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No. 18d

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:00 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Neptali M. Gonzales II presiding.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we move to continue the consideration of House Bill No. 4228. Could the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the said measure?

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 1:00 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:00 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my previous motion. Instead, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business.

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

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4561, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MAIMBUNG MUNICIPAL PORT LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MAIMBUNG, PROVINCE OF SULU INTO A PORT AUTHORITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE MAIMBUNG PORT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Tan-Tambut and Tan (Samier)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4562, entitled:

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

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

House Bill No. 4563, entitled:

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

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

House Bill No. 4564, entitled:

“AN ACT ENSURING THE EMPLOYEES’

RIGHT TO THEIR WAGES, INCLUDING WAGE-RELATED SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE BENEFITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Alvarez (Pantaleon)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4565, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING FOR QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS”

By Representative Alvarez (Pantaleon)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 4566, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF DOLORES, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AS A PILGRIMAGE SITE AND TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Suarez (David), Villaraza-Suarez and Suarez (Aleta)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 4567, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF ELECTIVE BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN FROM THREE YEARS TO FOUR YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 43 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representatives Suarez (David), Villaraza-Suarez and Suarez (Aleta)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 4568, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1144, ‘OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE AUTHORITY’, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4569, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A REVISED HUMAN ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION PROGRAM AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7170, AS AMENDED, ALSO KNOWN AS THE ‘ORGAN DONATION ACT OF 1991’”

By Representative Chipeco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4570, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO INFORMATION”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 4571, entitled:

“AN ACT ALLOWING AND REGULATING THE USE OF MOTORCYCLES AS PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4572, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CENTERS ESTABLISHED BY REPUBLIC ACT 6959 INTO PROVINCIAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY OFFICES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4573, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL ECONOMIC DECENTRALIZATION PLAN TO FACILITATE FURTHER GROWTH IN ALL REGIONS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 4574, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE

PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF BATAS PAMBANSA 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE’, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 4575, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING SECURITY OF TENURE FOR BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 6(D) OF REPUBLIC ACT 7883, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS’ BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF 1995”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4576, entitled:

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

By Representative Aragon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 4577, entitled:

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

By Representative Aragon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

House Bill No. 4578, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO SENIOR CITIZENS BY MANDATING THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR TO INSTITUTIONALIZE A SENIOR CITIZENS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 4579, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE OPERATION

OF DRONES OR REMOTELY-PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (RPAS) AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4580, entitled:

“AN ACT RIGHTSIZING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4585, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PROGRAM ON PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Hataman and Sangcopan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 4586, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING RACIAL, ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION”

By Representative Belmonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 323, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MILITARIZATION AND RECENT VIOLENT ATTACKS ON OCCUPIED HOUSING COMMUNITIES IN PANDI, BULACAN BY THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP), PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), AND CIVILIAN GROUPS IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES AS ‘PRO-GOVERNMENT’ ”

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

House Resolution No. 324, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO DIRECTLY REMIT TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLANUEVA ITS

EQUITABLE SHARE IN THE PROCEEDS OF THE UTILIZATION OF THE NATIONAL WEALTH BY THE INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS LOCATED IN AND HOSTED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT”

By Representative Uy (Juliette)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Resolution No. 325, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO RESTORE CUTS IN THE MAINTENANCE AND OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES OF STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, AND STUDY OPTIONS TO AUGMENT FUNDING FOR PERSONNEL SERVICES AND CAPITAL OUTLAY”

By Representatives Elago, Castro (France), Zarate, Gaite, Cullamat, Fernando, Delos Santos, Gato, Fongwan, Barba, Ferrer (Juliet), Valmayor, Saulog, Sangcopan, Biron, Hataman, Sinsuat, Reyes, Belmonte, Bagatsing, Suansing (Estrellita), Momo, Aguinaldo, Arenas, Castelo, Agabas, Limkaichong, Chatto, Salimbangon, Radaza, Revilla, Lara, Vargas Alfonso, Lacson, Deloso-Montalla, Duavit, Cuaresma, Pineda, Villanueva (Noel), Lagman, Garcia (Pablo John), Abellanosa, Sanchez, Bautista-Bandigan, Ermita-Buhain, Labadlabad, Romualdo, Uy (Juliette), Nuñez-Malanyaon, Co (Angelica), Sagarbarria, Caminero, Calderon, Loyola, Mariano-Hernandez, Abante, Quimbo, Gullas, Marquez, Javier, Abunda, Acosta, Fortun, Zamora (Way Kurat), Cabochan, Kho (Wilton), Balindong, Ty, Matugas, Sacdalan, Rodriguez and Haresco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Resolution No. 326, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE OMINOUS DOWNWARD TREND OF THE PRICES OF COPRA”

By Representatives Suarez (David), Villaraza-Suarez and Suarez (Aleta)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 327, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES IN CELEBRATION OF FIFTY YEARS OF CONTINUOUSLY PROMOTING, PRESERVING AND

DEVELOPING THE PHILIPPINE ARTS AND CULTURE”

By Representative De Venecia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Resolution No. 328, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO RESTORE THE 2020 PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) AMOUNTING TO 19.37 BILLION PESOS THAT WAS REDUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT TO 14.421 BILLION PESOS”

By Representatives Pineda, Romero, Umali (Ma. Victoria), Garin (Sharon), Paduano, Estrella, Taduran, Tulfo, Garbin, Lagon, Ebcas, Villaraza-Suarez, Sangcopan, Delos Santos, Dagooc, Aguinaldo, Herrera-Dy, Co (Angelica), Atienza, Rivera, Villanueva (Eduardo), Canama, Momo, Aglipay, Padiernos, Salo, Cabochan, Cabatbat, Lacson, Gonzalez, Pacquiao (Alberto), Bustos, De Jesus, Singson, Lim, Guya, Teves (Jose), Saulog, Go (Mark), Abunda, Suansing (Horacio), Go (Ed), Salceda, Panotes, Amante-Matba, Benitez, Calixto, Fortun, Villarica, Collantes, Ty, Mariano-Hernandez, Cabredo, Tiangco, Deloso-Montalla, Tan (Angelina), Suansing (Estrellita), Robes, Vergara, Angara, Vargas Alfonso, Lara, Chungalao, Revilla, Ortega, Violago, Dalipe, Savellano, Zubiri, Daza and Alonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMUNICATION

Letter dated September 2, 2019 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the CY 2018 Consolidated Annual Audit Reports (CAARs) on the following government agencies:

1. Department of Public Works and Highways;
2. Department of Transportation; and
3. Department of Tourism.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 15), re H.B. No. 4599, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING SITIO PANACAN-2 FROM BARANGAY PANACAN IN THE

MUNICIPALITY OF NARRA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AND CONSTITUTING IT INTO A SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY PANACAN-2”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 674

Sponsors: Representatives Villanueva (Noel) and Abueg-Zaldivar

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 16), re H.B. No. 4600, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE SITIOS OF ILEB, NEW COLAYO VILLAGE, KINAMA AND NAMBARAN DAYA FROM BARANGAY NAMBARAN, CITY OF TABUK, PROVINCE OF KALINGA AND CONSTITUTING THEM INTO A SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY NAMBARAN EAST”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 588

Sponsors: Representatives Villanueva (Noel) and Mangaoang

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 17), re H.B. No. 4601, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY NEW LOWER BICUTAN IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG, METROPOLITAN MANILA”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 352

Sponsors: Representatives Villanueva (Noel) and Cayetano (Maria Laarni)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 18), re H.B. No. 4602, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY SAN MIGUEL IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG, METROPOLITAN MANILA”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 351

Sponsors: Representatives Villanueva (Noel) and Cayetano (Maria Laarni)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 19), re H.B. No. 4603, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY NORTH DAANG HARI IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG, METROPOLITAN MANILA”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 356

Sponsors: Representatives Villanueva (Noel) and Cayetano (Maria Laarni)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4228

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

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.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Office of the President.

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. DELOS SANTOS. Before we begin, Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of our guests in the gallery, the family of the Office of the President: Exec. Sec. Salvador Medialdea; Sr. Dep. Exec. Sec. Michael Ong; Dep. Exec. Sec. for Finance and Administration, Rizalina Justol; Dep. Exec. Sec. for Internal Audit, Alberto Bernardo; Dep. Exec. Sec. for Legal Affairs, Ryan Alvin Acosta; Dep. Exec. Sec.

for General Administration, Mcjill Bryant Fernandez; Usec. Marah Victoria Querol; Usec. Ricardo Bernabe III; Asec. Kim Raisa Uy; Cabsec. Karlo Alexei Nograles; Usec. Jimmy Manabat; Dep. to the Special Envoy, Hazel Joves; Dir. Caesar Cabuhat; Exec. Dir. Pedro Cesar Ramboanga, Jr.; Chairman Dante Jimenez; Exec. Dir. Jose Luis Alano; Dir. Gloria Bundoc; Dir. Andrea Maila Ordañez; Atty. Lorajean Alamin; Dir. Aliza Marie Guilot; Ms. Damiana Gaddi; Ms. Judy Lomboy; Police Sr. Insp. Virgilio Ramirez; Ms. Girlie Remo; Ms. Grace Ann Agustin; and Ms. Maureen Gatdula.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, to sponsor the proposed budget of the Office of the President, I move that we recognize Rep. Isidro Ungab, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, to answer questions.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Chairman of the Appropriations Committee is hereby recognized.

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, honorable Members of this august Chamber, it is with great honor that I present the budget of the Office of the President for your scrutiny and appropriate action in the amount of P8,201,318,000 in New General Appropriations, P48,384,000 in RLIP, and P480,000 in pensions, for a total amount of P8,250,182,000.

Mr. Speaker, this Representation is now ready for interpellation.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Eufemia Cullamat of BAYAN MUNA Party-List to interpellate the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The honorable Lady from BAYAN MUNA is hereby recognized for her interpellation.

REP. CULLAMAT. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

G. Isponsor, maaari po bang manipesto?

REP. UNGAB. Yes.

REP. CULLAMAT. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker. Maraming salamat, G. Isponsor.

Noong February 1, 2018, IP Summit sa Davao, sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte na siya raw ang pipili sa mga investors para sa lupang ninuno. Tama po ba, G. Ispiker, G. Isponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, kindly repeat the question.

REP. CULLAMAT. Noong February 1, 2018, IP Summit sa Davao, sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte na siya raw ang pipili ng mga investor para sa lupang ninuno. Tama po ba, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. UNGAB. We have to check the data, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CULLAMAT. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, noong July 2017 ay sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte na bobombahan niya ang mga Lumad na paaralan. Tama po ba, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Mr. Speaker, and I understand that these are all covered by the policies of the Department of Education.

REP. CULLAMAT. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, sa kabila ng mga pananakot ng Pangulo sa mga katutubo, ako ay nasa inyong harapan ngayon, nagsasalita bilang isang Lumad mula sa Mindanao upang sabihin na kaming mga katutubo, ang gusto lamang namin ay kapayapaan. Simple lang ang buhay namin na nakaugat sa aming lupang ninuno. Kung kaya para sa amin, makakamit lamang ang tunay na kapayapaan kapag kinilala ang aming karapatan sa sariling pagpapasya sa aming lupang ninuno.

Nais kong linawin na kailanman ay hindi pinabayaan naming mga katutubo ang lupang ninuno. Bagkus, ito ay aming pinoprotektahan dahil ito ang bumubuhay sa amin. Pinapaunlad namin ang aming lupang ninuno sa sustenableng pamamaraan, gamit ang Lumad na kaalaman mula sa aming mga ninuno, kung saan lahat ay nakikinabang at ang kalikasan ay napoprotektahan.

Ang pagpapahalaga sa lupang ninuno ang itinuro namin sa aming mga kabataan at pati sa aming mga paaralang itinayo mula sa sarili naming pagsisikap. Ang layunin lamang nito ay mapreserba natin ang kalikasan upang mapakinabangan ng susunod na henerasyon. Ang mga paaralang ito ay kongkretoong manipistasyon sa aming karapatan sa sariling pagpapasya.

Ang mga pahayag ng Pangulo na pananakot sa mga katutubo ay napakabigat sa aming mga Lumad sapagkat nararamdaman namin ang epekto ng kanyang mga salita. Siya ay nagbitiw ng pangako ng kapayapaan sa mamamayan, sa aming mga katutubo noong una siyang maupo.

Nais pa rin naming mga katutubo ng kapayapaan. Hindi pag-atake, pambobomba o martial law ang sagot upang makamit ito. Mas lalong hindi ito makakamit sa dislokasyon ng libo-libong katutubo sa ilalim ng mga dam at iba pang proyekto sa ilalim ng Build, Build,

Build Program. Halimbawa na rito ang tinatayang 20,000 na mga Ita na maapektuhan sa pagka-dislocate sa pagtayo ng P607 billion na New Clark City. Isa po ang Chico River Pump Irrigation Project kung saan lulubog ang ekta-ektaryang sakahan ng palay at mais ng mga katutubong Kalinga. Andiyan rin ang Jalaur Mega Dam na lulubog sa siyam na komunidad ng tribung Tumandok. Ang Kaliwa Dam na magdudulot ng dislokasyon sa 150,000 na Dumagat mula sa kanilang lupang ninuno sa Sierra Madre. Ito ang mapait na katotohanan sa likod ng tinaguriang pag-unlad: dislokasyon sa mga katutubo, paglabag sa aming karapatan at pandarahas sa tuwing kami ay tumitindig lamang sa aming karapatan.

Nais ng katutubo ng pag-unlad ngunit hindi namin makikita ang pagpapasok ng mga dayuhang namumuhunan. Nakita natin sa kasaysayan na ang dambuhalang dayuhang minahan, plantasyon at pagtroso ay nagdudulot sa pagkasira ng ating kalikasan at dislokasyon para sa aming mga katutubo. Naubos ang ating yaman, ngunit ang kita ay napunta sa iilan lamang. Pag-alis ng mga namumuhunan, maiiwang kalbo ang mahal naming kabukiran. Hindi kami tutol sa pag-unlad. Gusto lang namin ang tunay na sustenableng pag-unlad na isinasaalang-alang ang kapakanan naming mga katutubo, ang lahat ng mamamayan at hindi lang ang iilan.

Sa kasaysayan, ang lupang ninuno ay naging buhay ng mga katutubo ng mamamayang Pilipino mula pa sa unang panahon. Dito nakaugat ang pag-unlad sa aming ekonomiya at kultura. Ito ay repleksiyon sa dignidad naming mga katutubo na nagpapakitang marunong kaming tumindig sa sarili.

