ah, Gaite, sorry.

Before we proceed, Mr. Speaker, may we please acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Jose Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez, Third District of Negros Occidental: Councilor Jun Bantug and Councilor Derek Palanca of Victoria City; and Councilor Carl Lizares of Talisay, Negros Occidental.

Please also acknowledge my guests, friends from ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The guests of Hon. Kiko Benitez, welcome to the House of Representatives. Please rise so that your presence will be acknowledged. *(Applause)*



REP. BARONDA. Please, also, Mr. Speaker, acknowledge the presence of my guests from Korea, the Vice President of LG CNS, headed by Billy S.H. Back and delegates, Mr. Speaker. They are all in the gallery. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Mr. Back and the other delegates are welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BARONDA. Mr. Speaker, let us move to the next interpellator. I move to recognize Hon. Rufus B. Rodriguez for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Hon. Rufus Rodriguez is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

I would like to also greet my colleague in the three Congresses when I was here. Congressman Violago is the loving husband of our distinguished colleague. Thank you for coming here and seeing all of us here, and because he is here, my questions to our Vice Chair Micaela Violago would be friendly.

First, a pleasant good afternoon to Secretary Art Tugade and the officialdom of the Department of Transportation and all its attached agencies.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, first, we would like to thank Secretary Tugade because he was in Cagayan de Oro during his helm—the biggest and most modern passenger terminal for any port in Mindanao is located in my barangay, in my district, in Macabalan, which is the Port of Cagayan de Oro. Thank you very much. Secretary Tugade was present during the inauguration of the most modern and the biggest passenger terminal in Mindanao. Thank you very much, Secretary.

Second, he is the champion of Cagayan de Oro and we would like him to be the champion for the entire Mindanao island, the second biggest island in our country, because it will be during his time that we will have the opening of the Mindanao Railway Phase 1, and that is from Tagum to Davao City, to Digos.

May we know when there will be an inauguration so that all of us Mindanao Congressmen who are here will be present? Mr. Speaker, for the past decades, here in Luzon, Metro Manila, we have had an East Rail, we have had a West Rail, we have had a North Rail, we have had a South Rail, but no inch of rail has been built in Mindanao. This time, with President Duterte, President Digong, we now have a chance to ride, for the first time in our lives, a train in Mindanao.

May we know when will be the inauguration of this particular first rail of Mindanao?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, the procurement for the project management consultancy and design-build contractor of the project will be completed by the end of October 2019. Construction work will start on February 2020 and partial operability section with five stations, namely, Tagum, Carmen, Panabo, Mudiang, and Davao will open on the second quarter of 2022, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. We thank Secretary Tugade, Mr. Speaker. We, now are assured that since the start of work will be next year, we will all be riding, we are going to go to Tagum to ride up to Cagayan de Oro. Does this include already Cagayan de Oro?

REP. VIOLAGO. Not yet, Phase 2 po iyon.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Phase 2—may we know what are the phases for Mindanao? We have here the Mindanao Congressmen. Phase 1 is Tagum, Davao City and Digos. May we know the second phase, the third phase, the fourth phase and the last phase.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, Phase 2 will be in Tagum, Butuan and Cagayan De Oro, Iligan, Cotabato and Rigos.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you.

Cagayan de Oro, the City of Golden Friendship, will now be reached by railway. Cagayan de Oro is home to the best white water rafting in the world, Mr. Speaker. I have been to Puerto Rico, I have been to the Pacuare River of Costa Rica and the rivers of Canada, but I tell my Speaker and all of our colleagues here, you are invited to Cagayan de Oro, at my expense, to be able to go white water rafting in the great class A-1 river of Cagayan de Oro City. Thank you very much.

The second phase is up to Cagayan de Oro, Cotabato. What is the third phase, so that the other Congressmen here, especially those from Surigao and also Butuan and Zamboanga Peninsula will also be happy with the Secretary, and then approve and augment the budget of the Department of Transportation. Third phase?

REP. VIOLAGO. Phase 3 will be in Cotabato and Digos, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Cotabato to ...

REP. VIOLAGO. Digos, Digos.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Digos.

REP. VIOLAGO. GenSan, GenSan.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. To GenSan? Wow, so, we have here our Congressman from GenSan. Just the last one, the next phase, to have a loop in Mindanao.

REP. VIOLAGO. Three phases lang po iyon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. I am sure that there will be additional phases because I see some Congressmen here, their provinces have not been mentioned. So, I think, that will be in the drawing board also. So, thank you very much, Secretary Tugade.

Can we also, at the same time, add for after 2020, additional budget already while we are finishing already the Tagum to Digos line. Is it possible to already have also additional budget for the second phase?

Secretary Ungab, our Committee Chairman, is now saying yes to the Secretary.

May we know the answer of Secretary Tugade, for 2021.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, we will propose your budget ...

REP. RODRIGUEZ. For the second phase.

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. ...

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you very much again. That is a very, very correct answer again, our distinguished colleague.

Now, Mr. Speaker, for my last two questions, we will now go after—we thank our Secretary and the DOTr, but let me now go to the Laguindingan International Airport.

Mr. Speaker, not one of the comfort rooms of that international airport is working. For the past months, I have told already the manager of the CAAP there, if you will go to the comfort rooms there now, you have to finish everything in 10 seconds because if you reach 10 minutes, you will die of asphyxia. May we know how come the CAAP has not been able to improve them? We are talking here of CRs only, and I have to come here because your people there are not working. We are very ashamed; we have guests from all over the world going there, and up to now, not one of the CRs has been repaired.

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, since July po, ongoing na ang ating repair of six units of CRs, four units po sa ground floor and two units sa second floor. Matatapos po ito, well, target date is on the second week of October po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. How come it is October when we started last July? These are just CRs—what kind of

work is that? The problem started in January and you started work in July. Did the CAAP Manager—have you visited that airport? Secretary Tugade was there and he had to go out immediately, otherwise he would have collapsed there inside. May we know why? I cannot accept that. The people of Northern Mindanao who use that airport have gone through that. Even the Mabuhay Lounge of the airport, the male toilet has not been operational for the past six months so we go to the other CRs. May we know from our CAAP Manager, how come he has deserted us in Cagayan de Oro and Northern Mindanao?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, we already fired the two managers po ng airport.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. We have to remove managers there if they cannot finish the repair in two weeks, and these are just ordinary, small restrooms. So, can we get the commitment that they will finish this immediately, as soon as possible, and all of them should be finished altogether? When can we have the completion of the repairs of all the restrooms? All of them are under repair.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Savellano relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Rose Marie “Baby” J. Arenas.*

REP. VIOLAGO. Mme. Speaker, second week of October po, Mme. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. I hope that will really be given attention by our CAAP head.

Another question on Laguindingan. I have written for so long that the Laguindingan Airport, the name should be changed to the Emmanuel N. Pelaez International Airport, but nothing has been done about this.

Senator Pelaez from Mindanao reached the second highest position of this land as the Vice President of the Republic, before Teofisto Guingona. May we know whether the process to have a change of name so that we can honor the great Mindanaonon will now be started?

We are not “Mindanaoans,” that is an American term. The Americans often said this, “Mindanaoans are trouble makers. They fight the US Government.” We call ourselves “Mindanaonon,” like Agusanon, Surigaonon, Cagayanon.

We have the Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, we have the John F. Kennedy in New York, we have the Ataturk Airport in Turkey, we have the Heathrow Airport in London, so why not Emmanuel N. Pelaez Airport in Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental? Can we have the assurance that they will have a thorough consultation and start the process of changing that name?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you very much.

Now, last question, Mr. Speaker. My last question is about the Cagayan de Oro port. You know, there is a manager there sleeping at the PPA. The traffic goes through one entrance. There is a gate there but the gate is not open, so they have to go around, congesting traffic in our Agora Market. May we know when this will be opened? We would like to know from General Manager Santiago when are you going to open this gate which has been there since it was established 30 years ago?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, iyong expansion area, we will finish by the first half of next year po. Sa isang taon po matatapos po ...

REP. RODRIGUEZ. The expansion—that expansion area,...

REP. VIOLAGO. The expansion area po.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. ... that will be the third gate?

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, tapos they will open the second gate.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Because I have made the coastal bypass road, ...

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. ... the problem with that, it goes around again and congests traffic in Corrales Avenue. So, that is just the third one. I am talking of the second gate.

REP. VIOLAGO. Yes, it will open po after that ...

REP. RODRIGUEZ. When does the second gate—it has been there for 30 years and it has not been opened. When will that be opened?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, we will consult with you kasi po mayroon pong mga masasagasaan na ...

REP. RODRIGUEZ. No, that is a road; walang masasagasaan. That is a road.

REP. VIOLAGO. Opo, para po sa traffic ...

REP. RODRIGUEZ. The road leads to that gate, which is still closed up to now, 30 years after it was made. So, when?

REP. VIOLAGO. Pag-aaralan po natin ito. We will just study this. Pag-aaralan din po iyong traffic doon sa area na ito kung ...

REP. RODRIGUEZ. But my question is, when will the gate be opened? I am asking Mr. Santiago not how to study. When you make a study, that will never be finished. We want your confirmation when it will be opened because it is right there. Can we open that on Monday because tomorrow is Saturday?

REP. VIOLAGO. Mr. Speaker, before the end of the year po.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Okay, that is good enough as long as you are able to commit.

With that, Mr. Speaker, our distinguished colleague has given all the correct answers to my questions, and because of that, I am going to end my interpellation with a manifestation that not only will Cong. Rufus Rodriguez of the Second District of Cagayan de Oro in Mindanao support the budget of Secretary Tugade and the attached agencies, but we are going to make sure that in the period of amendments, we are going to increase the budget of the Department of Transportation and all its attached agencies.

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BARONDA. Thank you so much, honorable Rep. Rufus Rodriguez.

Next to interpellate the Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, is Rep. Bayani F. Fernando of the First District of Marikina City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Hon. Bayani F. Fernando is now recognized.

REP. FERNANDO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker and Mme. Sponsor.

Sa G. Tagapamahala ng Kapulungan, ang tungkuling ito ang pinakamagaan at kawili-wili sa lahat sa kadahilanang wala na po sa hanay ng Minorya na magtatanong ukol sa salaping pangangailangan ng Departamento ng Transportasyon at mga kasamang ahensiya. Isinusulong ko, sa ngalan ng Minorya, ang pagtatapos ng panahon ng pagtatanungan, at sa ngalan ng lahat ay ipinapaabot namin sa Mme. Speaker at Mme. Sponsor ang pasasalamat sa kanilang pagpapaunlak ng panahon.

Mabuting kapalaran sa ating lahat.

REP. VIOLAGO. Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. BARONDA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. We join the Minority in the motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Department of Transportation, Mme. Speaker. *(Applause)*

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the DOTr and its attached agencies is hereby terminated. Congratulations!

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BARONDA. Mme. Speaker, I move to suspend the session to allow our guests and technical staff from the DOTr family to vacate the floor.

Mme. Speaker, I so move.

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

*It was 5:21 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:22 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COORDINATING AGENCY AND NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

REP. TAN (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the interpellation and debate on the proposed budgets of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency and the National Security Council.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. TAN (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, to sponsor the proposed budget of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency as well as the National Security Council, I move that we recognize Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon of the Lone District of the City

of Muntinlupa, as well as the Vice Chairman on the Committee on Appropriations to answer questions, if any.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Hon. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon is recognized to sponsor the budget.

REP. TAN (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, before we begin, may we acknowledge the presence of our guests in the Plenary: for the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, we have with us here Deputy Director General Virgilio A. Hernandez; Assistant Director General Ruth L. Galila; Assistant Director General Jose P. Bringas Jr; and for the National Security Council, we have with us here Director General Hermogenes C. Esperon Jr., the National Security Adviser; Deputy Director General Rufino S. Lopez Jr.; Deputy Director General Vicente M. Agdamag, Assistant Director General Filonila D. Balitaan; and Assistant Director General Maria Victoria C. Castro.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. TAN (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Arlene D. Brosas from GABRIELA Party-List for her manifestation.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Honorable Brosas is recognized.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Madam Speaker, with a budget of P522 million in the NSC or the National Security Council for the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict Program—hindi natin po alam kung saan ito mapupunta sa taong 2020 as what we only have right now are lump sums po at ang mga ito ay walang breakdown per agency—we have P85 million under DILG; P96 million under TESDA; P284 million under DSWD; and P57 million under other member agencies. For this year, saan nakalagak ang pondo ng NTF-ELCAC? Hindi po natin alam kung saan kinuha, halimbawa, ang ginastos nito sa pagsasampa ng kaso laban sa GABRIELA Women's Party. Napakarami ng ginawang pag-atake ng NTF-ELCAC na ito sa mga miyembro ng aming party-list.

Halimbawa, sa barangay health worker and member of GABRIELA Women's Party, si Gloria Jandayan, together with her daughter, and also a lay volunteer, si Glicerio Balangiao, were illegally arrested and brought to the Philippine Army's 1<sup>st</sup> SF Battalion Camp in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, last February 11. Jandayan

was accused of being a medic of the NPA by Captain Lorefel Judaya, INF. Another GABRIELA member, Mae Tugot, was illegally arrested in Macabalan, Cagayan de Oro City, by the same battalion last March 20. Leaflets circulated in Cagayan Province associating GABRIELA Women's Party Vice President for Internal Affairs, Mia Liquigan, to the CPP-NPA. The third nominee of GABRIELA Women's Party for the midterm elections and a consumer rights advocate in Western Visayas, Lucy Francisco, was dubbed as a supporter of the NPA in the leaflets and posters disseminated in Iloilo City. Attacks of harassment and intimidation of the members of GABRIELA Women's Party by both the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police officers intensified during the midterm elections as the PNP distributed printed materials that named the whole GABRIELA Women's Party as NPA supporters. They even had tarpaulins printed with false propaganda put up in different areas of the country, maligning and accusing GABRIELA Women's Party and other organizations as NPA fronts.

Now, there is a P522 million allocation for the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict. Ito pong NTF-ELCAC mismo ang nagsampa sa Comelec ng petition to cancel the registration of GABRIELA Women's Party sa pangunguna ni General Parlade. Ito rin ang Task Force na pangunahing nag-iingay kontra sa usapang pangkapayapaan at kontra sa pagsugpo sa ugat ng kahirapan, kaya po, Mme. Speaker, nararapat lamang po na, kung ganito ang gagawin gamit ang pondo na ito, dapat po ito ay ibigay nalang sa mga basic services natin. Marami pong cuts sa social services, kaya doon po natin ilagay ang pondo na ito.

Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker, mr. Sponsor.

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

REP. TAN (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move to recognize Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate from BAYAN MUNA Party-List for his manifestation.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Hon. Caloy Zarate is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Magandang hapon sa ating Sponsor ng budget ng NICA and National Security Council. First, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, in today's *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, there is a story about a Pampanga TV manager who fears for her life after being red-tagged. It is about the red-tagging of Ms. Sonia Soto, the general manager of a TV station in San Fernando, Pampanga, who is a four-time Golden Dove awardee. She was red-tagged and accused as being a communist by no less than the Regional

NICA Director Rolando Asuncion. Can we confirm this, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, if indeed this Rolando Asuncion tagged Ms. Sonia Soto as a member of the Communist Party of the Philippines, or for that matter, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, is Rolando Asuncion the NICA Regional Director in Central Luzon?

REP. BIAZON. Mme. Speaker, my distinguished colleague, yes, the said person is the Regional Director for Region III.

REP. ZARATE. Will the good Sponsor confirm that in one forum held in Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University in Bacolor town, indeed, this Mr. Asuncion labeled Ms. Sonia Soto as a communist or a terrorist, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker? His exact statement is that "Ms. Sonia Soto is a communist who have infiltrated the government and the media."

REP. BIAZON. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, the Deputy Director General for Operations is unable to confirm the statement of Regional Director Asuncion. Unfortunately, the said officer is not present in the Plenary this afternoon, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Well, at any rate, will the good Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, give a commitment now that this particular issue will be investigated by the office because Ms. Sonia Soto now fears for her life.

As a background po, si Sonia Soto is the same Sonia Soto who is the signatory in the Soto-Enrile agreement way back in the seventies that, you know, prohibits the police and the military in entering campuses. This was done during the time of martial law when then Defense Secretary Enrile and Ms. Sonia Soto, then a student leader, entered into this agreement. Of late, naging mainit ho ang issue na ito at nabalikan ang agreement na ito dahil sa usapin ng red-tagging and vilification ng mga student organizations. As I had read in this article, si Ms. Sonia Soto now is an active media practitioner in Central Luzon and in fact, she is a four-time Golden Dove awardee of the KBP.

I cited this, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, because just a few weeks ago, two journalists from Cagayan de Oro City were likewise red-tagged and vilified—Congressman Corrales and journalist Froilan Gallardo. Again, it appears that there is a pattern now of reckless red-tagging and vilification of members of the media who are critics of the administration and even Members of this House, kaya ho natin nire-raise iyan dahil mayroong consequences ho iyan. We already stated in this Chamber several times na nakakamatay po ang mga ganyang walang basehan na pagre-red-tag at vilification campaign coming from state security forces no less. So, iyan po ay ating pinapaabot dahil hindi na ho katanggap-tanggap iyan at sana ay maimbestigahan ang na-cite na

incident natin dahil, sabi ko nga, there is now a reckless campaign to vilify kahit sino na lang members of the media, mga abogado. In fact, in Negros, a city health officer there was also included in that accusation at hindi na siya makapag-practice.