Ang pagdependa namin sa lupang ninuno at pagsulong sa karapatan sa sariling pagpapasya ay karapatan namin bilang mamamayan na magtataguyod sa isang makatarungan, demokratiko at mapayapang lipunan. Saan man, sana ang mga pagsisikap, paninindigan at panawagan naming mga katutubo ay dinggin at respetuhin at hindi lang patahimikin sa pamamagitan ng pananakot at pag-atakeng pinopondohan ng pera ng taumbayan.

Napakalaki ng budget batay sa sinasabi ni G. Sponzor ng tanggapan ng Pangulo kung saan hindi malinaw sa mamamayan kung saan talaga napupunta. Nawa ay hindi ito magamit sa pag-atake sa mga mamamayan lalo na sa mga katutubo na nais lamang ay mapayapang mapangalagaan ang lupang ninuno at ang ating likas na yaman.

Mr. Speaker, ito lamang po. Maraming salamat, G. Sponzor.

REP. UNGAB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We take note of the manifestation. I am also from Mindanao and I can guarantee the Representative who just manifested that the IPs are very much close to the heart of the

President. In fact, when he was Mayor, he instituted deputy Mayors from the various tribes in the city. I can attest to that because I was a former Councilor and we had a former Vice Mayor here who is also a Congressman. He organized the various tribes and came up with the deputy Mayors to attend to their problems, Your Honor.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. France L. Castro of ACT TEACHERS.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Honorable Castro is hereby recognized for her interpellation.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. So, would the distinguished Sponsor yield to some of my clarificatory questions about EO 70?

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you po. Iyong first question po dito sa budget ng ating Office of the President, ang tanong ko lang po, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, saan po makikita sa budget ang support for this policy, iyong EO 70. Kasi dito po sa Budget Message ni President Duterte, binanggit niya po itong National Task Force na ito at magkano po ang budget ng Office of the President kaugnay nito, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, EO 70 institutionalizes the whole-of-nation approach, so the individual departments and agencies have their existing budgets already. It is just that they will be orchestrated in such a way that they will be able to address the insurgency problem. So, it is institutionalizing the whole nation in attaining inclusive and sustainable peace, creating a national task force to end local communist armed conflict and directing the adoption of a national peace framework.

Now, winning peace is just like winning the war. It is as hard as winning the war, so iyon po ang target. There is a national security policy that is being followed and EO No. 70 is orchestrating the activities of the various agencies in order to attain peace or sustain peace in the country, Your Honor.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Sinasagot po ba ako ng Sponsor na wala sa budget ng OP iyong budget para dito po sa programa, ang support for this EO 70? Wala po siya sa budget ng ating Office of the President?

REP. UNGAB. In Section 9, Your Honor, the following is stated:

Initial funding requirements for the implementation of this Order shall be charged against existing appropriations of member-agencies of the Task Force and such other appropriate funding sources as the DBM may identify, and when necessary, the Contingent Fund, subject to relevant laws, rules and regulations.

The succeeding years' appropriations for the operation of the National Secretariat shall be included in the budget proposal of the OP. The funding requirement for the implementation of the programs, plans and activities in the Framework shall be included in the respective annual budgets of the concerned agencies, subject to the usual budget preparation process.

I was informed by our friends here from the OP that personnel requirement lang po ang idinagdag.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, could you confirm Executive Secretary Nograles' statement in his column na ang panukalang P4.5 billion na budget para sa surveillance, intelligence, confidential budget office, sa internal security, et cetera, sa pondong nakalaan sa Office of the President din kinukuha ang karagdagang budget ng polisyang militar kung kailangang dagdagan ang kanilang intelligence funds. Ito iyong nagmumula sa intel funds ng Pangulo. Sabi rin po niya, to continue, na iyong Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict, alinsunod sa direktiba ni President Duterte na dapat ang implementasyon nito ay dalhin sa mga regional, provincial—mayroon nang mga binuong regional task force, at ang mga budget nito ay programa ring ginagawang bawat rehiyon. Kaya, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, ibig sabihin po, iyong budget para dito sa EO No. 70 ay nakalagay na po ito doon sa confidential and Intelligence Funds and at the same time po sa mga regions, provincials, sa mga district. Tama po ba, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, I think the CabSec was misquoted considering that I was talking to the Chief Accountant here of the OP and she said there was no amount intended for that particular purpose, for EO No. 70. However, when the amount of P4.5 billion was mentioned under OP, it is the total amount for Confidential and Intelligence Expenses for the Presidential Anti-organized Crime Commission and Transnational Crime. So, these are for intelligence and confidential-information gathering, hindi lang po doon sa what was mentioned earlier. This covers a very wide scope, Your Honor.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay, so sinasabi po, Mr.

Speaker, ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, kung tama po ako sa pagkakaintindi ko, iyong budget nito covers lahat, hindi lang po sa President's budget, itong tinatawag nating EO 70.

REP. UNGAB. Pangkalahatang operation po ng OP iyon, confidential at intelligence expenses, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, tama po kasi may binanggit din po si Executive Secretary na sabi niya, lumihap na rin tayo sa lahat ng mga namumuno—na mga concerned national government agencies para hilingin ang mga ito na aktibong makibahagi, manindigan, at suportahan ang localization process ng naturang task force. So, lahat ng mga hakbang na ito ay may kaakibat na pondo o kailangang gastusan ng pamahalaan. Ito iyong mga kinakailangang gawin para siguraduhing manatili iyong peace and order sa ating bansa. So, kino-confirm po ba ito ng ating butihing Sponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, I think, the Lady is referring to Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, a former Member of this House. With regard to policies related to EO No. 70, it is very clear in the EO, and there are guidelines to follow on this, Mr. Speaker.

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

Iyong last question po bago iyong aking huling pananalita po, Mr. Speaker, ito po bang EO No. 70, alam ko pong prerogative ito ng ating Pangulo, mayroon po ba itong mga prosesong dinaanan para mag-come up ng ganito? Kasi, Mr. Speaker, karamihan po ng mga naririto ay puro, majority po, military solutions.

REP. UNGAB. Please repeat the question, medyo malabo ang audio, Mr. Speaker. Paki-repeat lang po iyong tanong.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, Mr. Speaker, alam po natin na prerogative ng sinumang Pangulo iyong mag-issue ng Executive Order. Kaya lang po, itong Executive Order na ito, sa tingin po ng Kinatawag ito, ay parang whole-of-nation-approach martial law. Kumbaga, Mindanao lang ang martial law, pero dito ay pinatutupad na rin sa mga series or spate of killings, at iba pa. So, mayroon po bang consultation ang naganap para magawa po itong Executive Order No. 70, halimbawa po sa Supreme Court, sa ating mga local governments, at sa iba pa pong mga ahensya ng gobyerno natin?

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Your Honor, it underwent the process of consultations and seminars, that is why the approach towards long-lasting peace is not anymore through military approach but through the help of

civilian authorities. In other words, we approach peace with open arms, unlike the military approach. There is a saying that “you cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.” So, with open arms, open fists, we shake hands and we approach the problem through peace, not only militarily, but also with the help of civilian sector, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, sinasabi po ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, nakonsulta po ang lahat ng sektor kaugnay nito. Hindi lang po ang security sector.

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Mr. Speaker, nakonsulta po ang maraming sectors dito, hindi lang po ang security sector.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mr. Speaker, sa totoo lang po, hindi na po bago itong whole-of-nation-approach. This has been attempted by previous regimes in varying levels. These attempts have left a long, notorious and bloody record of human rights violations. It has also shown itself to be an utter failure of solving the armed conflict. Ito po, sa tingin natin, ay subjugating civilian authority by military authority dahil po nakita po natin, sa lahat ng mga ahensya po na tinanong natin kaugnay nitong ELCAC na ito, nakita po talaga natin kung ano iyong mga role at papel noong ating mga agencies.

Sa totoo lang po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, gaya ng ipinakita ng record ng WONA, o iyong whole-of-nation-approach o ng EO No. 70, ito rin po ay magiging failure. The only solution for a long and lasting peace is to drop the military solution. Dapat ay sagutin ito gamit ang mga socioeconomic solutions sa kahirapan: halimbawa, sahod, trabaho, lupa, presyo, socioeconomic solutions na may kaukulang serbisyo, at dagdagan ang pondo ng mga ahensya para magawa nila ang mga mandato nila. Halimbawa po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, abandonahin, halimbawa, iyong rice liberalization, import dependency, ito pong TRAIN 1, tunay na pagbabawal ng endo, makabuluhang salary increase, minimum wage, at iba pa pong social services. Hindi ito kayang solusyunan ng anumang military solutions, whether by itself or in cooperation with other agencies. At dahil hindi kayang solusyunan, ang kaya lang gawin ay military approach, supilin lang iyong mga karapatan ng ating mga mamamayan.

So, sana po ay tugunan ng ating Opisina ng Pangulo iyong matagal nang mga socioeconomic na mga problema po ng ating mga mamamayan.

Iyan lang po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, salamat po.

REP. UNGAB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just to add to the “whereases,” the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, through the Joint Communique

of the Fifteenth ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting in Manila last August 5, 2017, reaffirmed the importance and effectiveness of the whole-of-nation-approach as opposed to a purely military option in combatting terrorism and violent extremism. Just FYI, and note, Your Honor.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Ferdinand R. Gaité of the BAYAN MUNA Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER. Honorable Gaité is hereby recognized.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Pahihintulutan ba ako ng ating kapita-pitagang Sponsor ng budget ng Office of the President na mag-clarify ng ilang mga katanungan, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Your Honor.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po.

Ang aking mga katanungan ay hinggil sa Office of the President, Mr. Sponsor, doon sa usapin ng Confidential and Intelligence Funds. Alam naman natin na itong confidential at intelligence expenses ng naturang ahensiya, including other government agencies, ay nakakabahala sapagkat ito po ay hindi nasa-subject sa audit tulad ng mga ibang pondo na ating inilalaan. Sabi natin, bawat pisong inilalaan para sa mamamayan ay dapat accountable—bawat piso, pero ang nakakapangamba, ito ngang Confidential and Intelligence Funds, hindi ganyan ang katangian. Dumoble ang pondo ng Office of the President to P4.5 billion, dating P2.5 billion—iyan ang original request for the past three years. Mismo ang pondo para sa Confidential and Intelligence Funds under Duterte’s last three years in government, more than half of the entire P8.28 billion for the office goes to the Office of the President. Unprecedented ang paglaki ng pondong ito, at 400 percent ang increase from the previously requested Confidential and Intelligence Funds. Noong panahon ni Pangulong Benigno Aquino III, nasa bandang P250 million each lamang; ngayon, ang pinag-uusapan natin ay bilyon. Ganyan kalaki, 400 percent ang in-increase ng naturang pondo.

Diretso na po ako sa mga katanungan. Una po, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, would the Sponsor agree that the P4.5-billion Confidential and Intelligence Funds requested by the Office of the President, which is almost double the 2.5 billion from the previous three years, is unprecedented, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Executive power is vested on the President of the Philippines. The President, as Commander-in-Chief of the AFP, needs intelligence and confidential information in the performance of its duty in order to effectively, efficiently and precisely plan all intensified efforts to suppress the threats against national security, terrorism, campaign against illegal drugs, insurgency and transnational crimes. We see a President who really visits the camps, visits the various LGUs. In fact, we saw him in action in the battlefield of Marawi.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it is only proper and fitting that we provide this request, we provide the amount as requested by the Office of the President in order for the OP to be able to deliver effectively and efficiently the needs of the country, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, ang tanong ko lang po, iyong pagdoble po ba ng pondo para sa Confidential and Intelligence Funds, maaaring ituring ba natin itong unprecedented, considering na nasa daang milyon lamang—nila-“lang” na natin ang milyon—sa nakaraang Pangulo ang tinatawag na “Confidential and Intelligence Funds”? Hindi ba natin kayang sabihin na unprecedented ang paglaki at paglobo ng naturang budget, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, we disagree that the magnitude of the increase is unprecedented, considering that the confidential and intelligence requirements are based on the coordinated and integrated intelligence estimates of local and foreign situations for the formulation of the national policies of the President. There have been a lot of developments and we believe that we have to give the much-needed resources to the Office of the President in order to meet these present exigencies, Your Honor.

REP. GAITE. Ang hiraip kapag nagkakaroon ng ganitong pagsusuri. Kung ihahambing natin doon sa inilaki ng kabuuang budget ng 2020 budget, kung titingnan natin dito sa Confidential and Intelligence Funds, 400 percent that is unprecedented. Wala na hong pagtatangi na malinaw na lumobo at lumaki ang pondo.

Doon sa susunod na katanungan, is the Office of the President an intelligence-gathering agency, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, the President of the Philippines is the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces—that includes the Navy, the Army and the Air Force. He also directs and controls the PNP, as well as the local government units. There are complicated situations now in the field that require gargantuan tasks in order to prevent these. The terrorists, for example,

in Mindanao have developed another kind of approach to terrorism. If we read the newspapers, there was a bombing in the Jolo Cathedral. There were attacks on the camps by suicide bombers, and these were already trained by foreign terrorists. Aside from that, there were also the transnational crimes and the drug menace.

Mr. Speaker, as the government plans ahead with its foresight and with proper military-police planning, the insidious forces are also planning another kind of approach, so the President should be updated, should be kept abreast and, I believe, we should grant this request, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, iyong katanungan kung ang OP ay intelligence-gathering agency, naniniwala kami na hindi nasagot iyong tanong. Ang Presidente, saklaw niya ang napakalaking bahagi bilang pinaka-chief executive officer ng ating bansa. Iyong intelligence gathering, may specialized agencies para dito. Ang OP, ang Office of the President na saklaw ang buong operasyon ng gobyerno, ay hindi na dapat nagfocus pa dito sa intelligence gathering kung hindi may specialized organizations katulad sa AFP, PNP at iba pa. Kataka-taka kung bakit lumobo ang pondo ng naturang ahensya. Napakahirap isipin na iyong ibang ahensya tulad ng PNP at AFP na mayroong specialization sa trabahong ito, mas malaki pa ang nakuha ng Office of the President.

Sunod pong katanungan, ano po bale ang pinakadahilan kung bakit lumolobo ang pondo ng Office of the President *vis-à-vis* Confidential and Intelligence Funds sa ilalim ng Office of the President? Bakit itong pondo ay hindi man masilip ng ordinaryong officers ng Commission on Audit, hindi kailangan mag-submit ng mga records, ng receipts tulad doon sa ibang ahensya ng pamahalaan na kailangang busisiin kung paano ginagamit ang bawat piso ng gobyerno ng bayan? Itong tinatawag na “black” o “itim” na budget ay parang “black hole,” kung sisinagan ng ilaw, hindi mo na makita kung ano ang laman nito.

Bakit itong pondo, na hindi masilip ng ordinaryong officers ng Commission on Audit, ay hindi kailangan mag-submit ng mga records, ng receipts, tulad doon sa ibang ahensiya ng pamahalaan na kailangan busisiin kung paano ginagamit ang bawat piso ng gobyerno ng bayan, pero itong tinatawag na “black budget,” itim na budget, ay parang “black hole”? Kung sisinagan ng ilaw, hindi mo na makita kung ano ang laman nito.

Bakit lumalaki ang pondo ng Confidential and Intelligence Funds, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, let me answer. The

President is the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. The President is the head of the National Security Council. We have a President who is hands-on on matters related to peace and order, on matters related to security, and this I can say because he himself is a man who personally goes to the field. In fact, this was his promise in his campaign during the elections. He promised the people of the Republic that he will do his best to stop the drug menace and terrorism. I can say this because he was my Mayor when I was a City Councilor, and at that time, I was also his Chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Speaker, his performance in Davao City on his peace and order campaign had been a tremendous success. In fact, there was one victim who was kidnapped here in Metro Manila, but she had the presence of mind and she said that she would pay the ransom in Davao. So, they travelled all the way to Davao City at pagdating sa Davao, si Mayor ang nandoon—bang, bang—tinamaan iyong mga kidnapers, and it was a story retold all over the Philippines. The success story of Davao was the peace and order campaign, and it was a resounding success. In fact, the Mayor was elected President because of his peace and order campaign.

So, I believe what he did in Davao is what he is doing right now. We have a man who wants peace for his country, who wants people to live and sleep harmoniously in the evening na wala pong nanggugulo at walang magnanakaw o walang criminals. Iyon po ang style ni Presidente Duterte, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, anecdotal iyong binabanggit na noong Mayor si Pangulong Duterte ng Davao—may mga ilang krimen, hindi rin lahat, pero marami o may mga krimen na bunga ng intelligence work ay natugunan. Maraming magsasabi ngayon, mga ordinaryong tao, na iyong kriminalidad, iyong problema sa droga, lahat ng nangangailangan ng intelligence, lumalabas na hindi nagagamit ng tama para ma-prevent iyong bilyon-bilyong pisong pumapasok na droga sa ating bansa.

Iyong pagkalat ng iba't ibang porma ng droga—hindi na lamang yata shabu, may cocaine na raw at iba pang mga drogang pumapasok sa iba't ibang lugar sa Pilipinas—gayundin ang kriminalidad ay lumalala. Ang murder, ang extrajudicial killings, ang mga petty crimes at iba pa—ang mga ganitong uri ng kriminalidad at iba pa na sinasabing kailangan ng Intelligence Funds ay hindi natutugunan at sa halip ay palala pa.

Limitado ang aking katanungan ngunit dederetso na ako sa aking panghuling katanungan. Ano ang katiyakan na ang mga ginagawang aktibidad sa ilalim ng Intelligence and Confidential Funds ay hindi magagamit laban sa kalayaan at karapatan ng mga mamamayan, kabilang na ang mga kritiko ng gobyerno—mga mamamayang tumitindig para sa kanilang karapatan?

Ano ang katiyakang hindi malalabag ang karapatan ng nakararaming mga mamamayan sapagkat ngayon po, ang Kinatawang ito ng BAYAN MUNA ay nagiging biktima na ng mga tinatawag na vilification campaign. Mismong mga ahensiya ng gobyerno sa loob ng DILG, iyong offices ng PNP at AFP, pati iyong inilabas na Executive Order No. 70, iyong National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict—lahat ng ito ay nagagamit laban sa mga ordinaryong mamamayan. May Senadora na ngayon ay nakakulong, si Sen. Laila De Lima, at kahit ang ordinaryong mga miyembro ng media like Maria Ressa—hindi ba nagagamit ang Confidential Funds na ito para tugisin ang mga kritiko ng gobyerno, sa halip na gamitin ito sa tamang paraan para sa problema sa kriminalidad, droga at iba pa, na magamit nang tama para sa kapakanan ng ordinaryong mamamayan, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, early this year, there was an SWS survey which revealed that 66 percent of Filipinos said that the number of illegal drug users in their areas has decreased. Added to this is that the popularity and the approval ratings of the President remain high. So, I would think it is safe to presume that the people approve the anti-drug war and the anti-criminality approach of the President, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, naniniwala ako na popularity is fleeting, hindi po iyan pangmatagalan. Katulad noong panahon ni Pangulong Marcos, kahit noong panahon ni Pangulong Estrada, ang kanilang popularidad ay mas mataas pa ngunit bunga noong naisiwalat na katiwalian, korapsyon, pamamaslang, mga illegal arrest at iba pa, madali silang nabuwag at iyong popularity, kung gaano kataas ang inabot nito ay mabilis ring bumagsak.

Congress holds the power of the purse. We are discussing here billions of people's money which could have been used for basic social services such as education, health and housing. Kaakibat ng pagbibigay ng pondo mula sa pinagpawisang buwis ng mamamayan ang accountability ng mga ahensiya, kabilang dito ang Office of the President, at ang pagtitiyak na ang pondo ay ginagamit sa kapakanan at hindi sa pag-atake at maramihang paglabag sa karapatang-pantao.

Naniniwala po ba ang Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, na under this context, the grant of Intelligence and Confidential Funds lies on the hands of the legislature as of now, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. We take note of the comments and manifestations, Mr. Speaker. Rest assured that the utilization of the Confidential and Intelligence Funds follows guidelines and procedures, as well as joint circulars formulated by the COA, DBM, PNP, DND

and governance body for the government corporations, and so, there are strict procedures in the utilization of such, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Naniniwala ba ang Sponsor na ang Kongresong ito ang may karapatan para sa pagbigay o hindi pag-apruba ng tinatawag na pondo ng OP, kasama na iyong Intelligence and Confidential Funds, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the power of the purse belongs to Congress and that is why we have here the budget. We have been discussing, on the sixth day in the Plenary, and deliberating on the proposed P4.1 trillion budget of the national government for 2020, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, naniniwala ang Kinatawag ito na ang Office of the President ay hindi isang intelligence-gathering office. Iyong request na dagdagan ng ilang bilyon ang Confidential and Intelligence Funds ay nasa Kongresong ito at hindi ako naniniwala na dapat bahagi ito ng Office of the President. Kung kaya't doon sa mga kasagutan na hindi klaro kung paano nagagamit ang pondo para sa Intelligence and Confidential Funds, nasa Kongresong ito kung paano tatanawin ito at kung dapat nga bang bigyan ng kinaukulang budget ang pondong ito na lumobo sa mga nakaraang taon, sa halip na ang pondong ito ay mapunta sa mga serbisyong panlipunan na kailangan na kailangan para ma-mitigate o mabawasan ang kahirapan sa ating bayan, para ito sana ay marechannel sa mas mahahalagang serbisyo. Ito ang tindig ng Kinatawan ng BAYAN MUNA at dito na lang po ako nagtatapos.

Sa ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, isang mapagpalayang hapon sa ating lahat. Salamat po.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Arlene D. Brosas of GABRIELA Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Lady from GABRIELA, Hon. Arlene D. Brosas is hereby recognized for her interpellation.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, the President has been very vocal in his stance against drug pushers, criminals and corrupt officials in the government. Galit na galit po ang Pangulo sa droga, korapsyon at kriminalidad. Tama po ba ito?

REP. UNGAB. Totoo po iyon. Galit na galit ang ating Presidente. Noon Mayor pa siya ay galit na galit na siya sa mga people behind the drug menace, Mr. Speaker

REP. BROSAS. Now, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, it was revealed last month that 1,914 prisoners convicted of heinous crimes, ranging from rape to murder, had been freed through the Good Conduct Time Allowance or GCTA. Mula po sa panahon ng Duterte administration, ito ay 1,618 prisoners, based on the list from the BuCor, and 816 convicts had been released for this year alone, mula po noong January 1, 2019. Ang ibig sabihin, kada araw ay may pinapalayang murderer, rapist, drug pusher simula ng maupo si Pangulong Duterte sa Malakanyang, gamit ang pag-abuso sa GCTA Law or "Cash for Release" racket sa BuCor, sabi nga nila.

Now, we ask— is the Office of the President aware of all these?

REP. UNGAB. The fiasco on the GCTA is within the purview of the Bureau of Corrections and at present, the DOJ is now looking into the situation, Mr. Speaker, and the IRR is being reviewed. The President is taking measures and has already requested those who were able to avail of and were freed through that GCTA by the BuCor, to surrender to the nearest authorities, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, nagkaroon lamang ng aksyon ang President nang lumabas ang usaping ito. Ang ibig bang sabihin nito, hindi o walang gagawin ang Pangulo kung hindi pa bumukol ang isyu ng GCTA, ganoon ba, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. UNGAB. Iyon pong IRR ay ginawa po ng previous Congress, previous administrations, at iyon po ang na-implement again ng Bureau of Corrections. So, the President is not aware, and he only became aware when the fiasco was exposed in the media and through reports that reached him. So, iyon po, nag-aksyon naman ang DOJ at saka may aksyon na rin po ang Office of the President.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, hindi po pupuwede na hindi alam ng Pangulo ang mga ito, lalo na't considering the BuCor chiefs were his close friends, ano po. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, we know that the President appointed some of his most trusted men in BuCor. Senator Bato Dela Rosa led the BuCor from April to October 2018; then Capt. Nicanor Faeldon took over the agency in November 2018 until September 2019 after he was sacked in the midst of the GCTA mess.

Ang tanong—did Senator Bato and Captain Faeldon notify the President regarding the implementation of the

GCTA and the subsequent release of the convicts based on the said law, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, these are matters which belong to the Department of Justice, and I understand the House will be conducting an investigation related to this, and the Senate is likewise conducting ongoing investigations. So, I think the questions on the details of the GCTA will best be answered in those hearings or investigations, Mr. Speaker. Hindi po kasama iyong Office of the President diyan. BuCor po iyon.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, mayroon po tayong tinatawag na command responsibility. Ang lagi po nating pinapasagot doon sa mga issues, lalong-lalo na sa usapin ng polisiya, ay ang mismong Office of the President, hindi po ba? Hindi po ba dapat iyong usapin ng pag-i-implementa ng mga batas at pagdedesisyon sa mga batas na ito, kasama doon ang Presidente, kaya po natin itinatanong ito.

Mayroon tayong tinatawag na command responsibility. Dapat alam po ito ng Presidente at dapat may ginawa siya dito. Dapat po ito ay maresolba and in fact, kahit nga po sa usapin ng pagpapapanagot sa mismong BuCor chief, it is rather strange that the President still vouched for Faeldon amidst the GCTA mess. He described him as an upright man despite all the controversies that he was implicated in. As former Customs chief, he was tagged in the P6.4 billion shabu shipment that slipped or passed through the Port of Manila in 2017 and in fact, the Ombudsman has recommended the filing of charges against him. Now, he is facing another probe in the Office of the Ombudsman in relation to the GCTA. Is this Malacañang's definition of an "upright man," Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Again, Mr. Speaker, this matter is something within the purview of the Department of Justice which has been doing some action related to this and will be coming up with an amended or revised IRR soon. So, it is the DOJ that is on top of the situation, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, hindi man ako satisfied sa nagiging mga sagot ng ating Sponsor, let me go to my next question kaugnay po diyan, sa ibang topic.

Ito po ay tungkol sa Hong Kong trip of the former rebels. Itinanong ko po ito sa OPAPP noong nakaraan, kung may kinalaman sila dito, na from July 30 to August 2 of this year, iyong 88 former rebels were given an all-expense paid trip to Hong Kong. Totoo po ba ito, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, the question is not clear. Is it related to OPAPP? Kindly restate the

question. Please repeat the question, Mr. Speaker. What is the question related to OPAPP?

REP. BROSAS. This is about the Hong Kong trip, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, na noong July 30 to August 2 of this year, iyong 88 former rebels were given an all-expense paid trip to Hong Kong. Inilibre po sila sa Hong Kong ng Palasyo. Ito po ba ay kinukumpirma ninyo na ginawa mula sa Office of the President?

REP. UNGAB. Is the Lady talking about the rebel-returnees who were invited to see the situation in the area, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, sinasagot po ba ninyo ako na ang Office of the President ang nagpapunta sa mga former rebels sa Hong Kong?

REP. UNGAB. It is the OPAPP, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Mr. Speaker. Sa OPAPP po iyon.

REP. BROSAS. I asked the OPAPP about this at ang sinabi po nila ay hindi po sila, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor.

REP. UNGAB. It is a matter which belongs to OPAPP. Again, I think the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process has already presented their budget. I was talking to our colleagues here, the gentlemen from the Office of the President, and they said it is only normal for the OPAPP to bring those rebel-returnees to exposure trips in various areas so they can see how the government thereat works and functions, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, hindi po ako masagot ng diretso ng Office of the President kung sino ang responsible dito sa pagpapapunta sa Hong Kong trip ng mga former rebels, na itinanong ko sa OPAPP at ang sabi nila ay hindi sila. So, wala pong sagot dito ang Office of the President, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor? You do not know kung saan o ano ang pondong ginamit at sino ang responsable, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, the funds that were used came from the OPAPP, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. So, this was part of their reintegration program to the society. They were introduced to various places, various areas, where they were able to get a grasp of the situation inside and outside, wherein they saw economic activities and opportunities. That was the experience they had, Mr. Speaker.

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

are confirming that galing po sa Office of the President iyong reintegration program nila o ang pondo na ginamit dito. Ano pa pong mga pakinabang o benefit na sinasabi nating kaugnay sa pagpunta natin ng mga former rebels sa Hong Kong dito sa ginawa ng Office of the President?

REP. UNGAB. Again, it is a kind of reintegration process, but I think this is best answered by the OPAPP, Your Honor. This is not directly under the Office of the President.

REP. BROSAS. Okay, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, since iyon po ang klase ng programa na mayroon tayo para tugunan iyong mga internal security na sinasabi na usapin, sana po ay ito ay inilaan na lang sa mga basic services na kailangan ng mga tao at kung paano inuugat ang mga problema at suliranin ng mga mahihirap, lalong-lalo na sa mga nagre-rebelde sa ating bansa, ay maganda po sanang makita natin na inilalagay talaga ito sa health, education and housing.