I will now move to another item. As a result of our interpellation during the budget of the Department of National Defense, a report was provided to this Representation as well as sa atin pong Committee on Appropriations at ang isa po sa napakalaking usapin doon sa report—na nakakabigla po sa akin—ay iyon pong usapin sa West Philippine Sea. Lumalabas po doon na napakarami po palang pagkakataon na, in fact, from January to June of this year, nalalabag po ang ating pambansang soberenya, lalong-lalo na ng mga Chinese navy and Chinese militia. Ano po ba ang ginagawa ng ating National Security Council dito, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, patuloy po na nagangalap ang ating intelligence community ng mga karagdagang impormasyon at ito ay ipinapasa sa mga kinaukulang ahensiya upang magsagawa ng appropriate action on the ground in response doon sa mga violations kung mayroon. Kaya po ang kanilang mekanismo ngayon ay involved ang, hindi lamang ang Department of National Defense, but even other agencies, pati iyong linkages with the international intelligence community para po mamamanan nang mabuti, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. Parang nakakabahala iyong eerie silence, na mayroon palang mga pangyayaring ganito, from our National Security Adviser, the National Defense or even from our security sector, at nalaman na lang natin ito ngayon, dahil sa nangyayaring budget deliberation, na mayroon palang ganitong mga kaganapan. Ang sabi nga sa report na ipinadala sa atin ay, it can be observed that majority of the vessels sighted are from China, particularly Chinese fishing vessels, which are believed to be part of China's maritime militia. Ito rin ho iyong pinagdududahan natin dahil iyong bumangga sa ating mga mangingisda, dati, they claimed it to be Chinese fisherfolks but, in truth and in fact, it is part of the Chinese militia. The report also said that, apparently, China has been utilizing fishing vessels to discreetly conduct surveillance, search and rescue operations, as well as provide assistance to their law enforcement agencies. From January to August this year, ang People's Liberation Army Navy ay mayroong 25 reported incursions dito ho sa ating mga karagatan. Maliban pa diyan, iyong Chinese Coast Guard ay mayroon ding eight incidents of incursion.

So, ang mga ito po ay, sabi ko nga, nakakabahala at kabilang dito, internally, ang mga kritiko ng gobyerno

tulad ng mga journalists, ng mga abogado, sila iyong subject to vilification and red-tagging. Then, on the other hand, mayroon palang ganitong mga paglabag sa ating pambansang soberenya pero wala ho tayong naririnig patungkol dito, parang napakatahimik po, kaya kapag ganito po ng ganito ang nangyayari, sa tingin namin, ay magiging mas agresibo—it will embolden this Chinese militia or even the PLA to violate our national sovereignty not only in the contested areas in the West Philippine Sea or the South China Sea, dahil sinasabi rin po dito sa report that there is an emerging trend of Chinese warships passing through the Sulu-Celebes Sea.

So, kahit ho iyong mga karagatan natin sa ating back door ay nakikitaan na rin na mayroong incursions po ang China. Ano po ba ang masasabi ng NICA at National Security Council on this issue, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Mme. Speaker, my distinguished colleague, not because we do not hear anything about these incidents, does it mean that nothing is being done. In the field of intelligence gathering, most often, overt actions are not really the go-to reactions and definitely, the intelligence community is able to gather information not just from within its capabilities, but even from other agencies, domestic and foreign. Habang sinasabi po natin na wala tayong naririnig, hindi naman po ang ibig sabihin nito na hindi natin nalalaman at wala tayong ginagawa. Complicated din po siyempre ang issue na iyan, lalo na at may kinalaman ito sa relations natin sa ibang bansa, kaya bahagi ng response diyan ay iyong masusing pag-aaral at carefully deliberated actions. Once in a while, naririnig nga po natin ang ating Kalihim ng Foreign Affairs na nagsasabi e siya na pala ay nagpalabas ng mga diplomatic protests, so, hindi naman po ibig sabihin na pinababayaan na lang natin iyong mga ganitong klaseng incursions at talaga lang pong maingat sa pag-handle nito ang ating pamahalaan.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. Naitanong natin iyan dahil nitong mga nakaraan ay mayroon din pong mga iba pang usapin, halimbawa, napabalita po na mayroong tatlong mahahalagang isla natin kung saan ang ating pamahalaan ay pumasok sa mga kontrata sa mga Chinese corporations involving, for example, the Fuga Island up north at tsaka mayroong dalawang isla dito sa Zambales na malapit sa Subic. Sa pagkakataon po bang ganito na mayroong mga national security questions, ano po ang nagiging tindig dito ng ating National Security Council? Bakit po mayroong mga lumalabas na issues na ganito na parang hindi ho na isinasaalang-alang iyong ating pambansang seguridad, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. May mga napag-usapan po, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, na plano doon sa mga nabanggit na lugar para magkaroon ng development involving foreign nationals pero sa ngayon po, wala naman hong natuloy talaga sa mga plano na iyon at pinag-usapan lamang. Sa katunayan, iyong isa sa mga binabanggit tulad noong Chiquita at Grande Islands in Subic, hindi rin naman ho talaga ganoon na mapapasok iyong kontrata o agreement na iyan dahil iyong ownership pa lamang ng property ay may question pa. So, patuloy din naman ho na naka-monitor ang ating National Security Council at nagbibigay ng input bago magkaroon ng decision diyan.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. Isa po kasi itong isyu—maidagdag ko lang diyan. Halimbawa, nagkaroon din ng isyu nitong nakaraan, itong pagpasok naman noong mga Chinese workers sa mga POGOs at napabalita na mayroong isang POGO hub na nandiyan din, na-estabish ito at malapit naman sa ating isang naval base sa Cavite. Sa mga ganitong mga issues, wala ho tayong naririnig, ano, at mukhang pinapayagan na lang ang ganito. So, bilang mga ordinaryong mamamayan po, magtatanong talaga tayo, ano ba ang nangyayari at bakit po ba nangyayari ang mga ganito? Mabuti pong mabigyan ng kaliwanagan iyan ng ahensiya. Sabi ko nga, sa pagkakataong ganito na mayroong mga tahasang paglabag sa ating pambansang sobereniya o sa ating sovereign rights, kailangan ay tumindig tayo kahit na sa ngayong sitwasyon na ang kasalukuyang administrasyon ay mukhang malapit na malapit sa Tsina. Hindi ho puwede na atin hong balewalain na lang ang mga ganitong pangyayari, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BIAZON. Sumasang-ayon naman po tayo doon at ang NSC at NICA ay tinutulungan ang ibang ahensiya na nasa front line para magkaroon sila ng wastong impormasyon sa pagsusuri nila sa mga ganitong klaseng panukala o pagpapatayo ng mga proyekto o kaya ay mga business ventures na mayroong element ng national security. Makakaasa po tayo na patuloy naman ang kanilang pagbibigay ng tamang impormasyon sa mga ahensiyang ito, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. Wala na po akong dagdag na katanungan.

Maraming salamat sa pagkakataon na makapag-interpellate. Thank you.

REP. BIAZON. Maraming salamat din po.

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

REP. TAN (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, the next person who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor and/or make his manifestation is the Representative of the ABANG LINGKOD, INC. Party-List, Rep. Joseph Stephen “Caraps” S. Paduano. I move that we recognize Representative Paduano for his manifestation.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). The Honorable Paduano is now recognized.

REP. PADUANO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, there being no other Member from the Minority who wishes to ask questions, I move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budgets of National Intelligence Coordinating Agency and National Security Council.

I so move, Mme. Speaker. *(Applause)*

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

REP. TAN (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, we gladly join the Minority in their motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budgets of the National Security Council, as well as the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The period of interpellation and debate on the budgets of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency and National Security Council is hereby terminated. Congratulations.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. TAN (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move to suspend the session to allow our guests to vacate the Plenary and to allow the guests of the next Department or agency to prepare.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

*It was 5:47 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:50 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT AND LUMP-SUM FUNDS

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Department of Budget and Management and the provisions of the Lump-Sum Funds.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, to sponsor the proposed budget of the Department of Budget and Management and the provisions of the Lump-Sum Funds, I move that we recognize Rep. Isidro T. Ungab, the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations to answer questions, if any, and the Vice Chairman for the said appropriations, Rep. Cora T. Nuñez-Malanyaon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Reps. Sid Ungab and Cora Nuñez-Malanyaon are recognized.

Please proceed.

REP. UNGAB. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, before we begin, may we acknowledge the presence of our guests in the Plenary, the Department of Budget and Management family under Secretary Wendel Avisado, Usec. Laura Pascua, Usec. Agnes Bailen, Usec. Tina Rose Canda, Usec. Janet Abuel, Usec. Herman Jumilla, Usec. Lloyd Christopher Lao, Asec. Dean Macacuna Moslem, Asec. Myrna Chua, Asec. Clarito Magsino, Asec. Achilles Gerard Bravo, and Asec. Rolando Toledo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Janette L. Garin of the First District of Iloilo to interpellate the Sponsor on the proposed budget of the Department of Budget and Management.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Hon. Janette Garin is now recognized.

REP. UNGAB. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

The proposed budget of the DBM is P2.331 billion. This Representation is now ready to accept questions and so with the Honorable Nuñez-Malanyaon for the Lump-Sum Funds, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Congresswoman Garin, please proceed.

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor.

May I hear from our distinguished colleague, the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, honorable Speaker, the basis of the allocation of the budget per agency?

Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, may I ...

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Your Honor.

REP. GARIN (J.). May I hear from the honorable Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations the basis of the budget allocation for each agency?

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Your Honor. The question is, what is the basis of allocating the budgets? Mme. Speaker, first of all, there is a constitutional provision that says that the education should be given the highest priority and that explains why, in almost every budget, the budget for education is highest. Then, as prescribed in the National Budget Circular No. 131 dated February 26, 2019, the preparation of the 2020 National Budget utilized the Two-Tier Budgeting Approach (2TBA), with the first year covering the forward estimates for ongoing programs and projects, and the second year covering, as well, the expanded ongoing program or projects.

These are the bases for determining the agency budget: first is the implementation readiness of the programs or projects; second is the assessment of absorptive capacity, that is the disbursement *vis-à-vis* obligation; third is the consistency of the Department and the agency's programs and projects with the budget priorities framework; the Philippine Development Plan, the results/matrix thereof; the Public Investment Program as well as the agency's strategic plan; and lastly, the submission of indicative annual procurement plan as applicable. So, those are the bases, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mme. Speaker, in other words, the budget utilization rate is a vital factor in the allocation of resources.

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GARIN (J.). Let me proceed to my first slide, please. (*Slide presentation*)



Narito po ang budget ng Department of Health—tumaas, medyo bumaba, tumaas ulit at ngayon ay tila po bumababa.

Next slide, please. *(Slide presentation)*

Let me now proceed with the National Housing Authority allocation or budget from Calendar Year 2016 until 2020. Mabuti naman po ay medyo tumaas nga, but precisely, for us to see that there was a drastic reduction from 2016 up to 2019.

Next slide, please. *(Slide presentation)*

The Department of Education, tila prayoridad po natin ang edukasyon, subalit kung titingnan po natin ay tumaas, bumaba, at ngayon ay tila tumataas ng kaunti. I believe that increase, while it is an increase, still, is not sufficient.

Next slide, please. *(Slide presentation)*

Heto naman po ang Commission on Higher Education. Tumaas, nanatiling mataas, ngayon po ay tila bumababa po, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

Next slide, please. *(Slide presentation)*

Mabuti na lang po at sa Department of Social Welfare and Development ay patuloy na tumataas ang budget ng ahensiya na ito.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, may I get the wisdom of our honorable colleague here, the Honorable Ungab, whether considering budget utilization rate as a basis of allocating resources is just for the Filipino people. Makatarungan po ba na bawasan ang budget ng ahensiya kung tila hindi nila alam kung paano nila ito gamitin ng maayos at mapabayaang iyong mandato na kanilang pinaninindigan kagaya po ng CHED, DOH, and to some extent, the Department of Education.

REP. UNGAB. The disbursement or the absorption capacity is just one of the basis, Mme. Speaker, and, of course, it is always the implementation where the readiness of programs and projects is also being considered. Marami pong basis, but may point po ang honorable Lady na may umakyat, may tumaas at every year po ay nagkakaroon ng change din iyong budget framework at saka mga priorities; and yes, as she had said, iyong disbursement is one of the factors in determining the agency budget, Your Honor.

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

Can we possibly have the assurance of the DBM that we address it with the whole-of-government approach, so much so that programs that are due the Filipino people should not be sacrificed if the managers are not that effective insofar as bringing services to our people is concerned. Ang ibig ko pong sabihin, kung hindi po kaya gampanan ng Department of Health iyong mga pangangailangan sa tawag ng kalusugan, bakit hindi po natin ibigay ito sa DSWD,

sa Department of Education o sa DILG, o ibigay natin ng direkta sa ating mga gobernador at mga mayors na maganda naman po ang kanilang performance, not for the 2020 budget because it is already here, but moving forward to the proposed 2021 and 2022 budgets, for the incoming years.

REP. UNGAB. Of course, Mr. Speaker, the planning and development of the budget preparation is a continuing process. There might be possible variations in the future, possible modifications on the implementation. Considering also that there is a future development especially with the Mandanas ruling, there is a big possibility that some of the programs would be dispersed or would be implemented by other agencies. It is possible, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker, na magbabago po pagdating ng panahon.

REP. GARIN (J.). Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. I laud the leadership of the Department of Budget and Management for being open to innovations that will actually redound to the general public. For one, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, will you agree that we should punish the managers and not the people? Kung wala si Juan at si Maria, wala rin tayong silbi? We exist because they are there and we serve because the people are our masters. Walang dapat na puwang sa gobyerno ang mababagal at kulang sa direksiyon. Will the honorable Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, agree with me on that aspect?

REP. UNGAB. To a certain extent, yes, Mme. Speaker, because it is the head of the department or the head of the agency who is responsible for whenever his or her unit fails or succeeds in whatever it is doing. Kung papalpak, there is always command responsibility. Kung successful naman, then we give credit where credit is due, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Let me move to my next slide, please.

*(Slide presentation)*

Ito po ang San Joaquin Community Hospital. Ito po ay isang hospital sa aking distrito. May building, may mga pasyente, may volunteers pero kulang sa health workers.

Next slide, please. *(Slide presentation)*

This is of course a pet project of a very distinguished colleague of ours who is not only a leader in his constituency in Manila, but is a leader of a big religious sector. Ang National Center for Geriatric Health—ito po ay dahil sa sipag at tiyaga na ginawa ni Bishop Benny Abante, iyon pong aming pinakamamahal na Minority Leader. Ginawa niya po ito noong siya ay nasa Kongreso, and we were all younger during those

days. Unfortunately, the National Center for Geriatric Health does not seem to have plantilla positions up to this point in time, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. Kawawa naman po ang ating senior citizens that, despite the repeated representation of the honorable Bishop Bienvenido Abante, hanggang ngayon po si lola, si lolo at hindi lang po taga-Manila pero karamihan ng senior citizens na nandoon ay tila walang permanenteng health workers na nag-aasikaso sa kanila.

May I get the insight, Mme. Speaker, of the distinguished Sponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the first slide showing San Joaquin Hospital, this is actually an LGU hospital, according to our sources from the DBM. In the case of the National Center for Geriatric Health, at present, there is no effective order yet with regard to the operation of that hospital or of an enabling law which covers the operations of the hospital. I even remember—I think we were colleagues then, Your Honor, during the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Congresses—that there was a pending bill on that which passed the Lower House, but I do not know if it was passed in the Senate and became a law. In a nutshell, there is really no law which covers that. However, at present, the National Center for Geriatric Hospital is operating because it is an annex of the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital, Your Honor.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mme. Speaker, tama po ba ang aking pag-intindi na ang sinasabi ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor that the National Center for Geriatric Hospital measure passed the House but the same was not able to secure legislative approval at the Senate level, at dahil po walang enabling law o walang batas na sang-ayon dito, hindi po nagawan ng plantilla positions. Am I right in understanding the response of the honorable Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Yes, that is correct, Your Honor, because at present, since there is no law which is specific to that geriatric health center, Mme. Speaker, the plantilla personnel all came from the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital. If in the future we will pass that law, then by all means, the creation of those positions is possible.

REP. GARIN (J.). In other words, Mme. Speaker, no enabling law, no plantilla positions.

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GARIN (J.). Next slide, please.  
(Slide presentation)

Allow me to shift slightly to the history of the alleged PAO Forensic Laboratory. Mga kagalang-galang

na kasamahan in this Eighteenth Congress, in 2004, despite the non-approval of the creation of the PAO Forensic Lab, this was supposedly created by the head of that agency.

In January 27, 2010, the lab was inaugurated. Let me rephrase that—the illegal laboratory was inaugurated as a full-fledged office despite the non-inclusion of the forensic lab in the new Public Attorney's Office Law. In January 14, 2019, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, the Department of Budget and Management—I do not fault the new DBM Secretary who, sad to say, inherited this problem where the facts would point that on January 14, 2019, the DBM approved the creation of the Forensic Laboratory Division with eight positions, simply legitimizing the illegitimate.

Note, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, that nowhere in those positions that a plantilla position for a forensic expert exists. Will the honorable DBM family validate this information, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. UNGAB. With regard to the facts presented by the honorable Lady from the Minority, Mme. Speaker, we would want to give a categorical answer; however, prudence dictates that, considering that our DBM Secretary is newly appointed and this matter has something to do with the former DBM Secretary, may we request, if this is acceptable with the Honorable Garin (J.), the Lady who just raised the issue, to give us all the data, information and documents related to that because we would like to pass them on to the Office of the President, particularly to the Office of the Executive Secretary, to give us a legal opinion with regard to this. So, the faster she could provide us all the documents and the data, the better so that we will be able to forward the same to the Office of the Executive Secretary, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, I believe all the documents are lodged with the Department of Budget and Management. This is a one-page summary of the issue, and I believe that it is just but proper for the DBM to immediately put forward and submit a letter of inquiry to the Office of the Executive Secretary as to the legality of such creation. Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, the dilemma on this is that, if we allow this, we are technically downloading the powers of Congress to the Department of Budget and Management. As what we have practiced over several years and as what is dictated by law, the DBM Secretary or any official in that office, cannot create positions in an office that is nonexistent, more so, if that office does not have the mandate to do such.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, may I get your commitment that a letter of inquiry will be submitted to the Office of the Executive Secretary so

that, once and for all, this will be cleared, and we protect not only Congress, but the Department of Budget and Management, as well, in subsequent similar problems. In this case, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, I would opt to believe that the DBM was just misled, and it was not possibly the intention or they probably did not know that the existence of the PAO Forensic Laboratory was illegal and illegitimate in the first place.

May I get that commitment, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GARIN (J.). Next slide please.

*(Slide presentation)*

This is the PAO press release on the inauguration of the PAO Forensic Laboratory. Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, as the DBM records would show, this was initially installed in 2004, inaugurated on January 27, 2010, which not in their mandate and with no single plantilla position. When the 2019 order to create positions was made, that was meant to legitimize the illegitimate.

Next slide please. *(Slide presentation)*

This is the mandate of the PAO. It is in the books where the law says that the PAO shall be the principal law office of the government in extending free legal assistance to indigent persons in criminal, civil, labor, administrative and other quasi-judicial cases.

Next slide please. *(Slide presentation)*

It is very clear, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, that the PAO Forensic Lab is a duplication of the PNP Crime Lab and the NBI Forensic Lab. The only difference is that the PNP Crime Lab and the NBI Forensic Lab are both manned by qualified experts, while the PAO Forensic Lab is not.

Next slide please. *(Slide presentation)*

Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, would you agree if we say that if an office does not have such mandate, then the Special Provisions in the General Appropriations Act does not mean that you can create positions. Let me rephrase, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, my question. Kung sa batas ay wala kang mandato at sa ating GAA noong nakaraang taon ay nagsabing puwedeng maglagay ng mga posisyon sa bakanteng opisina, does this imply that an office without a mandate cannot create plantilla positions for that specific purpose, distinguished Sponsor? Technically, yes or no.

REP. UNGAB. Mme. Speaker, we take note and we would like to assure the Lady that the DBM will expedite the official communication to the Office of the Executive Secretary, asking for legal opinion as to the status of this PAO forensic office, Mme. Speaker. I would like to thank the honorable Deputy Minority

Leader for bringing up the issue in these deliberations, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. In closing, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, let me say that I was informed that the basis of the DBM in creating the PAO plantilla positions for the PAO Forensic Laboratory was that there was an existing office and existing equipment. First, if the source of this was the PAO, then that is tantamount to technical malversation. Second, kung opisina lang po ang gamit at gamit iyong ating pagbabatayan, hindi po ba mas dapat nating unahin ang geriatric hospital na nasa Malacañang at ginagamit ng maraming taga-Manila? Lastly, Mme. Speaker, will the DBM correct this mistake? Will they agree that the PAO Forensic Laboratory items, insofar as plantilla positions are concerned, its allocation for travel, the numerous MOOE, supplies and even rallies that it is organizing, be transferred to the National Bureau of Investigation, the real office which have that mandate.

REP. UNGAB. Again, Mme. Speaker, we assure the Lady that we will expedite sending a letter to get the legal opinion of the Office of the Secretary, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor. I respect you and I trust, upon the mandate of this honorable Body, that we will not allow again the DBM to usurp our authority, and that we will not allow illegal offices to be inserted in the General Appropriations Act of 2020.

With that, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, maraming salamat po.

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

REP. ALONTE. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Diego C. Ty of the First District of Misamis Occidental for his manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Hon. Diego Ty is now recognized. Please proceed.

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker, as a neophyte Congressman and a former local chief executive, since we are deliberating on the DBM budget, I would like to manifest my observations and concerns in my very first ever congressional budget deliberation.

Mme. Speaker, despite the increase in our total proposed gudget for 2020, lower budgets compared to 2019 and cuts on budget allocations are common complaints of the affected departments and attached agencies. Mme. Speaker, I thought that one of the main

purposes of our nation's budget is to reduce the high poverty incidence that our country is experiencing. In fact, this is one of the major thrusts of the Duterte administration, that is, to uplift the lives of the poor and marginalized Filipinos.

Unfortunately, Mme. Speaker, during the course of the budget deliberations, I found out that despite the administration's desire to reduce poverty, the budgets allocated for such programs are actually decreasing. Nagtataka lang po ako, Mme. Speaker, kung kailan dapat mas lalong umiigting ang ating suporta, bakit tila mas lumiliit pa lalo ang budget na inilalaan natin para dito.

Mme. Speaker, our TESDA Scholarship and Skills for Employment Program's its proposed budget was reduced by a total of P1.35 billion compared to last year, which is equivalent to depriving 90,000 skills trainees. Likewise, in the 2019 budget, the CHED was allocated P2.6 billion for its Tulong Dunong Program and there is nothing for 2020. In fact, the agency lost a total of P11.65 million in this budget. Ang amin pong USTSP or University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines ay wala pong Capital Outlays budget, which means na hindi po mapapalitan ang aming sira-sirang classrooms. Sa DOLE po, the DOLE's Cash for Work Program, TUPAD and GIP lost P2.2 billion compared to the 2019 budget, which is equivalent to 22,000 additional employment the whole year round.

The Health Facilities Enhancement Program of the DOH was decreased by P10 billion. Sa Distrito ko po, there is no budget for barangay health stations, no budget for rural health units and a meager P5 million for our provincial and district hospitals. While this Representation commends the increase of the budget for Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program by P19 billion, we decreased the budget for trainings, education and employment.

Matanong ko lang po, Mme. Speaker, are we now in the direction of just giving the people a fish and not teaching them how to fish? Mme. Speaker, I wish not to question the wisdom and intent of increasing the budgets of some departments, yet, we might have overlooked the urgent needs and priorities of other agencies and institutions whose mandate is to address the socioeconomic conditions of the intended beneficiaries.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Arenas relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Neptali M. Gonzales II.*

Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, as Representative of our people, dapat pong alamin natin kung bakit ito nangyayari at paano natin ito aayusin? Sama-sama po tayong nagtatrabaho at naghahangad ng mabuting buhay para sa lahat. Overcoming poverty is not just a gesture of charity, it is, above all, the protection of a fundamental human right—the right

to a dignified and decent life. I hope that through this Eighteenth Congress, the concerns of the poor and the marginalized are further highlighted.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, we need to help them. We are our people's hopes and aspirations. In Bisaya po, "Kung dili karon kanus-a pa man, kung dili kita, kinsa pa man."

Daghang salamat, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. *(Applause)*

REP. UNGAB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We take note of the manifestation but just a note from the Chairman that in the pie chart of the budget, economic services is P1.183 trillion, so, 28.9 percent, that is almost 30 percent; and the social services is P1.525 trillion or 37 percent. Just a short clarification on the 4Ps. This is, actually, a long-term investment on the education and health of the children, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. of the Third District of Camarines Sur.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Honorable Bordado is hereby recognized.

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Sponsor, I have been listening to the discussion on the budget utilization rate. The P4.1 trillion proposed national budget, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, is considered by an online national newspaper as the biggest budget in the history of the country. Is that correct, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Yes, it is the biggest, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Now, how can the DBM justify that we do need such a huge budget, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, the basis of the magnitude or the amount of the budget is, actually, the Philippine Development Plan—there is, actually, a Twenty-Year Development Plan of the country and out of that, there is also a Five-Year Development Plan—and in that Development Plan, the growth rates are targeted. With the targets in the growth rate, the amount of the budget that will finance the operations of the government is being fixed or worked out relative to that in order to reach the dream or the plan for the future of the country. So, iyon ang ginawa pong basis, iyon pong Development Plan. Sinisigurado din po ng ating pamahalaan na iyong ating budget na P4.1 trillion is adequately funded para po marating iyong

ating minimithi at itong ating pinaplano na progress and equitable development po para sa ating bansa, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, considering the President's plans for the country and the sector he wishes to focus on, how is the DBM able to discern which of his concerns should be prioritized and which projects and programs should receive larger cuts of the budget, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, these are the criteria in the formulation of the national budget. Here are the following considerations: the national budget shall be consistent with the socioeconomic development agenda and this is envisioned in the Philippine Development Plan from 2017 to 2022 and, of course, included here is the budget priorities framework. It must also reflect the government's new critical programs, human development infrastructure agenda and growth targets, the availability of fiscal space in factoring the revenue measure and the efficient targets. The proposed programs, activities and projects included in the budget must also be implementation-ready, to be delivered and executed within the year as supported by relevant and comprehensive documents such as an annual procurement plans, feasibility studies and detailed engineering designs as in the case of infrastructure programs and projects. Also taken into account are monitoring and evaluation plans and the risk management plans that indicate efforts to be done to ensure the efficient implementation or execution of programs, activities and projects. Likewise, the absorptive capacity of an agency is evaluated as it may provide an indication of the likelihood that the new allocation can be utilized by the agency. A high absorptive capacity may reflect that the agency will likely be able to utilize additional funds provided in the budget.

Iyon po ang basis, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, in other words, you are giving the President's plans the top priority.

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Well, the administration's plan is always for the betterment of the country; however, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, there might be situations wherein some of the President's plans would not be as feasible or could be urgently implemented as he intended. Now, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, how does the DBM reconcile the administration's plans for the country and the country's current situation, if that is the case?

REP. UNGAB. Again, Mr. Speaker, the budget is always linked to the Philippine Development Plan, Mr. Speaker. Iyon po ang ginagawa, kung ano iyong nakaplano, dahil may long-term development plan, may medium-term development plan. Then the agencies have their annual investment plan at doon po inilalagay iyong budget, pini-fit iyon doon sa plano po.

REP. BORDADO. Okay, thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. By the way, how has the shift from the obligation-based allocation to cash-based allocation affected the budget utilization of the departments?

REP. UNGAB. In the case of previous budgets before 2019, Mr. Speaker, those were obligation-based, meaning, the allocations were based on the requested obligation of a particular agency or department. We want to progress, we want to innovate, we want to efficiently utilize the amount or the budget, and that is why the cash-based budgeting was introduced beginning last year, 2019.

So, the appropriations, Mr. Speaker, it is an Executive Order, and the cash-based budgeting actually improves the efficiency, improves the utilization, considering that only those projects going to be implemented or are ready to be implemented for that particular year are being included in the budget, Mr. Speaker. This was the biggest difference and that system is presently practiced in several countries already, in almost all of our neighbouring countries here in Asia or Southeast Asia, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Department of Budget and Management.

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

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Rogelio "Ruel" D. Pacquiao from the Lone District of Sarangani.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Hon. Ruel Pacquiao is hereby recognized.

REP. PACQUIAO (R.). Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, magandang hapon po.

REP. UNGAB. Maayong gabii.

REP. PACQUIAO (R.). As a Representative, I have the responsibility of securing and delivering relevant and necessary infrastructure and social programs for my constituents. I therefore assume that most of my colleagues share a similar frustration with the frequent

delays in the releases of the Special Allotment Release Order or SARO. This has been a perennial complain of the regional offices of various departments like DPWH. Mr. Speaker, can the Department of Budget and Management explain its timetable in releasing SAROs and the root causes of these delays?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, actually, with the present budgeting reform, the budget that is reflected in the General Appropriations Act is already the GAARO—GAA as a Release Order, Mr. Speaker. Aside from that, in the General Provisions of, for example, in the 2019 budget, the GAA is already the Allotment Order. Section 3 of the General Provisions provide, “The GAA upon its effectivity, shall be considered the allotment authorizing agencies to obligate in accordance with its provisions, except for the following:” So, there are exceptions but as a general rule, those provided for in the General Provisions, the GAA is already the release document, Mr. Speaker, and to add, as of 31 August, 91.4 percent had already been released, Mr. Speaker.

REP. PACQUIAO (R.). I raised this concern, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, dahil batid po ng lahat na napakalaki po ng inutang ng ating gobyerno para sa “Build, Build, Build” Program ng ating mahal na Pangulo at hindi po libre ang loans na ito. They carry a substantial interest kaya naman dapat ay agad nating nagagamit ang mga pondong ito para sa ikabubuti ng mga mamamayan. Ito po ay hindi lang naman sentimyento ni Cong. Ruel Pacquiao kung hindi tayong lahat dahil sino ba ang ayaw ng proyekto sa ating distrito at kung madi-delay din naman, sino bang tatanungin? Tayong mga Representante.

So, for the enlightenment of everyone, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, what are the institutional reforms, if any, that are currently being implemented by the DBM to somehow speed up this tedious process?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, the budgets for this year and the previous years—in our case, the P4.1 trillion proposed budget—are being financed by both revenues from taxes and customs tariffs, and partly also by loans. This is important considering that the projects that are being implemented are the ones that are actually giving multiplier effects in the economy, like more than 19 percent of the Gross Domestic Product is actually the government budget. So, that is why if you will notice, last year, when the budget was delayed, we saw a slowdown of the economic development, particularly the GDP, and considering that pump-priming or the government expenditures are really very helpful in boosting the economy. So, there are measures also that were used to or implemented to address the problem of underspending: Earlier, I mentioned the GAA as

a Release Order, the early release of the allotments; then, there were the early procurement activities being conducted by the agencies. So, there were a lot of activities and procedures done in order to address underspending and also to improve the expenditure spending of the government so that ultimately, they helped boost the economy, Mr. Speaker.

REP. PACQUIAO (R.). Maraming salamat sa mga sagot ng ating Sponsor. Sana lang po ang mga ideya upang mapabilis pa ang proseso ng implementasyon ng mga proyekto ng gobyerno, ang epekto nito ay maramdaman na agad sa susunod na taon para na rin po sa kapakanan ng ating mamamayan na nakakaasa sa ating pamahalaan.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Salamat po.

REP. UNGAB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, before we proceed with the next interpellator, may I respectfully request that we acknowledge the presence of the guest of Rep. Weslie T. Gatchalian from the Junior Chamber International, Valenzuela City Chapter, with its President, Frederick “Erick” Dela Cruz.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. ALONTE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the next interpellator, Rep. France L. Castro of ACT TEACHERS Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Hon. France Castro is hereby recognized.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. Ilan lang pong paglililaw kaugnay ng mga policy sa paggagawa po ng budget taon-taon. So, puwede po bang maglinaw ang Kinatawang ito, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Yes, sure, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, unang-una po iyong may pinakamalapit na topic sa puso ng Kinatawang ito, iyong tungkol sa edukasyon at ito po ay may kinalaman doon sa pag-exercise ng veto power of the President. So, nagpasa po tayo sa Kongreso last year ng 2019 GAA, at may mga ilang probisyon po na may conditional veto ng ating Presidente. Sa esensiya, ang veto power na ito ay nagiging parang legislative power. So, tama po ba, G. Isponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Ang veto power po ay isang kapangyarihan. It is power that is enshrined in the Constitution and the President has the power na mag-veto po ng legislation na galing po dito sa atin.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, in legal theory, the veto power, parang pag-exercise po ng ating Presidente ng legislative power na poder mainly ng ating Kongreso o Legislative Branch bagama't sinasabi natin na ito rin ay nakapaloob doon sa Konstitusyon. So, exception lang dapat siya pero mayroon itong mga limits. Totoo po ba, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Actually po, Mr. Speaker, the veto power of the President is part of the legislative process. So, whatever Congress approves, legislates, passes, darating po sa Presidente. He signs if he is in agreement with the bill or the legislation and if he vetoes it, again, that is within his power as President, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). May nilalagay po sa Konstitusyon, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, that the veto power has limits, na dapat consistent sa laws at ang subject sa veto must only be revenue or appropriations provision. Tama po ba ang intindi ng Kinatawang ito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Iyon pong veto power ng Presidente is consistent with the laws in the Constitution po, Mr. Speaker, and he is exercising it.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. So, magbibigay po ako ng example, Mr. Speaker. Mahalagang-mahalaga po sa pagbibigay natin ng budget iyong usapin ng mga benepisyo ng mamamayan, iyong monetary or nonmonetary benefits. Layunin ng countercheck na ito na ang mga ipinasa natin dito na benepisyo ng mamamayan ay hindi maisasantabi. That the benefits we intend to give to the people will not be diminished or, worse, be defeated.

Kanina iyong ating mga colleague ay nagsabi na ng mga ilang, totoo naman, budget cuts. Nakatatlong taon na po ako dito sa Kongreso at nakita ko iyong proseso kung paanong iyong mga mahahalagang serbisyo sa ating mga mamamayan ay talagang nababalewala or naka-cut. So, pinakakongkretong halimbawa, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ay iyong medical examination for public school teachers amounting to P500 per teacher. Noong nakaraang taon ay ipinasa po natin ito pero ito po ay na conditional veto at mayroon po ditong pinaliwanag doon sa conditional veto ng Presidente na gumawa ng IRR para ito ay mapatupad. Doon sa pinagagawang IRR po, Mr. Speaker, hanggang ngayon wala pa ang IRR na ito na supposedly ay nagawa ng DOH o ng PhilHealth, so, hindi po ito napakinabangan ng ating mga teachers o iyong ating education sector. So,

paano po ito? Sinasabi natin po na ito po ay enshrined doon sa RA 4670 o iyong Magna Carta for Public School Teachers, so, paano natin ito masasabi na consistent sa law iyong pag-conditional veto dito sa special provision na ito noong 2019 budget po?

REP. UNGAB. Actually po, iyong tungkol po sa na-mention with regard to the medical examination for public school teachers, babasahin ko lang po, again, iyong sa conditional implementation:

I share the noble intention of the Congress to provide additional allowances and benefits to our public school teachers. It is understood, however, that the implementation of Department of Education (DepEd)-OSEC, Special Provision No. 10, "Medical Examination for Public School Teachers," Volume 1-A, page 193, shall be subject to RA No. 11223 (Universal Health Care Act) and its implementing rules and regulations.