Next po na punto na gusto kong sabihin ay kung may go-signal po ba ang Presidente sa pagtatayo ng mga towers and telecommunications services ng Dito Telecommunity Corporation, a Chinese-backed company na joint venture ng China Telecom at ng Udenna Corporation.

REP. UNGAB. Please repeat the question.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ang tanong ko po—may go-signal na po ba ang Presidente sa pagtatayo ng towers and telecommunications services sa AFP bases ng Dito Telecommunity Corporation, a Chinese-backed company? May joint venture po ba dito ang China Telecom at ang Udenna Corporation? Alam ninyo po ba ito, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, the deal between the AFP and Dito Telecommunity?

REP. UNGAB. Mr. Speaker, these are towers constructed within the facilities of the AFP, so, it is a matter which was decided upon by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Of course, the President, being the Commander-in-Chief, may have knowledge; however, he trusts his generals, he trusts the AFP's top brass in making decisions, Mr. Speaker.

The Armed Forces is also very careful that data and information just do not leak, so, I believe, the intelligence information, the data on the camps are classified and confidential, so, hindi po basta-basta nakukuha po iyan.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, do you believe that this is a national security issue?

REP. UNGAB. Yes, Mr. Speaker, as part of the submissions of the telcos included a security plan.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, batay po sa mga naging tugon, hindi maitatanggi ang pagkakasangkot ng Presidente sa kontrobersiya kaugnay ng GCTA for sale, usapin po ng kontrobersiya na hindi naman tinutugunan iyong pinakaugat ng mga problema ng mga mahihirap natin sa ating bansa. Pangatlo po ay iyong isyu ng ating soberenya at pagtatanggol sa sarili nating mga resources kung kaya. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ito pong klase ng paghingi ng OP, Office of the President, ng malaking budget para sa intel o Intelligence and Confidential Funds, na sinabi nga kanina na dumoble pa o higit pa, kung ganito at ganito po iyong mga isasagot sa atin, na alam naman natin na ang naging resulta ng command responsibility sa mga issues na ito ay talagang malaking question mark po sa atin, sa tingin po natin, mas makakabuti o mas magiging kapaki-pakinabang na ang budget natin ay idirekta na lang sa mga na-cut na mga budget sa basic services kaysa ilagay pa ito sa lumolobong Intelligence and Confidential Funds. Ilagay nalang po natin ito sa health, education and housing, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor.

Salamat po.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago of KABATAAN Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). The Honorable Elago is hereby recognized.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Magandang hapon po sa ating distinguished Sponsor at sa mga kapwa ko Mambabatas.

Mr. Speaker, while the Duterte administration is focusing its energies and funds on its campaign on anti-illegal drugs, its criminality and corruption efforts, this is the current state of our children and youth. As reported by the Child Rights Network, the largest alliance of organizations and agencies pushing for pro-children legislation, Mr. Speaker, from 2016 to 2019, there were at least 74 children killed in the war on illegal drugs and one of these is the case of 17-year-old Kian Loyd Delos Santos. There are about 18,000 children orphaned. According to the conservative estimates of the DSWD, there are 152,123 drug personalities and so, according to the PDEA, if each has one to three children, Mr. Speaker, we are looking at 150,000 to 450,000 children whose parents are now in prison. There are also 26,905 drug surrenderees who are children, Mr. Speaker, and there is also the plight of these children who witnessed killings in their communities.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me ask the distinguished Sponsor, considering the spate of killings among the

youth and children, can we still consider the war on illegal drugs successful in accomplishing its goal?

REP. UNGAB. First of all, with regard to the slaying of Kian delos Santos in Caloocan City, I was informed that there was already a conviction of the perpetrators by the court and—what is the other question, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, iyon lang po ay isa doon sa at least 74 na napatay na mga bata at mga kabataan. Ang ikinakabahala ng Representasyon na ito, Mr. Speaker, ay maaari po na ang mga naging pahayag ng ating Pangulo, katulad po nitong kanyang sinambit noong March 7, 2018, na “sadya o hindi sadya, sagot ko kayo”—ito po ay sinabi niya sa ating mga kapulisan at maaaring ang mga ganitong pahayag ay nagpapalakas ng loob po ng ating mga uniformed personnel pagdating sa mga pag-abuso sa kanilang kapangyarihan at saka sa kanilang awtoridad.

Sa mga nabanggit natin na mga napaslang na, masasabi ng Representasyong ito na hindi nararapat na isangkalan o masakripisyo natin at hindi dapat tawagin lang na mga collateral casualties ang mga bata at mga kabataan na ito, dahil iyan po ang nakikita natin ngayon sa mga report ng Philippine National Police pagdating sa mga nadadamay o kaya naman mga talagang napaslang na mga bata. Ang pinakahuli po diyan ay ang three-year-old na si Kateleen Myca Ulpina na, bagamat oo na mayroon na ngayong imbestigasyon at hindi po tayo titigil hanggat hindi napapanagot ang mga sangkot sa kanyang pagkapaslang, hindi natin masasabi na tayo ay nagtatagumpay kung ang kapalit naman nito ay ang mga buhay ng ating mga bata at kabataan.

Mr. Speaker, nababahala rin po tayo sa kung saan nakalaan ang daan-daang bilyong pondo, hindi lang po ng OP pero kundi sa iba pang mga ahensiya. Sa mga budget briefings, nagtanong po tayo sa DSWD at DILG kung mayroon bang mga nakalaan na partikular na programa, aktibidad o proyekto para naman suportahan iyong mga bata at kabataan na apektado ng war on illegal drugs. Ang sabi po nila sa atin ay sa kasalukuyan ay wala pang partikular na pondo para lang doon sa kanilang pangangailangan ang nakalaan. Mr. Speaker, would it be possible to rechannel the P4.5 billion in confidential and intelligence expenses to programs, activities and projects that would support not only the families of those children and youth killed during drug war operations, but also to support all the children who witnessed the drug war and whose parents were arrested, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. UNGAB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the other cases, these are all undergoing investigations, and some of them are already pending in court. Let me assure the Lady that the President

does not condone or allow wrongdoings and he is very strict. He keeps reminding the military and uniformed personnel to strictly follow and implement the laws, and he has also been reminding them to stay away from corruption, considering that ginagawa na po niya ang lahat para ma-increase iyong kanilang mga salaries and take-home pay. So, ganoon po.

The Office of the President, especially the President, does not allow wrongdoings, so, pinapaimbestigahan na po nila lahat iyong mga nasabi na at na-mention kanina po.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, imbes na tumaas ng doble iyong Confidential and Intelligence Funds, bakit hindi na nga lang natin ilagay ito sa mga proyekto para doon sa mga susuporta sa mga bata at kabataan na nadadamay po doon sa war on illegal drugs? That is number one. Number two, kinakailangan pong matigil iyong mga pahayag na katulad nga noong nabanggit natin na sinabi mismo sa kapulisan, na sadya man o hindi sadya iyong mga pamamaslang, may backer po sila sa Malacañang. Hindi naman po puwede na ganoon dahil dito na po nabubuksan iyong mga possibilities na maaari pong magkaroon ng abuse sa authority. Kaya kung maaari po ay makapag-refrain na magsabi ng ganitong mga statements, kung malinaw ang ating hangarin na talagang gusto nating protektahan ang integridad, hindi lang ng kapulisan pero pati ang military, at kung tunay nga iyong hangarin na ang lahat po ng mga programa at proyekto na isinasagawa ngayon laban sa drugs, criminality at korapsyon ay para sa kapakanan ng mga bata at kabataan.

Sa ngayon po, imbes na pang-suporta sa kanila ay parang gagamitin pa ang pondo na ito laban sa kanila. Habang walang pondo para sa mga bata at kabataan na nadamay sa war on drugs, sa PNP ay tumaas ang kanilang pondo, ang AFP ay ganoon din sa Oplan Tokhang, at ganoon din sa lahat ng Confidential and Intelligence Funds ng iba't ibang mga departamento. Muli ay nananawagan tayo sa ating distinguished Sponsor na, imbes na nakalagay sa mga lump sums na ito na hindi nabubusisi, hindi lang ng Kongreso kung hindi ng taumbayan, ang pondong ito ay ilagay na lamang doon sa mga serbisyo na may direkta na kapakinabangan, hindi lang ng mga bata at kabataan kung hindi sa mamamayang Pilipino.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Minority Leader, Hon. Bienvenido M. Abante Jr.—I am sorry. I move that we recognize Hon. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte from the Sixth District of Quezon City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Hon. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte is hereby recognized.

REP. BELMONTE. Mr. Speaker, I was instructed by the Minority Leader to say that there being no other Member of the Minority who wishes to interpellate on the budget of the Office of the President, to move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the said office.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we join the Minority in the motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Office of the President.

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

REP. UNGAB. Thank you very much.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 2:18 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 2:22 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider the budgets of the Department of National Defense and its attached agencies.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

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

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Vice Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, to deliver his sponsorship speech on the budgets of the Department of National Defense and its attached agencies.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Honorable Biazon is hereby recognized.

REP. BIAZON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Representation has the honor to present the proposed budget of the Department of National Defense in the amount of P188.96 billion or P2.43 billion higher than the 2019 budget. The DND has a proposed budget which ranked fifth in the National Expenditure Program of the government for 2020.

This Representation is ready to answer any questions on the matter, Mr. Speaker.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

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

It was 2:24 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 2:26 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, we would like to first acknowledge the presence of the DND family and the family of the AFP. The DND is led by Usec. Cardozo M. Luna, Usec. Raymundo DV Elefante, Usec. Reynaldo B. Mapagu, Asec. Josue Gaverza Jr., Asec. Angelito M. De Leon, Asec. Teodoro Cirilo T. Torralba III, Asec. Jesus Rey R. Avilla, Asec. Manuel Felino V. Ramos and Asec. Antonio L. Bautista. From the AFP, we have Gen. Benjamin R. Madrigal Jr., VAdm. Gaudencio C. Collado Jr., Maj. Gen. Reynaldo Aquino, Lt. Gen. Rozzano D. Briguez and VAdm. Robert A. Empedrad. For the DND Civilian Bureaus, we have Dir. Daniel R. Casabar Jr. of the National Defense College of the Philippines, OIC Dir. Rolando Jungco from the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, Administrator Ernesto G. Carolina from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, Dr. Dominador M. Chiong Jr from the Office of Civil Defense and Administrator Ricardo B. Jalad.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, N.). Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate from BAYAN MUNA Party-List for his interpellation.

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

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

Puwede po bang magtanong ng mga ilang paglilinaw sa budget ng DND sa ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, maaari po.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po. Ang una ko pong katanungan ay patungkol sa ating AFP Modernization Program. As we speak now, ang AFP Modernization Program, tayo ay nakagugol o gumastos na ng humigit-kumulang sa P84,803,715,605.52. Tama po ba ito, G. Isponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Tama po ang figure na nabanggit ng ating kasamahan, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. With due respect, Mr. Sponsor, I think the audio is not really that good. May we request the Sponsor to please repeat his response.

REP. BIAZON. Tama po iyong nabanggit na figure, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po. Tama rin po ba na sa susunod na mga taon, ang pagtutuunan ng pansin ng Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa ay ang pondo sa Modernization Program para po sa ating external defense? Tama po ba ito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Tama po, may malaking bahagi ng external defense ang pagtutuunan ng pansin.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po. Kapag sinasabi po natin na ang inyong magiging focus sa darating na mga taon, lalo na iyong tinatawag nating “Second Horizon of the AFP Modernization Program,” ano po ang pakahulugan nito, G. Isponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Iyong “Second Horizon” po na tinatawag natin ay nakatuon doon sa strategic objectives ng ating Department of National Defense na may kinalaman sa pagtatanggol sa ating mga teritoryo, pareho ng sa langit at para din sa karagatan.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat, G. Isponsor. So, dahil nabanggit po ninyo na ang focus ng AFP Modernization Program sa kasalukuyan ay doon sa ating panglabas na depensa, kabahagi dito, kung tama ang aking pagkaunawa, ay ang pagbigay ng mga kinakailangang

equipment at personnel sa ating Philippine Navy. Tama po ba ito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Tama po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Sa katunayan, sa mga nakaraang taon, ito nga ang nakikita natin, na ang Armed Forces of the Philippines, especially the Philippine Navy, ay bumibili ng or nag-a-acquire ng mga barko na pandigma. Tama po ba iyon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Tama po dahil malaki ang puwang sa ating kakayahan sa pagtatanggol ng ating karagatan.

REP. ZARATE. Tama po, lalo na dahil sa kasalukuyan ay nandiyan ang banta ng pagiging agresibo ng Tsina sa ating karagatan, sa West Philippine Sea, at maging noong ibang bansa katulad ng Amerika na numero unong kakumpetensiya ng Tsina ngayon hindi lang economically kundi pati militarily. Tama po ba iyong aking nasabi, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Tama po, tungkulin ng pamahalaan, ng Estado, na bantayan ang karagatan natin, ang teritoryo laban sa mga nagbabanta dito.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po. Patungkol po diyan, mayroon po akong partikular na katanungan. Nitong nakaraang mga buwan, ang atin pong Philippine Navy, ang ating Armed Forces of the Philippines, ay nag-acquire po ng isang sasakyang pangdagat, a corvette from the Republic of Korea. Ito po iyong Chungju, kung hindi ako nagkakamali. Ang Chungju po was commissioned in 1987 ng Republika ng Korea, at nitong nakaraang August 5, nagkaroon ng decommissioning sa naval base ng Korea, sa Changwon City, South Korea, para ang barkong ito ay ibigay o i-donate sa Pilipinas pero mayroon token na \$100. Tama po ba ang statement na ito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Practically, donated vessel po ito, at masasabi po natin na galing sa kagandahang-loob ng bansang Korea.

REP. ZARATE. Tama po, donated ito pero mayroon pong token na \$100. Tama po ba, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. The Flag Officer in Command is telling me that there is no such thing as \$100 as a token.

REP. ZARATE. There is no such thing as \$100 token na pambayad sa barkong ito, so, it is a 100 percent donation. Tama po ba ito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Yes, that is the affirmation of the Flag Officer in Command, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po sa kasagutan. Kagaya ng nasabi ko, ang barkong ito was commissioned in 1987 and decommissioned in 2016. Tama po ba iyon, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. It was, yes, and it is a 30-year old ship, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. It is a 30-year old corvette donated to the Philippines.