Ang purpose lang po yata dito ay para walang ma-duplicate, no duplication. So, nandiyan na rin po, it is as simple as that and the Executive just wants to make sure na sa pag-implement ng medical benefits na ito ay hindi po madodoble under sa Universal Health Care Law.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Unfortunately po, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, iyong sinasabi nating RA 11223 ay hanggang ngayon wala pa po itong IRR. So, tinatanong na rin po natin ito sa PhilHealth at sa DOH dahil hanggang ngayon wala pa itong IRR. Gusto ko lang malaman iyong assumption ng interpretation ng batas kasi mayroon po tayong RA 11223 na kakapasa lang po natin nito noong Seventeenth Congress, pero mayroon na po tayong matagal na batas at ito iyong RA 4670 na matagal nang dapat ipinatutupad pero hindi po ito napopondohan. So, ito po iyong kinukuwestiyon ng Kinatawang ito, bakit nagkaroon ng ganitong interpretation sa benepisyo, interpretation ng paglalapat ng dalawang batas na conflicting? Naitanong ko na rin po ito sa Department of Education during my interpellation po sa kanilang budget pero ang sinasabi nga nila, nagkaroon na sila ng another explanation tungkol po dito sa difference nitong RA 11223 at RA 4670.

REP. UNGAB. Per our colleagues from the office of the DBM, it is being finalized. The IRR is being finalized and it may come out soon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, puwede pa bang malaman ng Kinatawang ito, Mr. Speaker, kung how soon is soon iyong sinasabi natin dahil September, October,

November, December, nakatengga po iyong P400 million na benepisyo para sa ating mga teachers. So, kailan po kaya iyong ASAP na ito kung soon, kung kailan po?

REP. UNGAB. Actually, it is within the purview of the DOH, Mr. Speaker, but we were informed that parang pina-finalize na daw po itong IRR.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Sana po, ano. Kailan po, itong buwan na ito? Alam ninyo po ang October—ngayon po, October 5, ay World Teachers' Day. Sana po ay makakuha na ang Representasyong ito ng malinaw na sagot kaugnay noong IRR kung kailan ba ito mapafinalize, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor.

REP. UNGAB. I requested the DBM, Mr. Speaker, to help follow up with the DOH with regard to the IRR of this law.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). I am sorry, Mr. Sponsor, kailan po?

REP. UNGAB. Ni-request natin iyong DBM na tumulong na po mag-follow up sa DOH para mapabilis po ang paglabas ng IRR, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Nagko-commit po ba iyong ating distinguished Sponsor para makatulong mapabilis ang IRR na ito, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Yes, nag-commit po iyong opisina ng DBM na ipa-follow up po nila sa DOH.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Salamat po. Alam ninyo po doon sa conditional veto po doon sa 2019 budget items, ang natamaan po dito ay iyong education sector. Isa pa, Mr. Speaker, ay iyong NBC 461. Isa rin po itong nconditional veto at muli IRR na naman mula sa DBM at CHED. Mayroon na pong IRR mula sa DBM and CHED, iyong Joint Circular No. 1, series of 2019 pero hanggang ngayon po ay hindi pa rin natatangap dahil gumawa ang CHED ng sarili niyang memorandum o sarili niyang mga criteria para ipatupad itong P1.49 billion for NBC 461, iyong para sa promotion.

So, ngayon po gusto ko lang malaman mula sa DBM dahil sinasabi naman din doon sa kanyang Joint Circular No. 1 na dapat ito ay retroactive. So, kino-confirm po ba ng ating Department of Budget and Management na iyong pagpapatupad ng NBC 461 ay retroactive kasi may ginagawa po ang CHED na hocus-pocus kaugnay nitong pagpapatupad nito, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Iyong tungkol po daw sa implementation ng NBC 461, mayroon na pong

guidelines na na-issue ang DBM at ang CHED, so, ang hinihintay na lang ay iyong documentary requirements na lang po.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Oo nga po, inaatay po, Mr. Speaker, iyong mga requirements pero ang ginagawa po ng CHED ay binabalik niya iyong re-evaluation nagawa noong 2013 to 2016, ng mga na-evaluate na mga personnel na dapat na entitled dito. So, kino-confirm po ba ng ating G. Isponsor na dapat ito ay retroactive base na rin doon sa kanilang Joint Circular?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, I was informed here that the SUCs have been processing it and after they process that, they will submit it to the CHED.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Ang tinatanong ko po, Mr. Speaker, ito po ba ay retroactive ayon doon sa napagkasunduang Joint Circular?

REP. UNGAB. Yes, based on the Special Provisions, it is retroactive to July 1, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay, so, ito po ay malinaw na retroactive. Ang ibig sabihin nito, iyong mga evaluation na nagmula pa sa SUC na papunta sa mga regional offices at papunta siyempre sa CHED ay ito iyong pagbabatayan noong benepisyo na ito. Tama po ba, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Isa pa po, ano, sa nconditional veto ay iyong Special Provision No. 11, "Transportation and Teaching Aid Allowance for ALS Mobile Teachers, District ALS coordinators (DALSCS) and Literacy Volunteers" and according to the veto, "shall be implemented subject" ulit sa mga "rules on the grant of special hardship allowance and cash allowance, and the proscription against double compensation." Mayroon na po bang IRR na may kaugnayan dito sa ALS mobile teachers' teaching aid allowance, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor?

REP. UNGAB. For this particular provision, Mr. Speaker, there is already an existing guideline for special hardship allowance. Ang ina-avoid lang po ay iyong baka magka-double compensation, so, iyon po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Ang ina-avoid, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ay ang sinasabi natin dito na double compensation?

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Mr. Speaker.



REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Paano ba natin sinasabing double compensation? Itong tinatawag nating mga teaching aid ng mga ALS mobile teachers na ito, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ito iyong mga teacher na pumupunta po doon sa mga liblib na lugar para magbigay ng alternative learning school o iyong alternative learning system na pamamaraan ng pagtuturo. So, paano po natin na-determine kung mayroon nga ba itong double compensation o wala?

REP. UNGAB. I was informed here, Mr. Speaker, that there is already an existing special hardship allowance kaya po tsine-check ito kasi possible na mangyari na magkaroon talaga ng double compensation. Iyong existing guidelines po, mayroon na po talaga iyong special hardship allowance at ito ay 25 percent of the basic salary po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Tama po, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor. Mayroon pong special hardship allowance pero ang nililina po dito sa benepisyong ito ay iyong transportation. So, si teacher po, halimbawa, na manggagaling sa city, pupunta siya sa isang liblib na lugar, ang ibig po bang sabihin, Mr. Speaker, manggagaling pa sa bulsa ng mga teacher iyong gagamitin niya para sa transportation papunta doon sa mga liblib na lugar na kung saan niri-risk na nga ng mga teacher iyong kanilang buhay para lang makapag-deliver ng edukasyon sa ating mga less fortunate na mga estudyante at mga mamamayan, pagkatapos, manggagaling pa ba ito sa bulsa ng ating mga kaguruan? Paano po magiging double compensation, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, iyong special hardship allowance and transportation allowance? Ito po iyong gastos para sa mobilization noong teacher po, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor.

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, I was informed here that the special hardship allowance already includes the transportation. That is why it is the highest, it is already 25 percent of the basic salary, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Iyon pa rin po iyong tinutukoy ninyo, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, iyong hardship allowance at nakalagay din iyan sa RA 4670, Special Hardship Allowances, pero ang tinutukoy po natin dito ay transportation allowance.

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, under the guidelines, kapag malalayo daw po talaga iyong distance—ito ay distance in kilometers of the hardship post from the nearest point of available regular motorized water and land transport, so, if the distance is 21 kilometers and above, ang rate po is 25 percent of the basic salary.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. So, 25 percent of

the basic salary pero sa totoo lang po, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, hindi po ito naipatutupad at hindi po ito nai-implement nang maayos. Puwede po ba, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, mailinaw din sa Kinatawag ito—pag-ibahin po natin iyong tinatawag nating hardship at saka iyong transportation allowance. Mr. Speaker, dahil baka puwede nang mabago natin kasi matagal na pong guidelines iyan. Baka puwedeng ma-review po ng DBM ang guidelines na ito, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. UNGAB. I was informed, Mr. Speaker, that iyong transportation allowance dito, I mean, iyong hardship allowance ay kasama na po at may budget daw po dito. It is a matter which pertains to the CHED at paparatingin po namin sa CHED, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Sa DepEd po iyan.

REP. UNGAB. Sa DepEd po. Sorry.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Ang hinihiling nga po ng Kinatawag ito, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, ay ma-review ang guidelines na ito dahil sa panahon ngayon, sa tingin namin ay obsolete na iyong guidelines at hindi talaga tinututukan iyong expenses ng mga teacher natin para sa transportation.

REP. UNGAB. Iyon pong guidelines daw are being reviewed right now by the DepEd and the DBM.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you po, Mr. Speaker. So, last manifestation, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

Kagaya po ng ating kasamang mga Kinatawan dito, napansin po namin iyong iba't ibang mga cuts, lalong-lalo na sa social services na ibinibigay natin sa ating mga mamamayan—iyong education, health, housing at iba pa pong social services. So, nagsa-submit po ang ating executive offices ng budget pero ang karaniwan po ay kina-cut nang napakalaki iyong budget nitong ating mga ahensiya na nagpapatupad ng social services.

So, sana po ay magkaroon ng talaga ng guidelines kasi itong sinasabi nating programs and projects' absorptive capacity, PDP, indicative annual plan, kung sa kapanglahatan ay hindi talaga ito magiging applicable lalong-lalo na po doon sa pag-deliver natin ng social services.

So, ito lang po, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, salamat po.

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

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate of the BAYAN MUNA Party-List for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Honorable Zarate is hereby recognized for his interpellation.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to the good Sponsor of the budget of the DBM, as well as the issue of Lump Sum Funds.

Mr. Sponsor, our budget next year is P4.1 trillion and out of that P4.1 trillion, the automatic appropriations is P1.2 trillion, and there is debt service for payment of principal amounting to P582-plus million, or a total of P1.8 trillion of our national budget or, in percentage, 44 percent of our national budget. Will the good Sponsor confirm that?

REP. UNGAB. You are correct, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. Kung pagsasamahin po natin iyong debt service interest and the payment of the principal amortization, it will also total to P1.031 trillion or 56.28 percent of the automatic appropriations. As a share in our national budget, the debt service for interest and payment of principal is 25.14 percent of our national budget. More than one-fourth of our national budget is actually, at hindi na ho natin pinagdedebatihan dito, ito ay pambayad sa ating utang sa principal at sa amortization. Will the good Sponsor confirm that?

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Mr. Speaker, tama po kayo. These are all automatic appropriations.

REP. ZARATE. Yes, at iyan po ay napakalaking bahagi ng ating pambansang budget na wala na hong kapangyarihan ang Kongreso dahil ayon sa batas, Book VI Section 26 of EO 292 or the 1987 Revised Administrative Code, which is a cut-and-paste copy, in toto, of Section 31(b) of PD 1177 or the Budget Reform Law of 1977, sinasabi doon na ang pambayad utang, pati na rin ang interest, ay dapat automatic na. Tama po ba iyon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Mr. Speaker, automatic at actually, hindi na po dumadaan sa Kongreso, yes.

REP. ZARATE. Yes, so, sumasang-ayon po ba na ang Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, doon sa pagtingin na dapat kahit na itong pagbabayad sa utang ay nasa kontrol at kapangyarihan din ng Kongreso, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Actually, the automatic appropriations is already provided for in previous laws, Mr. Speaker, and kahit po i-check natin, this is already provided for. For example, kung mayroon po tayong inutang, automatic po at pino-provide na po ng ating Department of Finance at ng DBM iyong pambayad po

diyan. I think that is what makes our economy and our finances strong because tayo po, sigurado po tayong nagbabayad ng utang, so, as long na kaya po natin na bayaran iyong utang, so, as long as iyon pong utang is a percentage...

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Gaya po ng nabanggit ko, for next year, more than one-fourth of our national budget ay pambayad sa utang, sa principal at interest. Ang mga pagkakautang na ito ay wala naman hong bahagi o walang partisipasyon ang Kongreso pero pagdating ho sa bayaran, ganoon pa rin, ang Executive na ang parang may kapangyarihan. Kung bibigyan po natin ng patotoo na ang power of the purse ay nasa Kongreso, dapat ho pati ang paglalaan ng pagbabayad ng utang ay ilalagay sa kamay ng Kongreso at hindi ng nasa Executive na. Sa ngayon po, utang ng utang ang Executive, at noon pa man at hanggang ngayon ay ganoon na ang ginagawa ng Ehekutibo dahil ang ating budget taon-taon ay kulang. Nagde-deficit spending po tayo. Ano po ang partisipasyon ng Kongreso diyan?

So, iyan po ang pinupunto ko rito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, na napapanahon na siguro na ang Kongresong ito ay i-review niya, tingnan niya uli itong Budget Reform Law of 1977 na kinopya na rin sa ating Revised Administrative Code of 1987. Kung matatandaan po natin, nalubog ho tayo sa utang noong panahon ni Marcos dahil sa pangungutang ng pangungutang niya at wala na ho sa kamay ng Kongreso ang kontrol doon sa pag-uutang at pagbabayad ng utang, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. UNGAB. Actually po, Mr. Speaker, the automatic appropriations is provided for in EO 292.

REP. ZARATE. Yes, EO 292 of the 1987 Administrative Code of 1987, Section 26. Ito po ay cut-and-paste, kinopya lang talaga sa PD 1177, iyong Budget Reform Law of 1977 which mandates automatic debt servicing. Iyon po ang nakikita nating kasamaan doon dahil ang nangungutang ay ang Executive, utang siya ng utang pagdating ho sa budget, parang ang titingnang dito ay ang P4.1-trillion budget at akala ng lahat ay Kongreso ang nag-a-allocate noon pero sa totoo lang, one-fourth ng budget na iyan ay wala hong kontrol ang Kongreso. Gaya po ng sinasalamang ng budget sa 2020, more than 25 percent of our budget for 2020, or P1.031 trillion ay automatic ho na pambayad sa utang, interest and principal, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

So, again, sumasang-ayon ba ang Sponsor na siguro ay panahon na i-review ng Kongreso ang batas na ito upang ibalik sa kamay ng Kongreso ang poder sa pangungutang at sa pagbabayad ng utang sa ating taunang budget, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, actually, a law created by Congress can be amended by Congress. So, in the future, if future Congresses or the existing Congress would want to amend, then iyon po, nasa kamay po ng Kongreso iyon.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. With that, I will end my interpellation. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

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

REP. FARINAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat of the MAGSASAKA Party-List for a short manifestation, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Honorable Cabatbat is recognized for his manifestation.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Instead of interpellating, I will just make a short manifestation.

I noticed that some of the agencies have been reporting continuing appropriations for 2018 and under the 2017 GAA, the validity of the appropriations is for two years. I am still perplexed as to why there are some agencies and departments that are reporting continuing appropriations for the year 2018 and some agencies are not. So, I will take this up personally with the Secretary and I hope I can be clarified. I also noticed that in the past NEP, there was no chapter reflecting the savings anymore, as compared to what was previously practiced. I also hope that the good Secretary will have a commitment to reflect that in the succeeding NEP.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, I also object to the reduction of the budget of the Department of Agriculture from the proposed P331 billion to a measly, around P73 billion. I believe that this is the time that we should increase the budget of the Department of Agriculture because the agricultural sector has been neglected for decades. Lalo na po ngayon na naipasa na iyong Rice Tariffication Law, bumaba na ngayon ang kita ng mga magsasaka kaya mas maraming hindi nagsasaka, mas maraming nako-convert na mga palayan, pero mas dumadami ang mga Pilipino at mas nagiging dependent tayo sa mga imported agricultural products. Imbes na tayo ang nag-e-export ng agricultural products, ang ini-export po natin ay iyong mismong mga Pinoy papuntang abroad. So, again, I reiterate my call to increase, if not restore, the original proposed budget of the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. UNGAB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. FARINAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago of the KABATAAN Party-List for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Honorable Elago is hereby recognized.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Magandang gabi sa DBM at sa ating distinguished Sponsor.

Unang-una, Mr. Speaker, nais nating maipahayag ang ating mariin na pagtutol sa malawakan na kaltas pondo sa ating State Universities and Colleges. Sa ating 114 SUCs sa ating bansa, 53 po diyan ang mayroong malaking kaltas sa kanilang operating budget; 90 naman ang may malaking kaltas din sa kanilang Personnel Services; mayroon tayong 49 na mga SUCs na may kaltas rin sa kanilang Capital Outlays; at siyam diyan, Mr. Speaker, ang may zero budget para sa mga bagong equipment, bagong building para sa taong 2020.

Ang Representasyon po na ito, kasama ang marami sa ating kasamahan dito sa Kongreso, ay nagpanukala ng resolusyon upang tawagan ang ating Committee on Appropriations, na pinamumunuan ng ating distinguished Sponsor, upang maibalik ang mga kaltas pondo na ito. Tayo ay magsisikap hindi lang para paunlarin at gawing mas demokratiko ang access sa higher education, kung hindi titingnan din natin at masusing pag-aaralan kung paano naman natin mapapagbuti ang kalidad ng ating mga higher education institutions.

Ngayon, Mr. Speaker, hayaan ninyo akong hingin naman ang paliwanag ng DBM pagdating sa pagkakatanggal ng P1 bilyon na pondo para sa PhilHealth coverage ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan officials. Mr. Speaker, noong humarap po dito ang Department of Health, nagtanong tayo sa kanila kung bakit ang nakamandato na pondo para sa kanilang PhilHealth coverage ay hindi natin makita sa General Appropriations Bill. Ang sabi po nila, dahil daw po ito ay hindi isinama ng DBM. Noong panahon din na iyon, nanghingi po tayo sa DBM ng isang nasusulat na paliwanag para po maibahagi natin ito sa ating mga Sangguniang Kabataan officials sa buong bansa, sa lahat ng mga nanalo sa eleksiyon, maging iyong mga appointed officers ng SK, kung bakit zero budget para sa kanilang PhilHealth coverage sa taong 2020.

Maaari ba nating marinig, Mr. Speaker, ang paliwanag ng DBM sa pamamagitan ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor.

REP. UNGAB. Iyon pong mga State Universities and Colleges na bumaba ang budget are, actually, in most of them, iyong natanggal po are congressional initiatives at saka iyong nonrecurring obligations. So, iyon po iyong explanation doon.