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

REP. ZARATE. Now, ang sunod na katanungan, sabi po ninyo 100 percent na donation ito. Wala po ni isang kusing na ginastos ang ating bansa patungkol dito sa barkong ito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BIAZON. That is our understanding, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, of a donation.

REP. ZARATE. Okay. Noong ibinigay po ba ito ng South Korea, kasama ba ang mga kanyon, radar capability at iba pang pangangailangan para talagang effectively magamit ito ng ating bansa?

REP. BIAZON. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. The corvette came with armaments or capability to deliver armaments. It has anti-submarine warfare capabilities ready for use by the Philippine Navy, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. That was part of the donation? Are you sure of that, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. The ship, if we can compare it to a gun, was given like a gun but minus the bullets.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you. Including the so-called harpoon missiles na nasa loob ng barkong iyon noong ginagamit pa ito ng South Korea, na-donate din po nila sa atin?

REP. BIAZON. The harpoon missiles were not included, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. As mentioned, like a gun, we are like being given a gun without the bullets.

REP. ZARATE. So, hindi po kasama iyong missiles na iyon.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, hindi po kasama.

REP. ZARATE. Paano po iyong American-made na Mk-46 anti-submarine torpedoes na ginagamit din ng Chungju bago ito na-decommissioned, kasama po ba iyon sa na-donate sa atin, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. The torpedoes themselves, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, are not included. However, the capability to deliver or to fire torpedoes is there with the corvette, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. The capability is there pero iyong torpedo mismo ay hindi kasama.

REP. BIAZON. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Let us consider this—the consumable items were not included, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

So, dahil ito ay 30-year old na barko na ibinigay o na-donate sa atin, ang sunod ko po na katanungan, wala po bang repair, refurbishing na ginamit ang ating Philippine Navy? Sabi ninyo kanina, ni isang kusing walang ginastos pero hindi po siguro kapani-paniwala iyon dahil kung mayroong mga bagay na hindi kasama sa donation ay kailangang may idadagdag ang ating bansa.

Ano po ang katugunan ng ating Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Iyong pag-acquire po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ng barko ay wala ho tayong—hindi ho natin binili. Ito iyong sinasabi po natin na walang gastos ngunit, siyempre po, para matiyak natin na nasa maximum operating capacity ang barko, kinakailangan din ng refurbishment para masiguro lang natin na ang pagtakbo nito ay maaasahan talaga at gumagana nang maayos, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. How does our Sponsor then assess the condition of that donated vessel, can we say that it is in a tip-top condition, in poor condition, or in very poor condition when it was donated to us? The Sponsor said there is a need to refurbish the vessel, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, since in effect ay ni-retire ito ng South Korea, kinailangan po i-refurbish ang makina at kasama rin po siyempre sa ating paggastos ay iyong training ng ating mga personnel na magpapakabo noong barko. Kaya hindi lang naman lahat ay napunta sa refurbishment, but the training is also included in the expenditures, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Gonzales (N.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Rodante D. Marcoleta.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. Puwede po bang maipaalam ng kagalang-galang na Sponsor ng Kagawarang ito, magkano ba ang ginugol o ginastos natin sa refurbishment, sa training, sa replacement ng mga obsolete system kung mayroon man, at sa lahat ng pangangailangan para maging safe ang barkong ito, including crew billeting and training and other expenses? Gaya po ng inamin ninyo kanina, this is a 30-year old vessel na na-donate sa atin, kaya magkano po ang ginugol natin?

REP. BIAZON. May estimate po na about P250 million na ginastos, na kinabibilangan ng repair and refurbishment noong makina at noong bapor, may mga pinalitan po na armor plating, kasama rin po doon ang personnel training on navigation and communications equipment, poll products and ordinance items, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Two hundred fifty million pesos, roughly mga more than US\$4 million po iyan, tama po ba, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Rough estimate, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, yes.

REP. ZARATE. Four million US dollars? Just a curiosity, matanong ko lang sa Sponsor, sa halagang US\$4 million—this is an innocent question—wala ho ba tayong mabiling brand-new na barkong pandigma, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Siguro, kung ihambing po natin sa ibang bapor na may kahalintulad na kakayahan, iyon ay nagkakahalagang around P50 billion. So, masasabi po natin na iyong halagang US\$4 million ay very affordable na po para sa Philippine Navy, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. So, pero mayroon pong puwedeng bilhin sa ganoon na amount?

REP. BIAZON. Mas malaking halaga po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, kung bibili ng brand-new na may comparable capability.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. Ang sunod ko pong tanong, ang 30-year-old na barkong ito, kung ito po ang klase ng bibilhin ng ating Philippine Navy as part of its Modernization Program, how will this fare with the naval ships, for example, of China or if not China, Vietnam, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Kung ang comparison po ay apples to apples, kaya naman po ito ay masasabi nating ma-

match iyong sa Navy ng ibang bansa. Kung ikukumpara po natin iyong mga Navy—the Philippine Navy with the Chinese Navy, definitely, the Chinese Navy has a much greater capability. One example really is that they have an aircraft carrier while we do not, but using apples to apples comparison of certain ships in the same category, we can say that we can match what they have, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Now, ang sunod ko pong katanungan, ito po bang donation ng South Korea nitong vessel na Chungju, may kinalaman doon sa pinasok na kontrata ng Philippine Navy para magkaroon tayo ng government-to-government acquisition of two brand-new corvettes from South Korea, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Kung tama po iyong pagkaunawa ko sa tanong, kung may kinalaman ito doon sa acquisition, wala pong kinalaman ito. Walang strings attached between this donation and the acquisition of two other frigates, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. So, basta na lang ho nag-donate ang South Korea, parang ganoon po ba ang sinasabi natin? “O mayroon kaming 30-year-old na barko, inyo na iyan”—is that an isolated case, you know, or binigay ng South Korea ito na isang decommissioned vessel nila dahil ang pamahalaang Pilipinas, as part ng kanyang Modernization Program, ay bibili nga ng mga barko mula sa South Korea? Parang a token of, you know, gratitude if we may say that.

So, iyon po ang katanungan ko, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BIAZON. Again, we reiterate that there are no strings attached between the acquisition and the donation. As to why South Korea did this donation, this is not an isolated case as it has, in fact, donated ships to other countries. We also believe that South Korea acknowledges the role of the Philippines in maintaining peace and stability in this region, in the West Philippine Sea, and if the Philippines is able to have its maritime capability upgraded, then definitely, stability in the region—they believe—would also be achieved. So, para bang tulong nila dahil sila rin naman ay may interes na hinahabol doon sa istabilidad ng lugar ng karagatan na iyon.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. The good Sponsor will confirm that the Philippine Navy will acquire two new corvettes from South Korea on a government-to-government contract.

REP. BIAZON. While the Philippines is interested,

it is still on the drawing board, if we can call it that, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the acquisition of the two corvettes.

REP. ZARATE. So, there is no contract yet on that aspect, no consummated contract yet for the Philippine Navy to acquire two vessels from South Korea on a government-to-government setup.

REP. BIAZON. There is no decision yet on that acquisition, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, although we know that the shared history of South Korea and the Philippines must have been a motivation for them to help us, to help the AFP.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Will the good Sponsor also confirm that South Korea is actually also developing its own arms export industry at present? Will the good Sponsor confirm that?

REP. BIAZON. Well, I think, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, that it is quite obvious that the defense industry is one of the areas they are developing.

REP. ZARATE. Yes, and in fact, South Korea is now one of the biggest defense arms exporters. In the event that we will acquire these vessels from South Korea, then it follows na ang after service noon, iyong mga pangangailan ng barkong iyan ay kukunin natin mula sa South Korea. Is that a good or a safe assumption, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, that would be an arrangement that is going to be made.

REP. ZARATE. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. I pointed that out dahil ganoon naman talaga ang arms industry. In fact, itong Chungju na na-donate sa atin ay parang ano lang iyan, parang binigyan tayo ng ice cream. Iyong Chungju is the ice cream cone pero the real cost really is the ice cream that will cost real money, kaya po nire-raise natin ito, na kailangang pag-aralang mabuti ito ng ng DND at ng AFP dahil hindi ho libo-libo o milyon-milyon ang magagastos natin dito. On one hand, may na-donate sa atin—quote, unquote, “donate”—pero gumastos rin tayo ng P250 million to make it palatable, parang icing na bumili tayo sa kanila ng mga susunod pa na barko.

Incidentally, I also raised that dahil noong mga nakaraang budget ho natin, kung maaalala ng ating na kagalang-galang na Sponsor at kaya nga sinabi kong parang na-déjà-vu ako rito ako, ano, I also pointed out here in this session hall na bumili naman tayo ng isang decommissioned Hamilton-class cutter sa US at pinalabas din na donation ito, donation pero it cost P1

billion. Ang cost talaga nito was P1 billion pero ang pinabayaran lang sa atin ng America ay almost P500 million na kinuha natin sa Malampaya Funds. Part ito ng Disbursement Acceleration Program. Donation pero gumastos tayo ng nearly P500 million, at pagkatapos, gumastos pa tayo para ma-refurbish ito, para malagyan ng mga bagong armas, dahil noong dumating ito sa Pilipinas, it was stripped of all, you know, modern armaments kaya kailangang bumili uli tayo mula sa America ng mga bagong armas.

Ito iyong, if I am not mistaken, the BRP Alcaraz ngayon at part ito noong tatlong Hamilton-class cutters na mula sa US, 44 years old although medyo bata iyong galing sa South Korea. Iyong galing sa US ay 44-year-old decommissioned Hamilton-class cutter that we converted into a corvette and one of them, if I am not mistaken, as of now ay grounded pa, iyong BRP Del Pilar. Tama po ba iyong statement na ito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Tama po, mayroon tayong tatlong Hamilton-class cutters at iyong isa nga po ay undergoing refurbishing, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat. So, iyon po ang pagkakahalintulad. Pagkatapos nating bumili o ma-acquire ang tatlong Hamilton-class cutters na ito, ang isa nga ay ang BRP Del Pilar that ran aground sa Hasa-Hasa Shoal or the Half Moon Shoal sa West Philippine Sea at hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa nakabalik. Incidentally, kailan ba mapapa-operationalize uli ang BRP Del Pilar? Ito pa naman iyong flag ship ng Philippine Navy. So, when do we expect na magagamit uli ang BRP Del Pilar?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, we expect the cutter to be operational by the second semester of 2020, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Sa second semester of 2020, so, it is no longer at the end of 2019 because it ran aground in August 2018, more than a year ago. Ang sabi ng pamunuan ng Philippine Navy noon, at the end of 2019 ay kailangang mapatakbo na ito, especially with the ongoing aggressive maritime operations of China in our West Philippine Sea. Ano po ang dahilan bakit tumagal ang pagpapa-operationalize nitong BRP Del Pilar, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the propellers of the ship were sent to the United States which has the capability to repair these items and the information given to the Philippine Navy, the timeframe for its completion will be around second semester, but, of course, we assumed that what they gave us is a timeframe that has flexibility and there is an effort to finish the repairs as soon as possible.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Again, I pointed this out dahil at the back of my mind, question din ito ng kahandaan ng ating mga personnel ng Philippine Navy. Bakit nabalahura o bakit it ran aground doon sa Hasa-Hasa and yet, now, we are again acquiring a vessel from South Korea? Mag-aaral na ulit tayo nito dahil iba rin ang barkong ito. Hind ito katulad noong Hamilton-class cutter, so, mag-aaral na naman tayo uli. Kaya ko po tinatanong iyan dahil—among klaseng modernization ba talaga ang gusto ng Philippine Navy, or for that matter, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, to defend, supposedly, our national territory kung ang palagi po nating bibilhin ay ganitong mga klaseng barko na, at the end of the day, mas magiging more costly pa ang maintenance nito than o kung bumili tayo, halimbawa, ng bago.

At any rate, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, in relation to that, during our budget deliberation last year, kabahagi ng wish list ng DND, especially ng Philippine Navy, is the acquisition of submarine. May I inquire from the Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, for 2020, nakaprograma na po ba na bumili ng submarino ang ating Philippine Navy, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, if the question is—if it is in the plan for 2020, no, it is not. Submarine acquisition will be further down the timeline, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, with an ultimate target around 2027 for us to have that vessel, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. 2027?

REP. BIAZON. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. I had read sometime ago na handa na ang Philippine Navy na bumili ng submarine, at ako po ay medyo nagulantang doon. Hindi natin kayang i-maintain iyong ating mga flagship vessels like the BRP Del Pilar, and we are now thinking of acquiring a submarine na mas, as a layman, ang tingin ko po, ang training nito ay kakaiba, ang maintenance nito ay kakaiba, at mas magastos ang ganitong klase ng sasakyang pandigma, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BIAZON. Maaga ho siguro—hindi naman sa maaga, but let me correct that. Iyong announcement o statement na narinig po natin ay talagang it will take time for it to come into fruition. Buying a submarine, training the personnel and putting in the support services and facilities, would really take time. Kung narinig man po natin, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, iyong announcement na nagpapalano iyong ating pamahalaan na mag-acquire ng submarines, siguro, talagang expected natin na medyo mahabang panahon ang kailangan para maisakatuparan iyon. Bahagi na rin po

noon iyong pag-aaral kung kakayanin ba natin in the end, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. So, parang—I read it somewhere na tama iyong sinabi na, “The Philippine Navy is now still learning how to swim,” ano, at kailangang niyang ma-master muna kung paano lumangoy before it can embark into learning how to dive. So, tama po siguro iyon na huwag muna ho iyong maambisysong submarines at ito munang ating mga flagship vessels.

Now, I will go to another related issue, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. From the reports I requested from the DND on the monitored foreign and domestic vessels that entered into our territory, ang nabanggit po rito, there are 560 ang na-monitor for 2018 at karamihan po rito ay mula sa China, Vietnam, Malaysia and Taiwan. Sabi nga rito sa report na ipinadala po sa atin, China has been utilizing fishing vessels to discreetly conduct surveillance, search and rescue, and other operations.

So, tama po ba iyong hinala natin na kahit na hindi naman natin nakikita iyong mga barkong pandigma nila, iyong mga fishing vessels nila ay talagang weaponized? Ang sabi nga ng iba, these are militias na ginagamit rin sa kanilang surveillance, search and rescue, and other operations, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Well, nababanggit po sa mga iba’t-ibang forum iyong existence ng maritime militias, but of course, unless and until we are able to get hold of specific evidence that those vessels are engaged in surveillance and other activities related to being part of the maritime militias, we can just assume that they are there on a legitimate cause, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, because I was just quoting from the report made by the DND as per my request and that is one of their findings. I am very curious, ang sinabi rito, nandiyan iyong People’s Liberation Army Navy, nandiyan iyong China Coast Guard, and the Coast Guard vessels were monitored in close proximity to our Ayungin Shoal. I am also very curious, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, dito ho sa ipinadalang report ng Philippine Navy, na aapat na bansa lang ang na-monitor natin, although mas marami ang galing sa Tsina na 121, pagkatapos, mayroong Vietnam, Malaysia and Taiwan. Ang ipinagtataka ko pa rito, there were reports in the past and, in fact, nire-report din nila ito sa kanilang bansa, na ang US ay madalas ding dumadaan sa ating mga katubigan at teritoryo. Bakit ho hindi sila isinama sa report na ito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, just to clarify, the list that has been read by our distinguished colleague is a list of those vessels from countries which

have maritime claims in the West Philippine Sea, whereas the United States, although it is being monitored, but being a close ally, is always in coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. Ganoon nga rin po ang aking naisip dahil ang mga ito ay claimants.

So, ang kulang sa report na ito ay dapat nakalagay din kung ilan rin po iyong na-monitor natin na mga barkong-pandigma, halimbawa, ng Estados Unidos na dumadaan din sa ating teritoryo at kung ano po ang mga naging kalagayan nito. On the part of China, inamin din po ng ating Kagawaran ng Foreign Affairs na there were instances that, in fact, we filed diplomatic protests dahil sa mga ilang pagkakataon na ang kanilang mga barko ay pumasok sa ating teritoryo na hindi alam ng ating bansa, kaya gusto po nating malaman din kung mayroong mga pagkakataong na ganoon din sa bahagi naman ng Estados Unidos dahil sila talaga ay isa rin sa pinakamalaking military powers na nandito sa Asia Pacific, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BIAZON. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the AFP and the DND have a separate list monitoring the United States Navy. It is just that the list that was earlier read was with regard to those countries which have claims in the West Philippine Sea area. The long-established alliance between the Philippines and the United States, in fact, is covered by a Mutual Defense Treaty, so, their presence or existence or sailing through the area is really always in coordination with the Philippine government.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. Maikli na lang ang ating oras kaya humihingi na lang po ang Kinatawang ito na i-submit din nila kung ilan ba iyong so-called “freedom of navigation operations” ng mga barko ng US sa loob nitong nakaraang dalawang taon dito sa ating teritoryo.

REP. BIAZON. The AFP will provide the list, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. I will now move on to my next question.

In the COA findings on the budget of the AFP, there is a large unliquidated amount as of 31 December 2018 on the E-CLIP. As of December 31, 2018, the total funds received by the DND from various agencies, recorded as due the national government agencies for the implementation of various projects, amounted to P925,893,605. Of this amount, P80 million or 8.71 percent was transferred to the AFP for the implementation of the projects and subsequently, to be liquidated. Of the said amount, only P151,582,932

or 16.37 percent was liquidated, leaving a balance of P774,310,672. Ano po ang kadahilanan kung bakit nananatiling unliquidated ang amount na ito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker? In particular, for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, P45,684,000 ang unliquidated as of 31 December 2018.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BIAZON. May I move for a minute suspension, Mr. Speaker, while the data is being retrieved.

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

It was 3:05 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:07 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Sponsor is recognized.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, to make it easier for the agency to pinpoint what is being raised by the honorable colleague, it would be best if he could mention the specific item, the title of the program or the project which is being questioned, because all we got are figures and the agency is having difficulty tracing which program it is attributed to.

REP. ZARATE. Well, in the COA findings, the DILG transferred funds for the administrative expenses of Task Force Balik-Loob for the implementation of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program or E-CLIP, and the AFP received P45,684,000. In that COA Audit Report as of 31 December 2018, that amount remained unliquidated. So, what happened to this P45 million that was transferred to the AFP under the E-CLIP?

I inquired on that, I asked that, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, dahil alam po ninyo, nitong nakaraan, maraming nagrereklamo, lalong-lalo na sa Mindanao, na para bang naging money-making scheme ito ng surrenderees. Maraming human rights organizations ang nagsasabi na sa mga surrenderees na ito—dahil ang E-CLIP, nandito iyong programa para sa surrenderees—ang iba rito ay mga pekeng surrenderees, kaya po naitanong natin ito, kung bakit hanggang ngayon unliquidated itong P45,684,000.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ayon po sa DND at AFP, ang E-CLIP ay isang relatively new program sa kanila kaya po ongoing pa iyong mga

programa at proyekto, kaya hindi pa rin ho natatapos ang kanilang liquidation, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Again, while the other agencies have liquidated—for example, the DND Proper, it received P12 million at nakapag-liquidate ito, as far as the COA Report is concerned, ng P2,891,000. So, ang hindi na lang na-liquidate ng DND Proper is P9,108,000. For the AFP, ang nakalagay doon sa findings ng COA, the entire P45,684,000 remained unliquidated sa kanilang findings. So, ang kaugnay na tanong ko lang dito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, as far as the AFP is concerned, ano ba ang proseso ng identification noong surrenderees ang sinusunod? Paano ba magkaroon ng verification because if nili-liquidate pa natin iyon, bakit natagalan ang pagproseso nito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, iyon pong ahensiya, iyong DND at AFP, ay handang mag-submit ng proseso. Iyong atin pong itinanong kasi ay iyong tungkol sa proseso, at inaalok po nila na mag-submit na lang po sila noong dokumentong magpapakita ng proseso na inyong itinanong, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, paki-submit na lang po kung mayroong listahan kung paano ito, sino ang nakinabang dito at paano ito ginastos, isama ninyo na rin po. I am just curious—dito ba kinuha rin sa E-CLIP iyong itinanong ng ating mga kasamahan kanina, iyong mga trips abroad noong mga nag-surrender, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Pakiulit lang po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Earlier, during sa budget discussion ng Office of the President, naitanong ng isa nating kasamahan na mayroong surrenderees na pumunta ng Hong Kong, nagbakasyon sila sa Hong Kong. Kasama ba ito dito sa budget ng E-CLIP, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Hindi po kasama dito sa mga proyekto ng AFP at DND iyong nasabing biyahe, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. On my last item, on policy questions. Nitong mga nakaraan po, especially during the previous election, the past May election, isa po sa opisyal ng AFP na madalas ay parang naglalabas ng policy statement ay si General Parlade. Ano po ba ang papel ni General Parlade sa Armed Forces of the Philippines?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, si General Parlade po ay spokesman noong National Task Force.

REP. ZARATE. He is the spokesman of the Task Force.

REP. BIAZON. Tama po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Is he also the spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines?

REP. BIAZON. Iba po ang spokesperson ng Armed Forces of the Philippines.

REP. ZARATE. Ang statement ba ni General Parlade ay statement din ng Armed Forces of the Philippines?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, bilang spokesperson ng National Task Force, hindi lamang po AFP ang nasasakop ng authority ng mga statements ni General Parlade kung hindi pati iyong kabuuan ng Task Force na composed ng iba't ibang mga ahensiya maliban pa sa AFP at DND.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, ang ibig sabihin, mas malawak ang kanyang nasasakupan. Tama po ba iyon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Maaari po sigurong kasama na iyong concerns ng ibang ahensiya na bahagi noong Task Force at hindi lamang ng AFP at DND.

REP. ZARATE. So, kapag may binitawang policy statement si General Parlade, sinusuportahan ito ng Armed Forces of the Philippines. Tama po ba iyon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Kung may kinalaman po sa mandato ng DND at AFP, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Well, halimbawa po, nitong nakaraan, sinabi ni General Parlade na original na fake news ang Jabidah massacre. Sinusuportahan ba ang statement na ito na “original na fake news ang Jabidah massacre” ng panguluhan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the statement of General Parlade is based on his personal research, so, the AFP and DND is not in a position to say if his claim is true or false.

REP. ZARATE. Well, what is the position of the

AFP and the DND for that matter as far as the historical issue involving the Jabidah massacre is concerned considering that, in fact, we just decommissioned several combatants of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front? The Jabidah massacre is one major instance that gave rise to Moro nationalism and the Moro National Liberation Front, gave birth to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

REP. BIAZON. Well, at this point, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the AFP and DND is not in a position to adopt a position. The information they have is no different from what the common Filipino has with regard to the Jabidah massacre. The statement of General Parlade is based on his research and documents that he was able to obtain. So, right now, the AFP and DND cannot make a position on that matter, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Even the accusation that it is fake news, that it did not happen? Is that the official position also of the DND and the AFP, because if that is the position of the AFP and the DND, then, it is already revising our history, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BIAZON. Well, the AFP and DND is not prepared to agree to the statement of General Parlade, neither will they dispute that, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, because it is really based on his personal research.

REP. ZARATE. Hindi ho ba nag-research ang AFP at ang DND on this issue? As I have said, ito ho ang isa sa mga dahilan, malaking dahilan kaya nagkaroon ng Moro rebellion, at malaki hong sampal o insulto sa mga nag-aklas na mga Moro kapag sasabihin nilang ito ay fake news, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. The leadership of the AFP and the DND cannot just say that it is his personal research.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I have just been informed that the reference to the statement made by General Parlade was culled from the privilege speech of a deceased member of the Senate who claimed to have personally seen those who were said to have died in that incident. So, at this point, we are unable to really confirm or stand by the statement of General Parlade, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Well, again, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, to quote General Parlade:

Well here is the original fake news which until now you use, again, to agitate the young to rise against the government—the Jabidah Massacre.

Noong mabasa ang statement na ito ng ating kagalang-galang na Deputy Speaker from Mindanao,

Hon. Mujiv Hataman, nag-issue sila ng statement tungkol dito.

Napakalaking insulto na, while we are now entering an important phase in the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, we are saying na ang pinagmulan nila as a revolutionary force is fake news, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, as mentioned earlier, the AFP and DND maintains that the statement of General Parlade is based on his own research and information that he has access to, so, it is not prepared to take a position on the statement of General Parlade, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. I think that it is dangerous that a general like General Parlade issues some sort of policy statements dahil sabi ninyo, na spokesperson siya ng National Task Force, at sasabihin na lang natin na kapag mayroong pumupuna po sa kanya, based sa personal research niya iyan kaya ayaw makialam ng AFP at DND diyan. He is not bringing his own name alone dahil siya ho ay nagre-represent ng institusyon.

REP. BIAZON. Well, it cannot be said, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, that it is a policy statement. It may be a relation or a narrative of what General Parlade encountered, an information that he encountered, but it is definitely not a policy statement. That is why the AFP and DND cannot be held accountable for that statement of the general, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Well, we may disagree on that kasi kapag sinabi ho ninyong fake news iyong Jabidah massacre, bakit pa tayo nakikipag-usap? Bakit nagkaroon ng usapang pangkapayapaan? Bakit nagkaroon tayo ng Bangsamoro government ngayon? Bakit nagkaroon ng Bangsamoro Transition Authority? So, it has repercussions. May nuance ho ang statement na iyon because you are now adopting iyong revisionist lines na nagsasabi na iyong Jabidah massacre did not happen at all, na gawa-gawa lang iyon at, ergo, walang katuturan. Parang sinasabi po niyan, walang katuturan iyong ginawang pakikipaglaban ng mga Moro fighters natin, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. BIAZON. Well, Mr. Speaker, as mentioned earlier, General Parlade was speaking as the spokesperson of the Task Force. Therefore, the AFP and DND cannot be held accountable for that particular statement. Nevertheless, since General Parlade is not around to make clarifications, it has been offered here by the DND that if the Representative would wish, we can ask him to share the information with you, distinguished Gentleman, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Well, at least, can we just get a commitment from the Sponsor and from the DND since he is part of your chain of command—kahit na siya po ay spokesperson ng Task Force, he is still part of the chain of command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines—and that the AFP and DND will look into this uncalled for, to say the least, unwarranted statements from General Parlade, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, the DND and AFP commits to look into this, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Yes, because I will add to that: several times also in these past elections, General Parlade even has accused this Representation of lying in so many statements. He said I did not attend a committee hearing in Davao and in Surigao when, in truth and in fact, there was no such kind of committee hearing of the Committee on Agricultural Communities in the previous Congress. There were also several other several accusations. He, in fact, calls our bloc, “Kamatayan bloc.” Again, does the leadership of the DND and AFP support this kind of labeling? Our bloc’s official name is Makabayan bloc. Sinusuportahan ba ng AFP at DND ang pagtawag na kami ay “Kamatayan bloc”? Sino po ba ang pinatay namin, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, for the record?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, it is not the position of the AFP, just to be clear about it, to reference the group as “Kamatayan bloc”.

REP. ZARATE. So, very clear, iyon hong statement na iyan ni General Parlade. Sasabihin ninyo rin po ba ngayon that it is his own personal research, personal opinion niya at hindi iyan opisyal na patakaran o tindig ng AFP at DND, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. It is not the position of AFP and DND, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Niri-raise ho natin iyan dito dahil ito po ang aking pangatlong termino bilang Mambabatas at alam ng kagalang-galang na Sponsor kung ano ang aking tindig pagdating dito sa Kongreso. Pinaglalaban natin dito ang karapatan ng ating mamamayan. Maging ang pagbusisi natin sa budget ng DND at AFP, ang tinitingnan natin diyan ay para sa kabutihan ng ating bayan, at hindi ho natin mapapalagpas na mayroong mga opisyal na katulad ni General Parlade na ang kanyang vilification, paninira sa mga Miyembro ng Kamara ay ganoon-ganoon na lang. Salamat sa naging katugunan ninyo at sana ay titindigan ng AFP at PNP iyan. Can we get the commitment from the Sponsor and the DND

and the AFP that this concern will be also addressed by the Department, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. There is a commitment, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, for allowing us this privilege to interpellate on the budget of the DND. Maraming salamat po at magandang hapon sa ating lahat.

REP. BIAZON. Thank you, distinguished colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Arlene D. Brosas of the GABRIELA Party-List for her interpellation.

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

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, maaari bang magtanong ng ilan lamang na katanungan sa DND?