REP. ELAGO. Malinaw na malinaw, Mr. Speaker, doon sa napirmahan na implementing rules and regulations ng Section 16 ng Republic Act No. 10742, SK Reform Act, bilang pangsuporta sa bagong Sangguniang Kabataan, na tayo po ay magbibigay ng pondo sa pamamagitan ng taunan na General Appropriations Act para punan ang PhilHealth coverage ng mga SK officials. So, sa kalagayan po ngayon ng ating SK, higit isang taon din silang hindi nakakagamit ng kanilang pondo kahit mahigit isang taon na rin silang nahalal sa puwesto. Bukod po diyan, marami po doon sa mga nakatakdang pribilehiyo na dapat kanilang natatamasa ay hindi pa po nila natatamasa dahil nga din doon sa mga delay sa paglalabas ng mga gabay kung paano ito maipatutupad. Malaki po ang inaasahan natin mula sa DOH, katuwang ang DBM, dahil sa pagpasa rin ng kapulungan na ito ng Universal Healthcare Law, na mapapasama at matitiyak natin na mapopondohan para doon sa pangalawang taon ng pagsisilbi ng mga SK officials ang kanilang PhilHealth coverage.

Bakit ito napakahalaga, Mr. Speaker? Marami po sa ating mga Sangguniang Kabataan, sa paggampan sa kanilang trabaho, ay mayroon ding mga pangangailangan sa kanilang pagtulong sa war on illegal drugs, sa kanilang pagtulong na gawing secure at mapayapa ang ating mga pamayanan, ay nakakaranas din ng mga hindi maasahan na mga pangyayari na nakakaapekto sa kanilang kalusugan o kaya naman ay naaaksidente. Sila ang mga buong-buong nagsisilbi sa atin o katuwang ng ating mga barangay officials pero hindi po nila alam kung saan sila pupunta pagdating sa o kung kailangan po nila ng immediate medical attention. Kaya po ano ba ang gagawin natin ditong aksiyon? Kung maaari po, tayo ay mabigyan din ng suporta ng distinguished Sponsor kung paanong itong ating isinabatas na pangsuporta sa pangkalusugan ng ating SK officials ay magkaroon din ng pondo para sa taong 2020.

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the PhilHealth coverage of the Sangguniang Kabataan members, I was informed here that sa ngayon daw po ay hindi pa po kayang ipatupad ng PhilHealth considering that they do not have the mechanism yet to distinguish or determine kung sino po iyong dependent at saka iyong hindi, at tsaka iyong mga may trabaho na. So, iyon po ang feedback po galing daw sa PhilHealth.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, higit isang taon na po iyong nakalipas matapos mahalal itong ating mga SK. Bago po iyan, halos limang taon na hindi po

tayo nagkaroon ng Sangguniang Kabataan elections. Hanggang ngayon ba ay hindi pa rin natin naihahanda iyong mga gabay o iyong mga pamantayan para iyong mga isinabatas ng Kapulungan na ito ay maibibigay sa kung para saan at kung para kanino ang mga privilege na ito? Hindi po ito mga pribilehiyo na binibigay lang natin ng basta-basta lang, kung hindi ito po ay mga pribilehiyo na earned very well. Obligasyon po natin na tiyakin na iyong mga na-commit natin sa ating mga naghahangad na mag-ambag sa serbisyong panlipunan at mag-ambag bilang mga kabataan na lingkod bayan ay maibibigay natin.

Kaya, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, hinihikayat ko ang lahat ng ating mga kasamahan dito sa Kongreso na tiyakin natin na may pondo para sa PhilHealth coverage ang lahat ng ating mga katuwang na kabataang lingkod bayan, ang ating mga Sangguniang Kabataan officials sa buong bansa.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. UNGAB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Ferdinand R. Gaite for his manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Honorable Gaite is recognized for his manifestation.

REP. GAITE. Mr. Sponsor, dideretso ko na po iyong tanong, hindi na po ito manifestation at gusto ko lang po ng kaunting clarification sa DBM budget kaya didiretsuhin ko na po.

Napakaliit ng ilalaan na budget para sa dagdag sa sahod sa mga 2.4 million government workers; P31 billion lang po ang ilalaan. Para mabigyan ng konteksto, iyong fourth tranche ng Salary Standardization Law as of 2019 ay umabot ng P51.7 billion. Sa kabilang bahagi, iyong salary increase for military and uniformed personnel noong 2018 at 2019 ay umabot ng P70 billion. Ang ating mga kapatid na mga military and uniformed personnel ay nabigyan pa ng karagdagang pension para sa mga retiradong MUP nang naglaan ng P54.23 billion between June to December 2019. Ano po ang gagawin ng DBM para matugunan iyong matagal nang kahingian ng mga government workers na, at least, umabot sa nakabubuhay na antas ang sahod o kung hindi man, para naman kahit paano ay ma-ensure natin that the workers will have a decent wage?

Ano po ang gagawin ng DBM para matugunan iyong nakalagay sa ating Saligang Batas na dapat ang mga manggagawa ay tumatanggap ng living wage at hindi “libing” wage, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Iyon pong focus po ng susunod na SSL, ang SSL 5, at ang alam ko po ay isa-submit na ito sa Office of the President, ang target po talaga ay iyong mga rank-and-file employees po.

REP. GAITE. Narinig ko po na may ilalaan daw na karagdagang budget pero sa susunod pang mga taon, sa 2021 at baka daw sa 2022. Ito po ba ay supisyente at ano ho ba ito, nakataga ho ba ito sa bato o nakasulat sa tubig, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Mayroon din pong nakalaan para dito and, in fact, this year, 2019, nag-implement tayo ng SSL 4. So, para sa next year, mayroon din po, and it will be for the next three years, kaya magandang balita po ito sa mga kawani o empleyado ng ating gobyerno.

REP. GAITE. Mr. Speaker, sa aming pananaw, hindi pa talaga ito napakagandang balita sapagkat napakaliit nga po noong increase tulad noong nabanggit. Ang nakinabang ay ang mga matataas na opisyal habang ang maliliit na rank-and-file employees, kasama ang mga guro at iba pa ay kakarampot lamang ang natanggap.

Panghuli ko pong tanong ay patungkol naman sa ating mga halos 800,000 government workers na hindi pa rin regular. Malaking bahagi po dito ay iyong tinatawag na job orders at contracts of service na more than 600,000 at iyong mga contractuales, casuals, na may employee-employer relationship, mahigit o almost 100,000 at kung combined, sila ay more than 800,000.

Bilang uliran na employer, sana mayroong balak ang Department of Budget and Management na sa halip ipatupad itong CSC-COA-DBM Joint Circular No. 1, Series of 2018, na ipagpapatuloy lamang ang kontraktwalisasyon sa paggamit ng institutional contract of service o service contractor, mayroon ba talagang seryosong balak na i-reverse iyong sitwasyon na lumalaki ang bilang ng mga hindi regular na empleyado at sa halip, ay gawin na silang regular sa pinakamadaling panahon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, ongoing daw po iyong review ng present positions but I was informed here also by the DBM that ang dami daw pong bakante sa ating gobyerno po ngayon. For as long as qualified po iyong mag-apply, they can be accommodated po.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po. Iyon na nga po iyong mga katanungan namin sa mga ibang opisina at ahensiya kung saan napakaraming unfilled positions sa bawat mga ahensiya tulad ng Department of Education, DSWD, DPWH, et cetera, pero nagtataka kami kung bakit kulang na kulang ang employees sa mga government agencies. May bakanteng available pero hindi pinupunuan. Ano ho ba talaga ang dahilan

kung bakit nananatiling ganyan ang sitwasyon na sa halip na ma-enjoy nga ng mga empleyado ang regular employment, sila ay nananatiling vulnerable at nananatiling hindi regular, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Actually, per data from DBM, there are a total of more than 190,000 positions that are unfilled or considered vacant. For as long as may eligibility at qualified po, puwede po silang mag-apply po dito sa positions na ito.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po. Ang hinihingi po sana namin ay isang assurance na may kongkretong gagawin ang DBM na hindi na patagalin ang nagaganap na pagsasamantala sa ating kapwa mga manggagawa sa loob ng gobyerno. Sana po, bilang model employer, bilang uliran na employer, ay baliktarin na iyong trend na pagpapatuloy pa ng kontraktwalisasyon, kasama na rin ang mababang pasahod, sa mga kawani at manggagawa.

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

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

REP. FARIÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Minority Leader, Cong. Bienvenido M. Abante Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Minority Leader, the Honorable Abante, is hereby recognized.

REP. ABANTE. Salamat po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Nais ko lang pong magpasalamat sa aking Senior Deputy Minority Leader sa paglalahad po ng pangangailangan ng kauna-unahang ospital para po sa mga senior citizens, iyan po iyong National Center for Geriatric Health.

Ako po ay Congressman ng Fourteenth Congress at amin pong ipinagawa iyan upang magkaroon po ng isang specialty hospital ang mga senior citizens, subalit nasadlak po ito at kaawa-awa ang nangyari sapagkat hindi po napondohan at nilagay lang sa ilalim ng Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center. Noong isang linggo, akin pong binisita ang ospital. Hindi po gumagana ang emergency room, mayroon pong mga bagong dialysis machines subalit kinakailangan itong paganahin, at hindi po gumagana ang 50 na silid upang maging tunay na ospital ang geriatric center. Nakalagay po sa 2020 budget na binigyan po ng P54 million ng DBM ang geriatric hospital pero ito ay kulang na kulang po. Sana po ay madagdagan pa po ng mga P25 to P30 million upang ganap na ito po ay makapagsilbi sa ating mga senior citizens.

Ako rin po ay naglatag ng isang panukala na ang National Center for Geriatric Health ay gawin na nating independent corporate hospital upang magkaroon po tayo ng tunay na specialty hospital para po sa 8 milyong senior citizens dito sa ating bansa.

Iyon lamang po, Mr. Speaker. Maraming, maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat.

I would like to yield to Cong. Stella Luz A. Quimbo who will terminate the interpellation tonight. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Lady from Marikina is recognized.

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Speaker, wala na pong katanungan para sa DBM mula sa hanay ng Minorya at dahil dito, gusto na naming tapusin ang oras ng pagtatanong sa panukalang budget ng naturang Departamento.

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

REP. FARÍÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, we join the Minority in their motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Department of Budget and Management, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. QUIMBO. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Lady from Marikina is recognized.

REP. QUIMBO. We also wish to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the Lump-Sum Funds.

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

REP. FARÍÑAS, RIA. Mr. Speaker, we join the Minority and move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the Lump-Sum Funds.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. FARÍÑAS, RIA. I move to suspend the session, Mr. Speaker.

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

*It was 7:28 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 7:28 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move to terminate the period of sponsorship, interpellation and debate on House Bill No. 4228, as contained in Committee Report No. 8. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

*It was 7:29 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 7:32 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. 4228

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 4228 under Committee Report No. 8. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### ROLL CALL

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

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

The Secretary General is hereby directed to call the roll of Members.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 18, dated September 20, 2019.\**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 272 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). With 272 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4228

##### *Continuation*

##### *TURNO EN CONTRA*

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we continue the consideration of House Bill No. 4228 under Committee Report No. 8.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). 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.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the *turno en contra*, and for this purpose, I move that we recognize Deputy Minority Leader Carlos Isagani T. Zarate to take his turn to speak against the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw that motion and I move that we recognize Sr. Dep. Minority Floor Leader Janette L. Garin for her *turno en contra*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The honorable Sr. Dep. Minority Leader, Rep. Janette Garin, is hereby recognized for her *turno en contra*.

#### SPEECH *EN CONTRA* OF REP. GARIN (J.)

REP. GARIN (J.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mga kagalang-galang na kasamahan sa Kamara at sa ating mga minamahal na kababayan, nagpapasalamat po kami sa pagkakataong makapagsalita sa araw na ito. Nais ko pong bigyang diin ang ilang punto kaugnay ng proseso ng paghahanda sa ating pambansang budget.

Una po, ukol sa tungkulin nating mga mambabatas, ang Saligang Batas mismo ang nagtatakda alinsunod sa prinsipyo ng malayang demokrasya na dapat laging may tinatawag na checks and balances sa pagitan ng mga sangay ng gobyerno. Tayong mga Representante ng taumbayan ay inatasang pangalagaan at isulong ang interes ng ating mga kababayang naghalal sa atin sa posisyon.

Our purpose is to be the voice of our people, a principle I remind myself often. We should not only speak, but also we should see to it that every syllable we utter is representing our children's voices. Seldom is a person given the privilege to be called "honorable." We stand by what our people expect us to do that makes us honorable.

Sometimes, in our effort to fulfill our mandate, we may be viewed as obstructionists. That in our desire to be the balancing force, I am reminded of the joke that the opposite of "pro" is "con" and that being said, the opposite of progress is allegedly Congress. Hindi po ba iyan ang isa sa mga namamayaning pananaw lalo na sa panahon ng paghahanda ng budget? Tatapatin ko po kayo, Mr. Speaker, this is, so far, the fastest approval I had experienced in my whole political life and I say this as someone who had served both in the Legislative and the Executive branches. Mr. Speaker, may I emphasize that despite the speed, we have not sacrificed quality. Not all that is fast is perfect, but it can be fast and furious—as we all are furious and in haste in rendering the best quality of service that our people deserve. On this note, we, in the Minority, thank the Majority for bearing with us, understanding that what we are doing is for the Filipino people and not for any person's singular interest, more so, not for ourselves.

Sa totoo lang po, Mr. Speaker, fellow honorable Members of this Chamber, sometimes we think that it is difficult to institute progress via legislation because any change introduced is misconstrued by some as driven by interest. But we stand firm and persistent because while it is difficult to introduce change, every successful step towards changing for the better good is but a new chapter of hope that will be enshrined in our history and life as a nation.

Titimbangin po tayo batay sa kung ginawa natin ang nararapat at tama, bagaman nahaharap tayo sa mga pagsubok at politikal na pasakit.

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

To this, I state: We should not allow redundant offices and ineffective programs to continue. We should limit and further discourage knee-jerk political policies and instead, as a Chamber of the people, we must focus on outputs and impact that will redound to our people's growth. Iddiin ko lang po na ang batayan ng lahat ng ating pagsisikap ay hindi ang kulay ng partido, ang bigat ng apelyido, o maski ang dami ng boto sa Plenaryo, kung hindi ay kung ginawa natin ang ating mandato ng tapat at totoo.

Sa ganang ito, hayaan po ninyo kami na ipunto na the executive offices and the planners are bent on delivering what they think is best for our people, but who else can say what is best if not us who are at the front line, those of us in the grassroots and those of us who know the plight of the common Filipino?

Mr. Speaker, mga kagalang-galang na kasamahan, minsan po ang ibang mga opisina, palagi nilang sinasabi, ito ang tama at ito ang dapat pero naramdaman ba nila ang mga nararamdaman natin? Ang nararamdaman ninyo na araw-araw kaharap ninyo si Juan at si Maria at araw-araw ay naghihinaing sila sa inyo, lalo na kung ang programa ng gobyerno ay hindi epektibo.

Needless to say, we must stand up if the presumed good programs are actually nonapplicable and more so, if it is too good to be true. Further, we should not only adhere or listen to the reports of the economic managers on the growth and progress of the country, but also consequently focus on the actual transformation of the life of the ordinary Filipinos. Kumakain ba ang pamilyang Pilipino ng sapat at husto? May mga libro ba at bakuna ang mga bata? May mga gamot ba ang ating mga ospital? Ang mga sundalo at nasa unipormadong hanay ba ay may tamang kasangkapan sa kabila ng mga limitasyon? For it is through the budget that policies are laid down for genuine and inclusive development.

I thus ask—is the proposed budget enough to provide the means for hope, and assure the delivery of services that give form and substance to the change that the Filipino people aspire for?

Mr. Speaker, narito po ang aking mga tugon at tanong sa nakasalang na panukalang budget.

On the general direction of the Fiscal Year 2020 budget, ayon po sa ulat ng *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, ang programa ng DBCC na nominal budget deficit para sa 2020 ay P677.6 billion. Sampu ng Kamara at ating mga kababayan ang nais malaman—how do we intend to fund this deficit? Dagdag pa riyan, ang panukalang budget para sa 2020, “matik” kung sa mga millennials pa, ang ibig sabihin po ay automatic ang appropriation na P450.964 billion para sa pagbabayad ng utang. Hindi pa man po ipinapanganak iyong mga maliliit na Juan at Maria ay nakasaad na sa kanilang palad ang pagbabayad ng utang. Ang tanong ko lang po mga kababayan, mayroon pa kayang ibang paraan para tugunan ang

papalaking utang ng bansa at bayad-interes na malaki ang kinakain sa ating budget?

Sa usapin po ng kalusugan, na malapit sa aking puso bilang doktor at dating Secretary of Health, nais kong ipunto na tila yata may pagbabawas sa pondong kinakailangan ng matindi ng ating mga kababayan. Ito ay dahil daw sa mababang paggugol o mababang utilization sa pondong literal na dapat ay sumasagip ng buhay at naghahatid lunas sa maraming suliranin ng Pilipino. Mas mababang paggugol, mas mababang budget ay bawas na serbisyo sa pagkalingang pangkalusugan ng Pilipino. Paano ho ito naging makatao?

Ang budget ng HFEP ay binawasan dahil bulto daw ng mga proyekto ay hindi raw naipatupad ng husto. Kakambal nito ang patong-patong na issue na ngayon ay kinaharap ng ating mamamayan: expired na gamot na nakaimbak lang sa mga warehouses, dengue epidemic, ang pagbabalik ng mga sakit na dati ay wala na, mababang tiwala sa mga bakuna pati na sa ibang serbisyong pangkalusugan ng pamahalaan, at ang pagbalik ng polio sa bansa. Itong polio, noong taong 2000 ay wala na po sa Pilipinas pero dahil sa politika at pagpapabaya, masasabi nating narito na tayo sa punto kung saan ang sakit na dapat ay naagapan ay muling nararamdaman at tiyak na maghahatid ng pasakit sa ating mga minamahal na mamamayan.

Ngayon, ano po ang katayuan ng budget ng DOH sa panukalang batas? Madaliang sagot po—mukhang hindi prayoridad ng mga dapat na may malasakit ang kalusugan ng karaniwang Pilipino. In the 2020 NEP, the DOH budget decreased by P9.2 billion. Mr. Speaker, may I pay particular attention to the Universal Healthcare Act, and point out the following: The UHC Program is allocated P166.5 billion under the NEP. Some P67.4 billion is allocated for the National Health Insurance Program of the PhilHealth, while P92.2 billion is set for the DOH. Additionally, P7.0 billion is earmarked for HR Deployment Program under the MPBF.

In his privilege speech, Senator Lacson flagged that the PhilHealth incurred a net operating loss of P29.1 billion due to fraudulent benefit claims and other misdeeds by PhilHealth officials. Further, PhilHealth will be charging higher premiums under the Universal Health Care. I ask all: How can we make sure that the P67.4 billion will be used properly? What steps are being taken to safeguard this amount, and the higher premiums to be collected from direct contributors?

Mr. Speaker, needless to say, I am very concerned, as a doctor, as a former Health Secretary, and as a Member of this Chamber, about the current state of our health care system and the budget that should support it; and as such, we would do everything in our power to make sure our people are afforded a just and caring health sector nothing less.



On the proposed funding for the DepEd and the CHED, narito naman ang aking mga komento: Under the 2020 NEP, the proposed budget for the DepEd is P518.9 billion. While this is P17 billion higher than the 2019 budget, it is lower than the 2018 allocation. Meanwhile, the 2020 proposed the CHED budget includes allocations for the implementation of Free Tuition Fee Law amounting to P39.7 billion but the said amount is P12 billion lower than its 2019 GAA appropriation. Similarly, compared to its 2018 GAA level of P49.4 billion, the proposed 2020 CHED budget is about P10 billion lower. Tanong ko rin: Bakit ganito ang halagang nakapondo? Taken together, the total budget of the DepEd and the CHED for 2020 amounts to P558.5 billion and is higher than its 2019 total of P552.6 billion. However, although the 2020 allocation for the DepEd (basic and secondary education) increased by 4 percent from its 2019 level, the allocation for CHED decreased by a whopping 23 percent.

Ako po ay napapaisip—ginawa bang ganito ang panukalang budget dahil masasabi nating nakamit na natin ang ideal situation sa pampublikong edukasyon sa bansa? Kung opo, ako ay mananahimik na pero kung kabaligtaran, hindi ba dapat nating higit pang tutukan ang pagkukulang at itulak ang suporta upang mas maraming kabataang Pilipino ang magkaroon ng pagkakataon na matupad ang kanilang mga pangarap?

Dadako ako sa National Housing Authority, ang pangunahing ahensiyang nakatutok sa ating pabahay. May I stress, Mr. Speaker, since 2018, the NHA budget has suffered drastic cuts in its budgetary subsidies from the national government. In 2018 in particular, the NHA budget was reduced by 74 percent, from P12.7 billion in 2017 to P3.2 billion that year. It further went down by 77 percent to P765 million in 2019. In 2020, the subsidies to NHA were restored to a level that is comparable to its 2018 allocation.

I ask our budget planners and housing officials: Why make such a counter-logical decision, when we all know fully well so many Filipinos are left homeless; when victims of major calamities continue to clamor for proper housing; and when there are those who covet housing units from the rightful and deserving? Mahirap po ang nakikitira ka lang, lalo na kung may mga anak ka na pinapalaki.

For Agriculture. The worsening condition of our farmers became even noted further as a national concern. According to reports, palay is bought from the farmers at a very low price of P7 per kilo, as opposed to the high cost of rice in the market which is P55 per kilo. I can even recall reading that feeds for hogs are priced more now than our own palay. Mas mahal pa ang pagkain ng baboy kaysa palay na galing sa Filipino farmers? There had been a call already for increase in the budget allocation for the DA. What seems to be the problem? Was it insufficient budget allocation for the

Department, or was it poor delivery of the program? I ask this with all earnestness and concern.

On a positive note, Mr. Speaker, I believe I speak for all when we say that we welcome the appointment of a real “agri” expert in the personality of Secretary Dar, whose experience and insights in the sector may be the needed elements for this industry to truly grow and for our farmers to be prioritized anew.

On the Department of Justice, an agency that I find myself so familiar with given the recent political and personal circumstances, I and former colleagues suffered, as engineered by a few connected with the agency. Mr. Speaker, I note that the DOJ’s 2020 proposed expenditure program is at P21.75 billion. Now, seven out of 10 DOJ units and agencies, including the Public Attorney’s Office, have higher expenditure programs compared to 2019. We welcome better and larger funding for justice initiatives that are truly just and just true.

I point out, Mr. Speaker, the PAO’s proposed 2020 share is more than P4.2 billion compared to more than P2.9 billion in 2018 and more than P4.1 billion in 2019. There was sudden increase in the PAO budgetary allocation from 2018 of almost 45 percent and one of the reasons given was the establishment and operations of the PAO’s Forensic Lab that is bereft of legal basis and is of questionable nature. We are spending funds for a division that has no legal existence and which has been used quite clearly for political purposes.

While our farmers suffer from insufficient subsidy and support, and our students are in need of additional teachers and school facilities, and our soldiers have to battle at great risk, meanwhile, we spend sums of public funds for an illegal and inefficient division that is performing tasks being undertaken by another attached agency of the DOJ that was rightfully created by law.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, ilang personalidad pa kaya ang gagawan ng pakulo at kung ano-ano pang paratang para lang makapagpa-pogi or more appropriately, makapag-paganda ang nasa PAO? Ilan pang kawawang bata at pamilya ang dapat maipit at ibalandra bilang kasangkapan ng propaganda, all under the cover of so-called “justice”? Ilang Pilipino pa ang tuluyang magdurusa dahil nawalan na sila ng tiwala sa mga programa at inisyatiba ng pamahalaan para sa kalusugan? Ilang kaso ng kapulisan at NBI ang guguluhin pa ng pekeng eksperto na ito? Clearly, there is nothing just about milking the suffering and state of health of the Filipino family, all for political gain.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, for the Department of Social Welfare and Development, may I state that not all are in dire situation. We laud this agency, of which I had the fortune of working so closely during my time as a member of the Cabinet. The 2020 proposed budget of the DSWD amounts to P158.3 billion, 12 percent higher

than 2018 and 2019 levels of P141 billion. I feel that our social workers truly deserve the funding, for them to carry out the task that is so difficult yet so essential, to truly give the poorest of the poor the help they need from the State. Nagpapasalamat po kaming lahat sa ganitong may malasakit na panukala at pagtutok para sa DSWD.

Mr. Speaker, hayaan po ninyo akong magtapos sa dalawang punto:

Una, bilang bahagi ng Minority, simple po ang aking adhikain, ang maging kaagapay ng lahat sa pagtulak ng makabuluhang mga programa na may tunay at tiyak na positibong resulta, kung saan magbebenipisyo ang Pilipino. Wala po akong kagustuhang maging “mema” o me-masabi lang. Sa totoo lang, kung puwede lang nating ihatid mismo sa bawat Pilipino ang pakinabang nang agad-agad, bakit hindi? Klaro namang hindi puwedeng paspasan at basta-basta na lang aprubahan ang mga panukalang may maliwanag na balot ng duda, gaya sa kaso ng isang ahensiyang aking tinukoy kanina. Diin ko rin po na tungkulin nating maging check and balance sa Executive at Judiciary. Ang Saligang Batas mismo ang nagtatakda nito.

Pangalawa at huling punto, ako po ay Bisdak, Bisayang Dako from Leyte and Iloilo. Ako po ay isang nanay. Ang turing ko sa aking mga kababayan, sa aking mga minamahal at mga palangga, para po sa mga anak nila at kapamilya, gusto ko silang harapin at sabihing ginawa natin ang ating tungkulin na pangalagaan ang kanilang interes, na talagang sinuri natin ang mga panukala alang-alang sa kanila, dala ang kanilang matinding hangarin na makitang umuunlad ang aming minamahal na probinsiya at ang ating minamahal na bansa. Hindi ko po maatim bilang isang nanay na magsinungaling sa kanila at sabihing ayos ang lahat, dahil alam nating maraming dapat tugunan at ayusin sa bansa at kailangang ilagay ang pondo sa mga tamang sektor na talagang magdadala ng pakinabang sa karaniwang Pilipino.

Mr. Speaker, sa punto pong ito, kung may iba pang pahayag ukol sa aking *turno en contra*, handa po akong tumugon. Kung wala naman po, nais kong magtapos na sinasabing handa tayong tumulong at makiisa sa agenda ng pagbabago, pero pagbabago na makatarungan at makatao, pagbabago na ang makikinabang ay tao at hindi ang mga nakaupo sa gobyerno, pagbabago na para talaga sa Pilipino.

Maraming salamat po. (*Applause*)

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

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Dep. Minority Leader Carlos Isagani T. Zarate to take his turn against the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Honorable Zarate is recognized for his *turno en contra*.

#### SPEECH *EN CONTRA* OF REP. ZARATE

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po, G. Ispiker. Sa ating mga kasamahan, magandang gabi po sa ating lahat.

Salamat sa pagkakataong makapagpahayag ng paninindigan ng Minorya at ng Makabayan Bloc ukol sa pambansang budget sa taong 2020. Sa maikli po, kami ay tumututol sa budget na para sa pagpatay, sa pagsikil sa karapatan ng mamamayan, at ang budget na batbat ng pondong tinatawag na pork barrel.

Noon pa man at maging ngayon, ang pambansang budget ay sumasalamang kung ano ang mga prayoridad ng pamahalaan. Mas malaki ang budget sa mga programang prayoridad nito, habang binabawasan ang budget sa mga ahensiya at programang hindi nito binibigyan ng importansya. Kung magkagayon, G. Ispiker, malalaman natin kung saan ang direksiyon o saang direksiyon dadalhin ng kasalukuyang administrasyon ang ating bansa. Kung ano ang may langis, ito ang pinakamabilis na gumugulong.

Ang tema ng pambansang Budget ay peace and progress ayon sa mensahe ng ating Pangulo ngunit sa aming nakita sa ating mga debate sa Plenaryo at sa Komite, taliwas ang ganitong tunguhin sa aming nakikita at pag-aaral sa pambansang budget ng 2020. Sinusuhi ang panukalang budget 2020 ang madugong track record ng kasalukuyang administrasyon sa pamamaslang. Ito ay ang pag-igting sa giyera laban sa droga, sa giyera kontra insurhensiya, sa paglabag sa karapatang pantao at sa pagsugpo umano sa kriminalidad. Sa katunayan, umakyat ng halos 40 porsiyento ang budget para sa Departamento ng Depensa sa susunod na taon.

Ang PNP naman ay binigyan ng P184.9 billion at ang DND naman ay binigyan ng P189 billion or 4.6 percent ng ating kabuuang budget. Nagbigay din ng pondong P3 bilion para magdagdag ng 10,000 pulis, mayroon pang P14.2 billion para naman punuan ang 26,685 posisyon ng PNP, at mayroon ding P100 million para sa konstruksiyon ng 16 police stations. Ang tokhang na pumapatay sa libo-libong mga tao ay binigyan muli ng P546 million sa implementation ng Philippine Anti-Illegal Drug Strategy at may P1.4 billion para sa tokhang na nakapasok sa iba’t ibang ahensiya tulad ng DILG, Dangerous Drugs Board at iba pa. Samantala, G. Ispiker, mayroon ding P25 billion pa para sa AFP Modernization Fund—modernong kagamitan daw pero hinahayaan naman natin ang Tsina at ang Amerika na labagin ang ating territorial integrity at pinapatay ang ating mga kapwa Pilipino.

Mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, hindi biro ang napakalaking pagtaas ng budget sa mga makinarya ng ating pamahalaan sa pagsupil sa karapatan ng

mamamayan, partikular na ang kapulisan at ang militar. Ang mga ahensiyang ito ay duguan ang mga kamay sa ilang libong nauugnay sa mga pamamaslang, pandurukot, iligal na pag-aresto, pandarahas at pananakot sa ating mga magsasaka, sa ating mga Lumad at maging sa mga mahihirap na mga drug users. All-out war budget po ito laban sa ating mamamayan.

Nariyan din ang napakalaking perang inilagay sa Confidential and Intelligence Funds na tinatayang umaabot sa P4.5 billion sa susunod na taon. Doble ito ng kaparehong pondo noong mga nakaraang tatlong taon. Napakalaking pondo po nito, G. Ispiker, na gagamitin lamang sa paniniktik sa mamamayan. Ang surveillance o police state ang nais isagawa ng kasalukuyang administrasyon sa pagbuhos ng pondo sa paniniktik. Malala pa rito, G. Ispiker, mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, ay bulag ang ating mamamayan kung paano ginagasta ang bilyon-bilyong pera dahil ito ay exempted sa regular auditing at reporting ng COA.

Sa kabilang banda, G. Ispiker, habang buhos ang pondo sa “kill, kill, kill” budget ay “cut, cut, cut” naman ang budget na ito para sa ating social services. Tuloy-tuloy ang pagbaba ng budget para sa kalusugan mula pa noong 2016 at noong 2017, bumaba ng 20 percent ang budget ng DOH. Mula noon, pababa nang pababa ito ng 7 percent hanggang sa taong 2019 at maging sa susunod na taon.

Gayundin ang pagdausdos sa budget ng ating edukasyon. Sinabi pa nga ni Pangulong Duterte nitong nakaraan na wala siyang pakialam kung magsara, halimbawa, ang Polytechnic University of the Philippines, ang isa sa mga natitirang unibersidad na nagbibigay ng edukasyon sa libo-libong mahihirap na mag-aaral ng napakababa o walang tuition. Sinabi pa niyang pagbabarilin din ng mga pulis ang mga estudyante kung patuloy ito sa kanilang mga ginagawang pagbatikos sa ating pamahalaan. Sa totoo lang, G. Ispiker, hindi na rin bago ang mga ganitong pahayag ng Pangulo dahil noong nakaraan, sinabi rin niya na bobombahin ang mga eskuwelahan ng mga Lumad. Sa DepEd, sa harap ng labis na kakulangan ng mga guro, classroom at pasilidad, kinakaltasan pa rin ng ating pamahalaan ang pondong hinihingi para rito. Sa hinihiling na budget para sa imprastruktura na P171 bilyon, P31 bilyon lamang ang inaprubahan ng DBM. Bunga ng cutbacks mula sa 2018, 11 lamang sa 47,000 school buildings ang nakumpleto ng DepEd sa taong 2018.

Taliwas din sa pangako ng pamahalaang Duterte na decentralization ng pondo patungo sa mga rehiyon at probinsiya pero sa ating nakikita sa kasalukuyan, lalong nakoko-concentrate sa national offices at sa National Capital Region ang pinakamalaking porsiyento ng pondo ntiong mga nakaraang tatlong taon. Nakita rin natin kung paano lumobo ang pondo sa ilalim ng Office of the President. Halimbawa, sa President's

Contingency Fund, mula P2.5 billion noong 2016, sa kasalukuyan ay aabot sa P13 billion ang pondong ito. Ito ay 420 percent na paglaki mula sa nakaraang mga panahon. Ito ay napakalaking pondo para sa isang item na hindi malinaw sa mamamayan kung para saan ba talaga ito.

G. Ispiker, mga kasamahan ko sa Kongresong ito, hindi magiging kumpleto ang aming pagsuri sa pambansang budget ng 2020 kung hindi namin maringing punahin ang pamamaraan kung paano natin ito pinapasa sa ngayon. Pagkabigay pa lamang ng budget books, tuloy-tuloy na ang pagdinig nito. Hindi nga tayo binigyan ng tama o sapat na oras para mapag-aralan ang mga makakapal na mga librong ito.

G. Ispiker, tungkulin nating mga Mambabatas, bilang mga Kinatawan ng ating mamamayan, na busisiin kung saan at paano gugugulin ang pondo ng ating bayan ngunit ang nangyayari sa ngayon, pinatulin, pinaikli at minamadaling proseso ang pag-apruba sa budget na sa tingin namin ay niyuyurakan ang prosesong demokratiko. Walang tunay na transparency ang mangyayari kung ganito ang ating gawi sa pagsipat ng napakahalagang batas na ito na ating ipinapasa.

Hindi rin magiging kumpleto, G. Ispiker, ang aming pagsusuri sa budget kung hindi namin inirerehistro at sasabihing nakapalaki ng tinaguriang congressional allocation o sa aming pagtingin, ay pork barrel at lump sums sa loob ng ating ipapasang budget. Alam natin, G. Ispiker, mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, ayaw ng mamamayang Pilipino ang sistemang pork barrel or patronage system. Patunay dito ang pagbuhos ng protesta ng mga mamamayan noong 2013 nang nilabanan nila ang Disbursement Acceleration Program at ang pork barrel na PDAF, ngunit sa kasalukuyan, buhay na buhay pa rin ang ganitong kalakaran. Kailangang tuluyan na nating wakasan, G. Ispiker, ang konsepto ng patronage system bilang ating commitment sa taumbayan sa malinis na pamamahalang walang korapsyon. Ang kailangan ng ating mga mamamayan, G. Ispiker, mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, ay pambansang budget na nakabatay sa pangangailangan nila at para sa lahatang panig ng pag-unlad ng ating bansa. Hindi na nga tinutugunan ng panukalang budget 2020 ang pangangailangan ng mamamayan sa edukasyon, kalusugan at pabahay pero pinapalaki pa nito ang pondo ng paniniktik, ang pondo sa giyera, ang pondo sa paglabag ng karapatang pantao tulad ng pamamaslang ng mga kritiko at mamamayang lumalaban at habang dinadahas ang mga mamamayan, binubusog ang mga dayuhan, mga lokal na politiko at mga korap na mga opisyal sa maluhong imprastruktura at patronage system.