REP. BIAZON. Maaari po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. Noong September 3 po sa House Committee on Appropriations meeting regarding sa budget ng DND, humingi po ang Kinatawan na ito ng listahan ng ginastos ng AFP sa mga nagdaang 2019 Balikatan. Sinabi mismo ni Secretary Lorenzana na walang nakahiwalay na budget dito dahil sinasagot ng US mismo ang kani-kanilang gastos tuwing may aktibidad, ngunit taliwas ito sa kasunod niya ring pahayag sa parehong briefing na tuwing may Balikatan exercises, iyong budget mismo ng battalion ang binabawasan. Ngayon po na nandito na tayo sa Plenaryo, maaari na ba kaming makahingi ng ulat hinggil sa Balikatan 2019? Ito po ba ay idi-disclose ng DND or ito po ba ay—dapat lamang malaman ng taong bayan kung saan napupunta iyong budget sa Balikatan exercises, kung ano ang ginagastos natin dito at ano ang ginagastos ng US dito?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, mayroon po ditong listahan na naibahagi sa Kinatawang ito. Para po sa 2019, ang total budget ay P38,754,962.01, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, hinanap

po natin iyong budget breakdown noon, kung saan ang mga pinaggamitan.

REP. BIAZON. May listahan po dito na tatlo't kalahating pahina.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ire-request na lang po namin iyong mga pahina na iyon. Maaari po bang ngayon na maibigay?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, itong dokumentong isinumite sa akin ng Department of National Defense, may kopya ring naibigay sa Komite, so, readily available po sa Committee iyong impormasyon na ito. Itong kopyang nasa kamay ko ay ginagamit ko po sa kasalukuyan para sa reference ng ating diskusyon dito sa Plenary pero ito po ay readily available sa Committee on Appropriations, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. Kukunin na lang po namin iyong request sa Committee on Appropriations kasi hindi pa naibibigay. Thank you.

Last February 2018 po, President Duterte ordered the military to shoot female rebels in the vagina so that they can be useless. More than a year after, last April, the remains of an alleged New People's Army female fighter, Cindy Tirado, was found to be desecrated as her genitals appeared to be shattered by a bullet. Tirado was among those killed in the military operation led by the 71st Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army in Tagum City, Davao del Norte. Apart from her genitals being shot, her arms were fractured, indicating torture. This violates international humanitarian law which covers the conduct of war and treatment of combatants and constitutes, as a war crime, cruel treatment including sexual violence. The Geneva Convention and its additional Protocols, of which the Philippines is a signatory, include the prohibition of violence to life and person such as cruel treatment and torture, and outrages upon personal dignity. It has been five long months since this gruesome sexual violence. Did the DND do any measure to investigate this violation? Has there been any kind of probe to figure out who are responsible for this excessive use of force, and have actions been done to make them accountable, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, as of the moment, this Representation is told that there is no report yet on the said incident. If the distinguished colleague could provide a lead on a complaint filed or information submitted, then perhaps it will help the leadership look into this which is actually a violation of its policy because the AFP, as a matter of policy, will not order its troops to commit such atrocities and

violence, and it would readily punish those who will be found guilty, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, sinabi ko po iyong pangalan kanina ng biktima, si Cindy Tirado. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, wala po bang record ng sexual violence at encounters, and other issues ang ating Department of National Defense?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, as of the moment, with the documents that the AFP and DND have with them, there is no reference available but, definitely, the officials have taken down the name and they will make a verification once they get back to headquarters, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, if you will just google the name of Cindy Tirado, you will see in the Sunstar publication, nakalagay po doon iyong issue na allegedly ay sinasabi sa AFP and PNP ng brutal killing. So, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, familiar po ang Department of National Defense dapat sa issue na ito ni Cindy Tirado.

Mr. Speaker, even in the April 18, 2019 article ng Inquirer.net, nakalagay po doon, "'She was tortured,' claims the mother of NPA leader slain in Tagum City."

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, we do not doubt that there is information in the media but, as of the moment, as verification revealed, there is no official complaint or claim filed and that is why the AFP and DND will commit to look into this. However, if there are members of the AFP who are found to be engaging in this kind of atrocities, the AFP and DND will definitely bring them to justice and punish them accordingly.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, humihingi talaga ng hustisya ang pamilya Tirado kaugnay dito. Ito po iyong classic example nang kung paano ang isang policy mula mismo sa Pangulo ay nata-translate into something else, lalong-lalo na sa ground, kaya po kailangan imbestigahan ang mga issues na ito dahil importante pong nalalaman natin kung nagba-violate iyong ating mga kasundaluan ng paglabag sa karapatang pantao. Iyon po ang mga importante na maintindihan natin, that the policy that even the President spews, ibig sabihin, mayroon po iyong kinalaman kung paano, on the ground level, ipinatutupad. Kaya dangerous po para sa atin na ganito ang mga issues na nangyayari. Ngayon, sabi nga, wala tayong record. So, I will be pushing na ito ay makuha namin iyong report kaugnay ng gagawin o mga akmang gagawin ng Department of National Defense na investigation dito, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor.

REP. BIAZON. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the AFP and DND is committing to look into this incident down to the ground level. Of course, it would help a lot, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, if on the other side, on the victim's side, there is a record of a complaint or claim about the atrocities committed so that the wheels of justice can really move forward. Kinakailangan din po kasi iyon para doon sa proseso ng hustisya pero tinitiyak po ng AFP at DND, habang naririto sila ngayon, na aalamin nila ang buong kuwento ng incident na ito.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, hindi lang po iyan ang issue. Isa pa lang po iyan sa mga issues na ang usapin o ang kasangkot ay ang Department of National Defense o ang mga kasundaluan. Nito lamang pong nakaraang buwan, sunod-sunod ang mga reports ng kababaihan sa indigenous people at mga mamamayan sa San Mariano, Isabela tungkol sa pangha-harass ng AFP, particular po ng 95th, 86th, and 17th Infantry Battalions—mga kababaihang hinipuan ng military, ilang nanay at bilang ng mga dalaga na pinasayaw ng military sa kanilang harapan habang sila ay umiinom. At nang sila ay tumanggi, hinatak at hinabol pa sila at sinabihang kumendeng-kendeng, at ang mga kasundaluan natin ay mayroong mga dalang baril. Iyon po iyong isyu. Alam ba ng pamunuan ng Department of National Defense ito? Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, nagkaroon po ng pagdinig sa San Mariano, Isabela, sa Sanggunian, kaugnay dito.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, inaalang po ngayon ng ating pamunuan. Tinatawagan na nila mismo ang mga pinuno ng mga unit na nabanggit natin para po ma-verify iyong information.

Tulad po ng nasabi kanina, siguro po kung makakapag-provide tayo ng report ng mga biktima, kasi hindi po ba ang proseso naman natin kung ikaw ay naagrabyado, ikaw ay maaaring dumulog sa kinauukulang tanggapan para magreklamo, at iyon po ay magiging batayan para po sa imbestigasyon din ng AFP-DND. Malalaman kung inaksyunan ba iyong reklamo na iyon o hindi, pero sa kasalukuyan po, habang naririto po tayo sa bulwagang ito, inaalang ng Armed Forces Chief of Staff mismo iyong background ng nasabing kaso.

Kung mayroon pa hong ibang mga kaso na nais maliwanagan ng ating kasamahan, maaari rin pong isumite ngayon iyong listahan na iyon para isa-isa pong mabusisi ng Armed Forces at malaman ang estado noong mga inaakusahan na iyon.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, I was in a fact-finding mission last August 8-10 in Brgy.

Gangalan and Brgy. Dibuluan, San Mariano, Isabela. Dito po, ini-report ng mga mamamayan doon iyong ilang mga paglabag sa karapatang pantao ng following battalions. Ang ilan pong mga inireklamo ng mga komunidad ay naisadokumento natin. Iba't ibang tipo ng paglabag sa karapatang pantao po ang ibinalita sa atin ng mga mamamayan doon. Ang mga halimbawa po ng tipo ng paglabag ay: sa Brgy. Gangalan, indiscriminate firing, 24 individuals po ang affected, 60 plus na bubong ang tinamaan, suspected ang AFP particular ang 95th IB, humigit-kumulang 30 people, sa Sitio Disikit, Brgy. Gangalan; mayroon pong sapilitang pagpapasurrender bilang mga MB daw, kabilang ang Grade 7 na 15 taong gulang; threat, harassment, intimidation, sa anim na katao na residente ng Sitio Disikit, Brgy. Gangalan, mga nagpakilalang mga sundalo na sina Peter Agustin, Nick Acoba, Ronald Matias, plus dalawang iba pa na nagpakilalang nagtatrabaho sa kampo ng 5th ID, sa Upi, Gamu, Sgt. Lloyd Rancho, 95th IB, at iba pang sundalong kasama niya, iyon po iyong threat, harassment, intimidation; illegal arrests po ng mga following persons: Si Espido Z. Tamang, Tuting Ampa, Rodel R. Infiel, Jojo C. Tamang, Arjay Zipagan, Porong T. Ampa, sa Brgy. Panninan, 95th IB po ang may gawa; and attacks on or use of schools, medical, religious and other public places or facilities for military purposes, daycare centers, evacuation centers, at barangay halls doon din po nagkampo ang mga militar.

Lumapit po sa atin ang ilang mga asawa ng mga iligal na inaresto dahil nahihihirapan po sila sa kasalukuyan, dahil po may mga anak na pinapakain ang mga ito at sila po ay mga magsasaka. Magsasaka po sila kaya sa kasalukuyan, mag-isa lang na nagtataguyod, hirap na hirap po ang mga asawa nila.

Sa Brgy. Dibuluan, mga sundalong sina Soriano, Bahaghari at Valdez—ito po ay hindi namin alam kung tunay ang mga pangalan o hindi, pero 10 sundalo po ang perpetrators. Ito po iyong nagpasayaw sa mga kababaihan at nambastos sa mga kababaihan sa Brgy. Gangalan. Mayroon din pong forced CAFGU recruitment o tinatawag na coercion, 2 katao sa Brgy. Gangalan.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, marami pa pong mga cases dito katulad ng food and economic blockade, pagbabawal ng pagpunta sa gubat at pagkuha ng rattan o uway, pagtakda ng bilang ng dapat lang pupunta sa sakahan at kaingin, paglimita sa oras—sa umaga lang papayagan, pagtakda ng dami ng supply ng pagkain, denial of humanitarian access, forcible reconcentration and hamletting po. Ito po ay mga matatagal nang mga issues. Kahit po noong panahon ng martial law ni Marcos, nagkakaroon na po ng mga ganitong issues. August 8 to 10, nandoon po ako, actually nilagyan pa nga ako—red tagging—ng malalaking mga posters po at nakalagay ang mismong pangalan ng Kinatawan na ito na sinasabing communist front daw at huwag

daw ako papasukin doon sa mga lugar na iyon. Pero dahil insistent po iyong mga tao na maintindihan at maunawaan ng ating mga kababayan iyong tunay na nangyayari sa kanila, I had to go there kahit po delikado at kahit po for the sake na malaman ng mga tao kung ano ang nangyayari sa kanila—sa mga magsasaka natin.

Hindi lang po iyan sa Isabela, even sa Negros, even sa iba pang lugar na under attack ngayon katulad ng Samar. Now, kaya po kahit sa Mindanao na under martial law, matindi ang kalagayan ng mga tao na hindi makapagsabi kung ano ang tunay na nangyayari sa kanila. Kaya kung hindi ito magagawan ng paraan ng Department of National Defense, ano po kayo? Para saan kayo? Para kanino kayo?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ang Sandatahang Lakas at ang Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa ay nananatiling kumukontra sa mga violence na ginagawa sa ating mga kababayan, ang unlawful violence. Kaya po kung makararating sa ating mga awtoridad ang mga complaints at claims, officially, ay mas makakakilos ang ating mga kasundaluan or ang ating liderato para tugisin iyang mga miyembro ng kanilang hanay na gumagawa ng ganitong klaseng mga kagagawan. This is not tolerated by the leadership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Provided that we make use of the system of justice that is available to everyone, that is the only time that we can really give justice to those who are victimized if we use the letter of the law to run after them and punish them. Rest assured that if there are complaints that have been filed, authorities will take action on them; but unless we come forward and avail of the system of justice that is available to everyone, it will just remain as reports. So, we appeal that if there is anyone who feels victimized by abuses and atrocities by men in uniform, they should come forward, avail themselves of the justice system and they will be brought to justice, they will be punished when found guilty.

Mr. Speaker, thank you.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, gusto po natin iyang magawa o makita na gumagalang sa karapatang pantao ang ating mga sundalo. Gusto po nating makita na ang tunay na ipinagtatanggol ng mga sundalo natin ay ang mga maralita at mahihirap, at iniaangat sila sa kabuhayan nila nang pangkalahatan, hindi po iyong iilan lamang, ang mga mayayaman at saka ang mga korporasyon ang ating pinapanigan. Ang gusto po sana natin, iyong mga kababayan natin na lalu't higit na nangangailangan ng tulong, iyon po talaga ang dapat na tinutulungan. In action po, Mr. Speaker, and, Mr. Sponsor.

Mr. Sponsor, balikan lang po iyong tanong ko kanina kaugnay kay Cindy Terado. Hindi po totoo na hindi alam ng AFP ito kasi, in fact, mayroong PNA

report na nakalagay dito, "Killed in the operation in Barangay Canocotan, Tagum City, Davao del Norte was Cindy Terado....," iyan ay by the Philippine Army's 71st Infantry Battalion. So, mayroon po kayong report kaugnay kay Cindy Terado. May we have that official report, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, isa pong clarification na naibigay sa atin dito ay iyong insidenteng nabanggit ay isang police operation. Pangalawa, upon verification doon po mismo sa Brigade Commander on the ground, wala naman pong recorded na naihain na complaint or report. Kaya nga po ito iyong isang sinasabi natin na as long as mayroon hong formal complaint filed at an appropriate office, gagalaw po at kikilos para parusahan iyong involved.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, is Lt. Col. Esteveyn E. Ducusin here, the Commander of the Philippine Army's 71st Infantry Battalion?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, iyong binanggit po na opisyal ay wala po dito ngayon sa bulwagang ito.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, he was the one who said in the Philippine News Agency, "killed in the operation in Barangay Canocotan," he was quoted here as saying na ganoon po.

REP. BIAZON. Wala po siya ngayon dito para i-confirm, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Kaya nga, ito rin po iyong sinasabi natin na if we only base our information on newspaper reports or media reports or social media postings, it may not necessarily trigger legal actions. It is really best if there is a person who would file an official complaint or report with the appropriate office so that the wheels of justice will ...