Bilang panghuli, G. Ispiker, mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, ang nais nating puntahan ng pera na limitadong resource ng ating bayan, ang pera ng mamamayan ay dapat mapupunta sa mamamayan sa kanilang kapakanan at sa pag-unlad ng ating bansa.

Hindi ito ang tinutungo ng House Bill No. 4228 kaya't hindi natin dapat ipasa ang budget na ito.

Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker. Magandang gabi po sa ating lahat.

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

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Minority Leader Bienvenido M. Abante Jr. to take his turn to speak against the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The distinguished Minority Leader, the Honorable Abante, is hereby recognized for his *turno en contra*.

#### SPEECH *EN CONTRA* OF REP. ABANTE

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker and the leadership of the House; Appropriations Committee Chairman and House Bill No. 4228 Sponsor, Cong. Isidro Ungab; my esteemed colleagues in the House at mga kababayan, magandang gabi po sa inyong lahat.

For the past two weeks, our collective attention has, for the most part, been monopolized by one of the primary tasks of this august House, the deliberations on the 2020 national budget. As the wielders of the so-called “power of the purse,” ours is the awesome responsibility of determining how P4.1 trillion worth of public funds will be used for the benefit of 104 million Filipinos. These are resources that, Mr. Speaker, if properly allocated and distributed, can help our youth become productive citizens, open the doors of economic opportunity and lay the foundation for growth and progress for years to come. Simply put, the national budget has the power to change lives and placed in perspective, Mr. Speaker, if we in Congress do our jobs right, we have the power to improve the lives of all our countrymen.

From the beginning of the budget process, the Minority has committed to do its part to ensure the timely passage of the national budget without abrogating our role to thoroughly examine the provisions of the General Appropriations Bill, for when it comes to the budget, we believe that haste can and will lead to waste—wasted resources that can be used where they are urgently required. In this regard, please allow me to commend my vigilant colleagues in the Minority for performing their role as fiscalizers and assiduously poring over the proposed budgets of the numerous line departments and offices, conscious of the need to balance urgency with the need for proper scrutiny. I would also like to thank our tireless and patient budget sponsors, as well as our counterparts in the Majority, for respecting our mandate and allowing us to probe and inquire about the funding requirements of the bureaucracy. Mr. Speaker,

the leadership of the House also deserves credit for providing an environment that encourages comity, courtesy and mutual respect among the Members of this Body. It should likewise be credited for ensuring that the GAB conforms to the *Belgica vs. Ochoa case* by: (1) requiring the Members of Congress to submit their proposed projects to the Executive Department before the National Expenditure Program was submitted to us for deliberations; (2) ensuring that these projects are properly evaluated and vetted by the concerned agencies; and (3) disallowing insertions or the illegal parking of government funds.

As the budget deliberations come to a close, Mr. Speaker, we must acknowledge that it is almost impossible to come up with a perfect budget as there will be positives and negatives, but the Minority will continue to hammer away at the GAB's provisions until the GAB goes to the bicam and we have a 2020 national budget that will truly be responsive to the needs of our people. Simple lang po ang batayan namin sa budget ng ahensiya o sa mga programa nito, Mr. Speaker: Kailangan ba ito ng taumbayan? Kaya ba itong pondohan? Kaya ba itong gamitin o ma-utilize ng maayos?

In the course of the plenary debates, it became clear that some agencies and programs are more deserving than others. The establishment of a Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development and the allocation of P6.297 billion for the housing requirements of our people, Mr. Speaker, are steps in the right direction if we want to address the housing shortage in our country which could hit 6.8 million houses by 2022 if we fail to act. We tip our hats off to the Department of Finance, on the other hand, for lowering its budget request for the third straight year. Its P17.29 billion 2020 budget is 8.47 percent lower than its budget for this year, and we laud the DOF for showing that it is willing to practice what it preaches with regard to fiscal responsibility.

Such move is necessary if we want to make sure that urgent programs like the Build, Build, Build initiatives under the Department of Public Works and Highways are properly funded. With P534.3 billion, we expect the DPWH to properly utilize its funds so it can usher in what is constantly referred to as the “Golden Age of Infrastructure.” With greater funds though, Mr. Speaker, comes greater responsibility. We in the Minority will be keeping a close eye on the agency's absorptive capacity and its ability to implement the numerous projects under its aegis. The enormous demands of our government's infrastructure program, Mr. Speaker, only highlight the need to cut unnecessary spending.

This can be done by doing away with redundant and unnecessary agencies like the Governance Commission for GOCCs or GCG which is an extra layer in the bureaucracy that we do not need. In the same vein, we should also seriously consider scrapping the Philippine

Competition Commission. These are agencies that have responsibilities that can be taken over by existing agencies that have a track record of maximizing both their personnel and financial resources.

We also need to explore the possibility of abolishing agencies like the National Irrigation Administration and turning over irrigation projects to the DPWH as the former has shown that it is incapable of fulfilling its mandate. Ang Commission on Audit po na mismo ang nagsabi, Mr. Speaker, 299 irrigation contracts worth P20.7 billion have been delayed for up to 2,287 calendar days due to the poor performance of contractors and other factors but despite this, the NIA continues to award projects to blacklisted companies that cannot deliver within the timelines specified in their contracts. This is a clear, incontrovertible evidence, Mr. Speaker, of the dismal performance of the NIA and its obvious negligence. The failure of the NIA to perform its mandate is an example of the grievous injury inflicted on government efforts to ensure our nation's food security. It is also another case study of what happens when Congress passes a good law and allocates funds for it, only to learn later that the program implementors are incapable of attaining the law's objectives.

Mr. Speaker, Republic Act No. 10969 was supposed to provide our farmers with free irrigation, and had we been able to adequately irrigate 1.2 million hectares of irrigable rice fields, then it would have been possible to limit or even eliminate our dependence on rice imports. In a country where rice farmers are now suffering because they lack the means to be competitive because of inadequate infrastructure like irrigation, this waste of funds is unconscionable. Kung hindi kaya ng NIA na gawin ang trabaho nila, ibigay na lang nila ang trabaho at pondo sa iba.

Mr. Speaker, the fate of our Free Irrigation Program could be shared with another key reform introduced by this administration, the Universal Health Care Program. A total of P166.5 billion had been earmarked for this program which is critical in a country whose people spent P712.3 billion on health care in 2017—an expense that rises every year. The implementors have already admitted that they lack the infrastructure to roll the program out properly. Nakakabahala din po, Mr. Speaker, na hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa mabuo ang implementing rules and regulations ng programang ito. Una, ang sabi nila ay lalabas ito ng Hulyo, then the DOH said the IRR would be ready by this month. Now, the latest press release says the UHC IRR will be out by October. We recognize the need to take great care in crafting the IRR of such a landmark law; however, we find it disconcerting when deadline after deadline passes without results. This is alarming, Mr. Speaker, as so much is riding on the proper and timely implementation of the Universal Health Care Program as lives are literally hanging in the balance.

Mr. Speaker, the examples I had mentioned stress the importance of being more circumspect with regard to where we should allocate the people's funds. While some departments cannot properly spend their funds, we have agencies like the MMDA and the DICT that would benefit immensely from greater funding. For example, it is unreasonable to expect the MMDA to perform its mandate properly, Mr. Speaker, when it cannot even pay its 3,000 traffic enforcers the minimum wage or offer them job security. At the least, Mr. Speaker, let us give them a proper wage while we exert efforts to regularize them. Hindi na makatarungan na 10 taon ka na nagtatrabaho sa gobyerno pero job order ka pa rin at wala ka pang item, kaya nga po ang JO, hindi job order ang tawag at “joke only” ang tawag, Mr. Speaker.

As for the DICT, Mr. Speaker, I do not know how we expect to compete in the digital age if we do not invest in digital infrastructure. This is why I earlier manifested that the budget for DICT operations be increased from the proposed P3.76 billion to P36.93 billion because the ROI on such a move, Mr. Speaker, will be more than make up for this huge investment. Studies have shown that a 10 percent increase in broadband penetration can lead to a 1.38 percent in our Gross Domestic Product; and assuming the country's GDP at least matches its GDP in 2018 which was at P17.26 trillion, a 10 percent increase in broadband penetration could translate to a P238 billion jump in our GDP.

Mr. Speaker, let me wind up by saying that though we have made significant strides in the past two weeks, our duty is not yet done as more work need to be done to fine-tune the budget so that it can adequately address our country's many woes. Let me assure my colleagues in the House and our kababayan that we in the Minority will continue to do our best to protect the interests of our people and to help shape a national budget that will emancipate, enable and empower the Filipino people.

If and when this budget is finally approved, as it will be approved, it is our prayer that all agencies and departments will use the funds with utmost care, transparency and integrity so that the economy will be strong and its bounty will trickle down to the poorest of the poor and all our people will enjoy the blessings of prosperity and peace. As we all acknowledge the presence of Almighty God even enshrined in the Preamble of our Constitution, as we distribute this P4.1 trillion budget to all agencies and departments of our government, may we be guided by our compassion for those who have less in life and that in every disbursement of this budget, the fear of God will rule the hearts and minds of our own government officials.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Magandang gabi po sa inyong lahat. (*Applause*)

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

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we terminate the period of *turno en contra*.

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

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we proceed to consider individual amendments.

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

REP. ZARATE. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). What is the pleasure of the distinguished Deputy Minority Leader, Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate...

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, consistent with our parliamentary precedence, I move that we create a small Committee which shall be authorized to receive and resolve individual amendments to House Bill No. 4228, the Fiscal Year 2020 General Appropriations Bill which shall be composed as follows:

#### From the COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chairperson:  
Rep. Isidro T. Ungab

Senior Vice Chairperson:  
Rep. Elenita Milagros "Eileen" Ermita-Buhain

Vice Chairpersons:  
Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda  
Rep. Junie E. Cua  
Rep. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong  
Rep. Alfredo Vargas

#### From the DEPUTY SPEAKERS

Deputy Speaker Luis Raymund "L-Ray" F. Villafuerte Jr.  
Deputy Speaker Neptali M. Gonzales II

#### From the COMMITTEE ON RULES

Majority Leader:  
Rep. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez

Sr. Dep. Majority Leader:  
Rep. Jesus Crispin C. Remulla

#### From the MINORITY

Minority Leader:  
Rep. Bienvenido M. Abante Jr.

Sr. Dep. Minority Leader:  
Rep. Janette L. Garin

#### From the INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Rep. Edcel C. Lagman

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Please be informed that the deadline for the submission of proposed individual amendments is on Monday, September 23, 2019. Our dear colleagues are enjoined to observe the said deadline.

Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize anew Congressman Zarate for his manifestation.

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

REP. ZARATE. Thank you. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

Ako po sana ay handang magpanukala ng mga susog o amyenda sa ating pambansang budget na tinatalakay ngayon pero yamang nagbuo tayo ng isang small committee, gusto ko lang pong magpahayag ng aming pagpuna sa prosesong ito. Kahapon, sinabi na nagkaroon ng sulat ang ating Presidente certifying as urgent itong panukalang budget but to our understanding, Mr. Speaker, the letter of the President that certified the 2020 Budget Bill as urgent only allows the House to dispense with the three-day rule but that does not serve as a license to do away with the entire budgetary process.

The House will not only skip the period of amendments but it also aims to secure the approval on Third Reading without even providing the Members with a written copy of the final version of the General Appropriations Bill that will be

transmitted to the Senate. The Majority also cited that there was a precedent, however, it is not within the same context. Now that the budget hearings are way ahead of schedule by two weeks compared to those in 2015—the session at that time was already about to end—in fact, there is still a lot of time for us to discuss and analyze the national budget and still meet our October 4 deadline. So, this process now, I think, Mr. Speaker, will in fact only allow insertions without even the benefit of further discussion by this House. So, if we want it to be transparent, I think it would be better that individual amendments be proposed openly in this period of amendments rather than be made in a small Committee where only a few will decide as to which amendment will be accepted or not.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Would the Majority Leader like to respond?

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, I would move that we take note of the manifestation of the Deputy Minority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The manifestation of the distinguished Gentleman from BAYAN MUNA, Honorable Zarate, is hereby noted.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, subject to the amendments to be processed, considered and approved by the small Committee which we have just created, I move that we approve House Bill No. 4228 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 4228 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). As many as are against, please say *Nay*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4228 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 4228 is approved on Second Reading. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### NOMINAL VOTING ON H. B. NO. 4228 ON THIRD READING

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). For the information and guidance of our dear colleagues, the President, in his letter dated September 17, 2019 and addressed to Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano, has certified the necessity of the immediate enactment of House Bill No. 4228 or the General Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2020 in order to address the need to maintain continuous government operations following the end of the current fiscal year, to expedite the funding of various programs, projects and activities for Fiscal Year 2020 and to ensure budgetary preparedness that will enable the government to effectively perform its constitutional mandate.

Pursuant to the Constitution and our Rules, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 4228 on Third Reading and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, pursuant to Article VI, Section 26(2) of the Constitution.*

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 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 nominal voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 18, dated September 20, 2019.*

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, ang boto po ng Kinatawan na ito ay “No” at nais ko pong makapagpaliwanag mamaya, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mr. Speaker, the vote of this Representation is “No” and I reserve my right to explain my vote later.

REP. CULLAMAT. Mr. Speaker, ang boto ng Representasyong ito ay “No” at magpapaliwanag ako mamaya.

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

REP. GAITE. Mr. Speaker, ang boto ng Kinatawan na ito ay “No” and I reserve the right to explain my vote later. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZAMORA (W.). I vote “Yes,” Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Mr. Speaker, “No” po ang boto ng Kinatawang ito ng BAYAN MUNA.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Neptali M. Gonzales II relinquished the Chair to Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano.*

## RESULT OF THE VOTING

THE SPEAKER. The result shows 257 affirmative votes, six negative votes and no abstention.

House Bill No. 4228 is approved on Third Reading.

## EXPLANATION OF VOTES

THE SPEAKER. The Secretary General is directed to call the Members who have signified their intention to explain their votes, each having three minutes to do so.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, *reading*: Hon. Arlene D. Brosas.

## REP. BROSAS EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, peace and progress cannot be anchored on a national budget that spends hefty sums on oiling the cogs of the Duterte regime’s brutal war machinery but leaves crumbs for food, health, decent housing, education and other direct social services. This is a national budget that seeks to spend at least P1.37 billion daily on the war of suppression by the police and military aimed not against foreign invaders but against critics of anti-people policies of the government.

This is a budget that is seriously infected with pork fever under various strains and names tucked in different agencies. This fever, which institutionalizes patronage politics, is worse than swine flu.

In contrast, only P418 million will be spent daily in aiding the feeble local agriculture, land reform and trade and industry. Maliban sa pautang, walang alokasyon para sa tunay na ayuda para sa mga magsasaka para matulungan sila sa pagsalag sa hambalos na dulot ng Rice Liberalization and Tariffication Law. Malaki din ang budget para sa Build, Build, Build sa kapakinabangan ng mga malalaking negosyo habang patuloy itong nagdudulot ng pagwasak ng mga komunidad ng mahihirap. A negligible 0.16 percent is allocated for housing and community development out of the P4.1 trillion total budget. Sa madaling sabi, aasahang mananatiling bansot ang sektor ng agrikultura at gayundin, ay hindi matutugunan ang malaking backlog sa pabahay para sa mahihirap.

Paano magkakaroon ng kapayapaan kung walang tigil ang pagkalam ng sikmura ng mga magsasaka sa kanayunan? Paano matatahimik ang pagtangis ng mga ina na nawalan ng anak at asawa dahil sa pagpondong muli sa madugong giyera kontra droga habang nananatiling hindi napapanagot ang mga malalaking drug syndicates? Paano mapapayapa ang mga kababayan nating hikahos na nag-aagaw buhay sa mga pampublikong ospital na binulok ng taon-taon na lang na kaltas sa budget para sa serbisyong kalusugan?

Popondohan din nang malaki ang mga programang pantapal sa kahirapan gaya ng 4Ps at Unconditional Cash Transfers sa tangkang apulihin ang ligalig ng mga mamamayang lugmok sa krisis at kagutuman subalit walang pondo para sa paglikha ng sustenidong industriya na maglilikha ng maramihan at pangmatagalang trabaho sa loob ng bansa.

Samantala, nakabuslo ang bulto ng pondo sa pagbusal sa demokratikong paglaban ng kababaihan at mamamayan. Bilyon-bilyon ang nakalagak sa pag-aarmas sa mga maraming pulis, mas maraming operasyong militar at pagkasangkapan sa iba’t ibang ahensiya ng gobyerno sa balangkas ng counterinsurgency at whole-of-nation approach. Sa totoong buhay, hindi pagtugon sa ugat ng kahirapan at ugat ng paglaban ang inaalok ng gobyerno, kundi ang lalo pang pananakot at pagsupil sa mga karapatan ng mga mamamayan. May pondo sa pagpasuko diumano ang mga rebelde na niraraket mismo ng mga unipormado. Kagaya na lang ng nangyari nitong nakaraan na may na-presenta silang sumuko daw na rebelde na may patong na P100,000 sa ulo pero miyembro naman pala ng militar na nagpanggap na rebelde. Sino ang kumikita sa malaking budget para sa bounty? Sa kabilang banda, sagana ang pondo para sa



intelligence funds ng Malacañang at iba pang ahensiya para tiktikan ang bawat kibot ng mga mamamayang umaalma sa pagyurak sa kanilang mga batayang karapatan.

Mr. Speaker, GABRIELA Women's Party strongly casts a "No" vote to an appropriations bill that funds a *de facto* dictatorship and which systematically rolls back the gains of those who fought martial rule and the reign of state terror before us.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). We enjoin our dear colleagues to remain here at the hall for the Speaker to deliver his speech after each of those who will be explaining their votes deliver their brief three-minute messages.

Thank you.

THE SPEAKER. Also for a photo opportunity on this record-breaking budget process after we have adjourned.

Thank you, Majority Leader.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, *reading*: Hon. France L. Castro.

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

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mr. Speaker, ang Kinatawan pong ito mula sa ACT Teachers Party-List ay bumoto ng "No" dito sa panukalang budget ng 2020 sa mga sumusunod na kadahilanan: Ang tanong muna ay ito ba ay para sa peace and progress? Sa tingin po ng Kinatawang ito, Mr. Speaker, ay hindi.

Una, ang budget na ito ay punong-puno ng mga budget cuts, lalong-lalo na sa mga serbisyong panlipunan gaya ng edukasyon, kalusugan at pabahay na makakasalba sana sa kahirapan lalong-lalo na ng mga bulnerableng miyembro ng ating mamamayan. Ang budget sa agrikultura ay kaunti lang ang naitaas pero kung tutuusin natin, kailangang-kailangan ng ating mga magsasaka sa ngayon ang budget para sa kanila.

Ikalawa, G. Ispiker, sa gitna ng bilyong-pisong tinapyas sa mga pondong ito, napakalaki naman ang inilaan para sa giyera, militarismo at pasismo gamit ang balangkas ng National Task Force-ELCAC pati ang so-called whole-of-nation approach, at ang mga sibilyang ahensiya ay ipinapasailalim sa militar at pulis at ang mga sibilyang kawani ay ipinapasailalim ng militar gaya ng nakita natin sa budget ng DSWD,

DILG, TESDA, DND, PNP at iba pa. Ang epekto nito, Mr. Speaker, ang serbisyo at programang dapat para sa mga mahihirap at marginalized sectors, ay gagawing insentibo para huwag silang lumaban para sa kanilang karapatan, at magagamit na sandata laban sa mga militante at progresibo ang budget para sa whole-of-nation oppression at suppression, whole-of-nation martial law. Ang pera ng taumbayan na piniga mula sa kanilang mga buwis mula sa TRAIN 1, sin tax at iba pa ay gagamitin laban sa kanila, sa halip na siguruhin ang mga batayang karapatan ng mga mamamayan sa edukasyon, kalusugan at pabahay, at solusyunan ang ugat ng armadong tunggalian.

Ikatlo, Mr. Speaker, nakita na natin dito iyong ratsada ng panukalang batas na ito. Malapit na sana nating maipasa ang batas na ito sa tamang proseso pero, unfortunately, minadali pa rin.

Ito po iyong mga kadahilanan, G. Ispiker, kung bakit po ang Kinatawang ito ay bumoboto ng "No" sa budget na ito.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, *reading*: Hon. Eufemia "Ka Femia" C. Cullamat.

REP. CULLAMAT EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. CULLAMAT. Mr. Speaker, mula sa Bayan Muna, "No" ang boto ng Representasyong ito sa panukalang pambansang budget ng 2020 dahil ito ay hindi magsisilbi sa interes ng mamamayan. Napakalaki ng pondo para sa paniniktik at panggigipit sa mga mamamayan. Itinutulak nito ang proyektong Build, Build, Build na sumisira lamang sa buhay at kabuhayan ng mga mamamayan, samantalang kinakaltasan ang pondo para serbisyong panlipunan. Ginagawa pa itong militarizado at ginagamit para supilin ang mga mamamayang nananawagan para sa tunay na pagbabagong panlipunan.

Sa ilalim ng 2020 budget, lumaki ng 40 percent sa pangkalahatan ang budget ng DND aabot ng P483.2 billion ang budget nito sa kabila ng madugong track record ng militar at kapulisan laban sa mga mamamayan. Itinatayang nasa 800,000 na ang mga kaso ng paglabag sa karapatang pantao sa ilalim ng martial law sa Mindanao at higit 266 biktima ng extrajudicial killings sa hanay ng mga magsasaka, katutubo at progresibo. Mahigit 20,000 na ang pinatay sa drug war. Ang pagdagdag na pondo sa DND, na hindi kailanman napanagot sa mga krimen, ay pagdagdag ng extrajudicial killings at mga paglabag sa karapatang pantao. Kasama sa pondong ito ang P522 million sa para sa National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict na notorious sa pag-aatake sa mga Lumad at magsasaka sa kanayunan. Nakahati sa iba't ibang ahensiya ang budget na ito. Sa ilalim ng NTF-ELCA na ito, pati ang mga sibilyang ahensiya na may mandatong magbigay ng serbisyong

panlipunan ay kinasasangkapan na din ng militar sa panggigipit at pagpapatahimik ng mga mamamayan. Ang serbisyong panlipunan ay para sa mamamayan at hindi dapat gawing sangkap ng militar sa pandarahas sa mamamayan. Kung hindi man ito militarizado ay kulang ang budget para sa panlipunang serbisyo.

Sa kasalukuyan, mahigit 27.65 percent ang ibinaba ng pondo ng DOH mula sa taong 2016. Kinaltasan din ang pondo ng mga programa para sa DepEd. Malinaw na hindi nakabatay sa mga pangangailangan ng mamamayan ang panukalang budget ng 2020 dahil hindi nito tinutugunan ang pangangailangan ng mamamayan. Sa halip, pinapatindi nito ang atake sa mamamayan sa pagbuhos ng pondo sa paniktik, pananakot at pagpaslang sa mga katutubo, magsasaka, manggagawa at tagapagtanggol ng ating Inang Kalikasan at sa mamamayang naghahangad ng pagbabago.

Hindi makakamit ang mapaya at progresibong pamayanan ng panukalang budget sa taong 2020. Hindi ito magsisilbi para sa kapakanan ng mamamayang naghihirap kung kaya't nararapat lamang itong tutulan. Taliwas sa budget message na “mapayapa at progresibong” pamayanan, ang hatid ng budget na ito ay kamatayan at ibayong kahirapan ng mamamayan.

Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, *reading*: Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago.

#### REP. ELAGO EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. ELAGO. Ang tanong ng kabataan: Bakit po tayo nagbobotohan ng wala pang kopya ng GAB 2? Hindi naman maaaring bulag nating ipasa ang budget at hindi maaaring bahala na ang small Committee, lalong-lalo na dahil ito ang kabaligtaran ng ninanais natin na transparency. This really makes us wonder as to why Congress is rushing to pass the P4.1 trillion budget for 2020. Para saan pa ang pagdinig na ginagawa natin kung hindi na tayo makakapagtulak ng ating mga amyenda batay sa mga naging deliberasyon at mga debate? Tayo ay tila natatangalan ng pagkakataon na magpanukala at ilaban ang dagdag pang pondo sa agrikultura, pagbabalik ng kinaltasan na pondo sa mga SUCs, medical services, scholarships, pampublikong ospital, pabahay at iba pang mga serbisyong pampubliko. Literal na karera ang dating ng pagmamadali ng Kongreso sa pagpasa sa pambansang budget pero ang interes ng taumbayan naman ang nahuhuli.

Ngayong araw, ginugunita rin ng mga kabataan ang 47 taon ng deklarasyon ng batas militar noon.

Laban, kabataan. Laban, bayan. Inhustisya at diktadura, wakasan. Isulong ang karapatan, kabuhayan at soberaniya. Sa kabila ng mga panawagan na ito, bakit

todo-buhos pa rin tayo sa pondo para sa giyera? Mr. Speaker, mayroon tayong P425 billion para sa DND at AFP, kasama na ang DILG at PNP; P5.9 bilyon para sa kabuuang confidential at intelligence expenses; P620.3 million para sa NTF-ELCAC; and at least P30 bilyon para naman sa pork allocations. Mr. Speaker, while there are ballooning billions of intelligence and confidential expenses which are highly inauditable, social services continue to suffer hefty cuts.

The period of amendments is needed to give us ample time to carefully study the rechanneling of lump sums, just like the P4.45-billion “black budget” of the Office of the President, to programs for the welfare of youth and children, especially those who are suffering from having witnessed the drug war’s brutality and those whose supposed breadwinners were arrested or worse, killed in police operations. Mr. Speaker, P4.5 billion in “black budget,” that is P12.3 million in cash advances per day, when that P4.5 billion can be used to fund 6,923 classrooms, 900 school gyms, 300 kilometers of concrete roads, or three years’ worth of the PUP budget.

Bilyon-bilyong piso mula sa kaban ng bayan ang hindi po natin alam kung saan napupunta, habang milyon-milyong mga magsasaka ang lugmok sa gutom at hirap dahil baon sa utang dulot ng sumisisid na presyo ng palay, habang milyon-milyong mga manggagawa ang nakapako sa napakababang sahod at nakakaranas pa rin ng matinding kontraktwalisasyon at pagsasamantala sa paggawa. Ang lahat ng ito ay nagaganap habang lumolobo ang utang ng Pilipinas at sa taong 2020 ay lolobo po iyan ng P8.67 trillion. Kapag budget ang usapin, ay nagmamadali po tayo pero kapag pagpapanagot na sa walang tigil na patayan sa drug war, sa massacre sa mga magsasaka sa Negros, sa pagsirit ng presyo ng bilingin, sa pagsusuko sa ating soberaniya at sa iba pang hirap na dinaranas ng mamamayan, bakit hindi rin po natin paspasan?

Mula sa Batasan, tayo ay nakikiisa sa “Laban, kabataan. Laban, bayan,” gayundin sa pandaigdigang #ClimateStrike, at sa paglaban sa panunumbalik ng diktaturya. “Never again, never forget” hanggang sa pagtitiyak ng kinabukasan sa gitna ng climate emergency. Ang pinakamahalagang tungkulin ng kabataan bilang pag-asa ng bayan ay ang kumilos ngayon na at magkamit ng tagumpay. Gabay at inspirasyon natin ang kasaysayan, at sa paggawa ng kasaysayan. Ito po ang dahilan kung bakit tayo aktibo sa pakikilahok sa paghubog ng ating pambansang budget. Substantial na budget para sa edukasyon at mga serbisyong panlipunan ang kinakailangang sangkap upang ating magampanan ang ating mga pagsisikap bilang mga lingkod-bayan.

The 2020 GAB runs contrary to this aim as it further imposes tyrannical measures and actions to grab the Filipino people by the throat. The KABATAAN

Party-List strongly urges Congress not only to reject the war on pork budget and rechannel these funds to public services but more so, to assert independence and uphold our system of checks and balances that is vital to democracy and the rule of law. Since the 2020 GAB is a budget flaunting support for state terrorism, *de facto* martial law and consolidation of power, now it becomes imperative to oppose its railroaded passage and hence, KABATAAN Party-List reiterates its “No” vote on House Bill No. 4228.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. *reading:* Hon. Ferdinand R. Gaite.

#### REP. GAITE EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. GAITE. Salamat po, Mr. Speaker. G. Ispiker, “No” ang boto ng Kinatawang ito sa House Bill No. 4228 o ang panukalang budget para sa taong 2020 dahil ito ay budget para sa giyera; nagkakaltas sa kulang na budget para sa mga serbisyong panlipunan; hindi nagpapalakas sa agrikultura at kabuhayan ng nakararaming mamamayan; at nagpapanatili sa sistemang patronage.

Sinusuhayan ng panukalang budget 2020 ang madugong giyera laban diumano sa droga, terorismo at kriminalidad. Aabot sa P499.62 billion ang pinagsamang budget para sa depensa at public order and safety. Lumobo ang budget sa Confidential and Intelligence Funds na umabot na sa P8.28 bilyon na maaaring ginagamit sa paniniktik sa mga kritiko ng gobyerno at nagreresulta sa paglabag sa karapatang pantao.

Kulang na nga pero kinakaltasan pa ang budget para sa public health programs ng Department of Health; textbooks, learning tools/equipment at new school personnel sa ilalim ng DepEd; at kinakaltasan ang hinihinging P48.8 billion ng Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development at naging P6.29 billion na lamang. May kaltas rin ang National Rice Program, National Livestock Program at National Corn Program sa ilalim ng Department of Agriculture kahit pa nga humaharap ang sektor ng agrikultura sa krisis dahil sa bumagsak na ang presyo at produksiyon ng palay at mais, at maramihang pagkamatay ng mga alagang baboy dahil sa African swine fever.

Kulang ang inilaang P31 bilyon para sa makabuluhang dagdag-sahod para sa mga kawani ng pamahalaan samantalang daan-daang libong kawani sa loob mismo ng pamahalaan ang patuloy na kinokontraktwal at walang malinaw na planong pagregularisa.

Sa panukalang budget para sa 2020, muling nabubuhay at hindi napapawi ang pangamba ng mamamayan sa patuloy na pag-iral ng pork barrel na nagpapatindi sa patronage politics; taliwas sa

budget na nakabatay sa tunay na pangangailangan ng mamamayan. G. Ispiker, ang kailangan ng mamamayan ay pambansang budget na nakabatay sa pangangailangan ng mamamayan at nakatuon sa pag-unlad sa lahat ng panig ng bansa. Ang panukalang budget 2020 ay walang pagpapanggap sa pagpapalakas sa agrikultura, hindi nakatuon sa paglikha ng maraming trabaho, pagwawakas sa kontraktwalisasyon, at walang probisyon sa pagpapalakas sa lokal na industriya sa pagsusulong ng pambansang industriyalisasyon. Hindi ito ang maghahatid sa mamamayang Pilipino sa “matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay” kaya dapat lamang na tutulan ang panukalang budget na ito.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4228 ON THIRD READING

THE SPEAKER. To reiterate, with 257 Members voting in the affirmative, six negative votes and zero abstention, House Bill No. 4228 is hereby approved on Third Reading. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, we are ready to hear your address. (*Applause*)

#### SPEECH OF SPEAKER CAYETANO

THE SPEAKER. The Book of James tells us that “Faith without action is dead.” Today, the Eighteenth Congress is very much alive. Our actions and our faith in our country’s democratic process in our House of Representatives and in God Almighty led us to this day where we are able to pass a quality People’s Budget in record time.

The budget was submitted on August 20 and today, September 20, with 257 votes, it is now approved. Salamat sa ating Majority Leader, salamat sa ating Minority Leader, at sa kanilang teams (*Applause*); salamat sa Committee on Appropriations, palakpakan po natin si Chairman Sid Ungab (*Applause*); sa atin pong Deputy Speakers at Vice Chairmen ng Committee on Appropriations (*Applause*) and, of course, sa inyong lahat, pumabor man o hindi sa ating 2020 budget. (*Applause*)

Opo, mabilis po tayo pero hindi lang po sa budget, but our passing the budget in record time will give our standing and special committees more time to exercise their oversight functions especially over the 2019 budget, programs, platforms, and projects of our country. It will also give us enough time to pass urgent measures, including revenue measures, that will fund the budget next year and for generations to come. Also, it will give us time to review the programs

on health, education and other social services which our people are constantly demanding for more and better services.

Next year's budget is the 2020 budget, and 20:20 is a symbol of perfect vision, but by no means, dear colleagues, is the 2020 budget, as we passed it today, perfect. Many circumstances and events in the last few days, in the last few weeks, will also lead us to review parts of the budget. So let me join those who voted "No" in saying, let us continue to review, to study, to discuss, to scrutinize, and even to amend this budget so that we will have a 2020 budget that will fit the perfect vision of a safe and comfortable life for all Filipinos for generations to come. So that our farmers, our overseas Filipino workers, young people, senior citizens, soldiers, teachers, workers toward peace, health workers, government employees, laborers, fishermen, businessmen and businesswomen, and all Filipinos—together, we will have a budget that really fulfills the needs of the Filipino people.

I enjoin our colleagues to submit their amendments and as we were gracious enough to talk to the Secretaries about concerns regarding our districts, yes, and ask policy questions. I ask you now today to also file your version of institutional amendments, just like what Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda had submitted to my office. So far, there seems to be a consensus that we should add to the P7 billion na pambili ng palay to help our farmers (*Applause*) and Chairman Sid Ungab has already found P3 billion to add to it, up to P10 billion, but we would like to go higher than P10 billion. Iyon pong dagdag sa pambili ng palay ay balewala din kung hindi po magiging komprehensibo ang ating approach sa family-size farming and to make this kind of farming and agrarian reform effective in our country.

Education and health need much more funds and fine-tuning noong programa nila. Electrification—ilang taon na natin naririnig iyong 100 percent electrification ng buong Pilipinas at ilang taon na rin tayong nakukuryente (*Applause*) and so, please submit your amendments regarding the 100 percent electrification of our country. Sports 2020 is a banner year. We will start out with the 2020 Paralympic Games in January in New Clark City and then, we will have the Olympics in Tokyo. For the AFP-PNP and security forces, we also want to make some reforms to help them, especially in the management and development of their camps; and, of course, the gridlock that is affecting many Metro

areas around the country, mainly the Metro Davao, Metro Cebu and Metro Manila traffic. The budget can also help to alleviate the sufferings of Filipinos from traffic.

So, with an open mind and with open ears, whether we voted "Yes" or "No," let us submit these amendments. Let us talk, let us criticize, yes, but let us come up with alternatives. Kahit among ganda po ng criticism pero kung wala pong alternatibo na maganda, wala ring mangyayari, and that is why this Eighteenth Congress, with open ears, with open minds, will accept and look at each and every amendment conscientiously. (*Applause*)

Congress and governance is a team sport. Marami pong nagko-congratulate sa record natin today at sa ating mga revenues, let me thank Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, Rep. Sharon S. Garin, Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing, Rep. Junie E. Cua and lahat po na tumutulong sa Ways and Means Committee na humanap din ng pondo para sa ating budget. (*Applause*) By no means is this revenue bill perfect. We have to continue to fine-tune it to make sure that we have a just and equitable system of taxation in our country.

Governance is not an individual sport, it is a team sport and so, let us congratulate each other and not any one Member of Congress. Thank you, team Congress. Thank you for a people's budget. Salamat that there is no pork, no parking, and no delays in this budget. (*Applause*)

Since we are a team, let us also show that we are good spouses by all of us attending at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, the first activity of the Congressional Spouses. I will see you there.

God bless you all. Maraming, maraming salamat po. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. ROMUALDEZ (M.). Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn the session until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, September 23, 2019. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until Monday, September 23, 2019, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

*It was 9:28 p.m.*