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, maaari po ba, sa ngayon na pinag-uusapan natin ito, magkaroon ng imbestigasyon kaugay kay Cindy Terado, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. BIAZON. The AFP, DND leadership who are here had already agreed earlier that they will look into it; but then, as we said, if we want to pursue legal action, it should really be initiated with a formal complaint, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, tinatanggap po ng Kinatawang ito na as soon as possible ay magkaroon na ng report po kaugnay diyan sa imbestigasyon na iyan at mabigyan tayo ng kopya ng report na iyan.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, nais po sana ng Kinatawang ito na pumunta sa susunod na punto ng questioning. It is about the PEZA and the AFP deal on the military training of workers. Mayroon po bang ganoon sa mga economic zones, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the AFP confirms that they are conducting training for individuals who volunteered to undergo such training in relation to reserve officers' training courses. It might be recalled that the head of the PEZA is a reserve officer herself, but this is not imposed on any company. It is on voluntary basis only, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, what is the legal and constitutional basis of such an agreement between the PEZA and the AFP? Ano po ang ginamit ninyong mandato, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the basis is Republic Act No. 7077, which provides that the Citizen Armed Force shall be provided maximum opportunity to participate in safeguarding the security of the State. That is why it is on a voluntary basis, and there is already a study with regard to the labor laws, which do not prohibit workers from joining any legal organization most especially the reserves.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, itinatanong po natin ito kasi parang bizarre na may arrangement, kakaibang arrangement na mayroong ganito since the Armed Forces should be out of the economic zones unless specific circumstances call for it.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, sa pagtataya ng AFP, ilan na ang mga manggagawang nagsasanay sa ilalim ng military reservist program na ito? Ilang araw po ang kanilang training? Binabayaran ba sila rito ng kumpanya kapag sumailalim sila sa ganitong pagsasanay?

REP. BIAZON. Tungkol po sa haba ng training, iyan ay 45 days at sa kasalukuyan po ay may kabuuang 173 na nagte-training sa ilalim nitong programang ito, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, sa 173 naka-total po iyan sa buo na, na PEZA or iba-iba?

REP. BIAZON. Kabuuan na po ito, iba't ibang mga PEZA, 173 volunteered to this program, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

This Representation from GWP urges the review

of such an agreement in the interest of protecting our workers. Hindi po kailangan ng military trainings ng mga manggagawang bugbog sa trabaho sa loob ng mga economic zones. Ano po ang halaga ng pagsasanay-militar at maging reservist sa program mismo sa loob ng mga ecozones?

Ito po ay kwestiyonable kasi ang umiiral po na batas doon sa loob ng mga economic zones natin ay batas din ng mga dayuhang korporasyon. So, parang ito po ay kakaibang arrangement. Hindi po dapat na iyong mga manggagawa natin sila pa iyong nadadagdagan ng ganitong mga duties habang nagbibigay tayo ng mga malalaking insentiba sa mga dayuhang korporasyon, sila naman ay pinagbabawalan pa nating mag-union tapos pinapanatili natin silang contractuels lalo na dito sa mga ecozone areas na ito.

REP. BIAZON. Nais po nating idiin na ito ay voluntary. So, sa tanong kung bakit mayroong mga na-train na 173, siguro iyong 173 na iyon ang makasasagot dahil sila ang nag-volunteer na mag-train.

Binuksan itong programang ito sa PEZA upon the request po rin ng PEZA mismo, dahil nga rin po ang ating pinuno ng PEZA ay isang reserve officer. Ngunit nandoon po talaga sa indibidwal na kahit na ba sila ay may trabahong ginagawa ay nagnais silang tumulong sa ating bansa at mag-volunteer na mag-train. Wala naman pong batas na pumipigil at mayroon naman pong batas na pinagbabatayan, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, kaya po sinasabi natin na i-review lang kung ito nga ba ay makabubuti para sa ating mga manggagawa sa loob ng mga ecozones. Hindi naman po sinasabi na ito ay outright na tanggihan. I-review lang iyong ating ano, PEZA and AFP deals on the military trainings, kasi kadalasan po, ang mga workers sa PEZA, they are contractuels, at hindi nga sila makapag-union. Minsan nga, sobra-sobra pa sa otso oras ang kanilang trabaho, pag minsan rotation. Ganyan iyong mga hinaharap nila, at sana, hindi ito maging—tama po iyon, ito ay mananatiling voluntary at hindi ito dapat i-impose sa mga PEZA workers natin, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. BIAZON. Lahat, tulad po ng ibang mga programa, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, may evaluation din naman talaga iyan kung necessary pang ipagpatuloy o kailangang ihinto. So, makakaasa po na iyong evaluation na iyon ay magaganap, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, on to my last point, is the Secretary of the DND here?

REP. BIAZON. The Secretary of National Defense is on an important official mission.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, nasaan po si Secretary Lorenzana?

REP. BIAZON. Secretary Lorenzana is on a mission to the United States, the United Kingdom, and again, to the United States working on how to strengthen the defense of the State and the nation.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, siya po kasi ang makasasagot ng huling tanong ko.

Ang huling tanong ko po ay kaugnay sa Mislattel and AFP agreement ng pagtatayo ng mga towers and communications sa mga bases ng AFP. Itinanong ko rin po ito sa Office of the President dahil gusto po nating malaman kung bakit pinapayagan na magkaroon ng agreement between AFP at sa Mislattel or sa third telco samantalang ito po ay security risk?

REP. BIAZON. As ...

REP. BROSAS. Nabasa po natin kanina na sinabi mismo ni Secretary Lorenzana na hindi niya alam iyong agreement dito. Totoo ba iyon, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, iyong agreement po na may kinalaman sa telecommunications ay isang co-location. Ang ibig sabihin ay mayroon pong existing na mga transmitter tower ang iba pong telecommunication companies at itong bagong pasok na telecom company ay makikipuwesto doon sa existing locations na iyan ng telecom companies.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Marcoleta relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Dan S. Fernandez.

Sa kasalukuyan, ito ay isang agreement na sa level pa lamang ng Armed Forces Chief of Staff na sinuri naman iyong proposal and there is no one who could be more jealous of security than the Armed Forces. So, they have done their assessment if this would pose a security threat to the Armed Forces and to our security in general, and later on, this would be passed on to the Secretary of National Defense for his final approval. So, perhaps, iyan po iyong dahilan kung bakit sa unang statement ay hindi pa masabi ni Secretary Lorenzana whether it is a go or not dahil darating pa rin naman sa kanya. Nagsimula lamang sa level muna ng Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, gusto po nating itanong, sinasabi ninyo na “if it poses a threat,” pero sa kasalukuyan po ba, sa pagpapatayo ng mga towers and communication facilities sa mga bases ng

AFP, puwede po bang outright ay sagutin tayo kung ano ang implication nito sa ating national security, when a China-backed company will be the one in agreement with AFP, a China-backed company? Ano po ba ang gusto nating mangyari, mapasok tayo ng Tsina? Bakit po tayo papayag na mismong iyong mga towers and communications natin ay pupuwede nilang i-handle o pupuwede nilang makuha o pupuwede nilang mapakialaman, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, if we look around the country, who do we rely on with regard to security threat assessment? We, naturally, look towards the Department of National Defense and the AFP. They are the experts. While we can raise our concerns, there is no other choice but to let the AFP-DND do their job in securing the nation, and it is their responsibility; if in their assessment there is that there is no security threat, then they would proceed.

In this particular case, first, it is not yet final. Second, there was no construction of new towers; it will just be a co-location. Third, with regard to being a Chinese-backed company, even the United States also uses telecommunication companies and facilities or units that are made in China.

The AFP-DND is guaranteeing that they will be prudent with regard to safeguarding our security, and in this case, their assessment that co-location does not pose a significant threat. Again, it would still be subject to the final authority by the Secretary of National Defense, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, tama po iyon. Ang last natin, kaya ko po hinahanap si Secretary Lorenzana ay para maging klaro po tayo, para lang po, just to be clear, saan po ba ang loyalty ng Department of National Defense? Kanino po ba ang loyalty ng Department of National Defense, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the loyalty of the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines is with the Filipino people. They have spilled blood to safeguard the way of life and democracy of this country. I think there is no doubt about that, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, for saying na ang loyalty po ng Department of National Defense natin ay sa mga Pilipino, at hindi sa China. We cannot spend our peoples' taxes to aid China in its colonization of the Philippines. Kailangang manindigan po tayo diyan.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. BIAZON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Ferdinand R. Gaité of BAYAN MUNA Party-List for his interpellations.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Representative Gaité is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Will our Sponsor for the budget of the DND yield to some questions regarding their proposed budget for 2020, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. BIAZON. With pleasure, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po.

Ang aking katanungan ay patungkol sa papel ng DND sa usapin ng kanilang mga ginagawang mga hakbang lalo na sa usapin ng mga manggagawa sa mga trade unions, and in relation, iyong human rights violations.

Ayon sa CTUHR, Center for Trade Union and Human Rights, it has monitored at least 43 workers, leaders and organizers who were extrajudicially killed in combined wars on drugs, war on terrorisms and encounter-insurgency, since the start of the Duterte administration on June 30, 2016. The CTUHR has long been a source of many information regarding trade union and human rights conditions in the Philippines, and as a matter of fact, many of the reports have been submitted to the international labor organization in Geneva.

As of this writing, most survivor family members of the victims of extrajudicial killings were also slapped with trumped-up charges particularly in the militarized areas and remain afraid of their security and safety. To highlight a few human rights violations against unionism of workers which I have also already presented during the Department of Labor and Employment briefing, there is a Glenn Ramos, a construction worker and a former BAYAN MUNA Party-List coordinator who was murdered in cold blood by joint police and military team last February 7, 2017, inside Don Julian Subdivision, Brgy. Maa, Davao City. Another highlighted case is Pepito Tiambong and Jerson Bito on February 11, 2017, both were two small-scale miners and were killed on February 11, 2017 at Sitio Sarug, Brgy. San Isidro, Agusan del Norte after the military mistook them as members of the New People's Army. Gaggil Jama, Jemar Jama and Radzmie Jama, on April 1, 2017, palm plantation workers, were killed by soldiers from

the 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion in Basilan after again mistakenly identified as Abu Sayyaf bandits. Reneboy Magayano, on September 18, 2017, a labor and peasant leader, and Chair of Maragusan Workers' Association, was shot by suspected military agents of the Army's 66th Infantry Battalion while buying fish in a market in Maragusan Town, Compostela Valley one September on the said date. Felipe Dacal-Dacal, an active member of NFSW, National Federation of Sugar Workers, in Escalante, Negros Occidental—according to the report, soldiers have been trying to convince Dacal-Dacal three times to stop joining rallies, but he did not follow. He was shot in his hometown on June 7, 2019 and died on June 8, but before his death, he was able to tell his relatives that a certain Farlon Astro Fajardo, allegedly a Philippine Army intelligence officer shot him.

Active members and officers of trade unions in banana plantations in Compostela Valley affiliated with Kilusang Mayo Uno, KMU Federations, were harassed by elements of the 66th Infantry Battalion Army and were forced to surrender themselves as New People's Army. Using anti-union activities, they were also forced to disaffiliate from Kilusang Mayo Uno such as the Musahamat workers, union officers and from the Sumifru or the Sumitomo Fruit Corporation.

For the last three years, the Philippines consistently landed on the top 10 worst countries for workers and trade unionist according to the ITUC Global Rights Index Report. In the 108th session of the ILO on June 10 to 21, 2019, the CIS, in fact, called on the government to accept a high-level tripartite mission before the next ILO and elaborate in consultation with workers and employers organizations, a report on progress made for the transmission to the Committee on Experts by September 1, 2019.

In many areas such as Negros, human rights violations reportedly worsened not just because of Executive Order No. 70, but also due to the implementation of Memorandum Circular No. 32, an Executive order issued by the President to increase military deployment in Negros, Samar and Bicol.

As of July 2019, the CTUHR recorded 19 sugar workers and officers organized under the NFSW, who were extrajudicially killed. Active members and officers of trade unions in banana plantations in Compostela—after June 28, 2019, the general assembly of Filipinas Palm Oil Plantation, Inc. Workers' Union facilitated under the supervision of members of the army, the Union President wrote a letter of disaffiliation to NAFLU-KMU citing red-tagging of its members and threats to members by the 75th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army as the main reason.

In the Guidelines on the Conduct of the DOLE, DILG, DND, DOJ, AFP and PNP Relative to the

Exercise of Workers' Rights and Activities, it is well noted here in item no. 6, and I quote:

x x x in the conduct and exercise of AFP internal peace and security operations/PNP operations, the workers' rights and civil liberties must be respected, protected and advanced at all times: 1) The AFP and PNP shall not stigmatize/label workers' organizations/associations, labor leaders, members or organizers as front or members of certain conflict armed group/s; 2) Shall not hold or assist in any manner whatsoever in the conduct of information drive or seminars, inside or outside the company premises especially, during the 60-day freedom period, and so forth; 3) Shall not issue invitation to workers, organizers, or union officials on their alleged links or support to certain armed group/s; and 4) Shall not force them to renounce membership in their trade union organization.

Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, aware po ba ang mga nabanggit sa DND? Alam ba ng DND ang Guidelines on the Conduct of the DOLE, DILG, DND, DOJ AFP and PNP Relative to the Exercise of Workers' Rights and Activities, isang inter-agency memo na pinirmahan noong Mayo 7, 2012?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, we signed up to those agreements and the AFP-DND takes it as its mission to uphold workers' rights, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. GAITE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, so, kung ganoon, malinaw dapat sa AFP ang kanilang internal peace and security operations, dapat ay pinoprotektahan nila ang mga manggagawa at ang kanilang civil liberties. Hindi dapat i-stigmatize o paratanganan ang mga manggagawa bilang mga front organizations noong mga sinasabing armed groups. Hindi dapat nakikialam o sumusuporta sa certification, elections ang AFP sa mga unyon. Hindi dapat iniimbitahan ang mga workers' organizers sa kanilang alleged links or support sa anumang armadong grupo, at lalo nang hindi dapat pinipilit ang mga manggagawa na itakwil ang pagiging miyembro sa mga anumang unyon.

Doon sa mga nabanggit, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, hindi ho ba lahat iyon, na-violate? Hindi ho ba nakialam ang AFP doon sa internal na usapin sa unyon? Hindi ho ba na-label-an mismo ng DND, ng AFP na itong mga organisasyon na ito na mga front organizations? Hindi ba nakialam ang mga members ng DND, at ng AFP doon sa aktwal na pagpapasya ng mga organisasyon kung kanino sila mag-a-affiliate, the right or freedom of association at doon sa mga organisasyon na kanilang piniling maging bahagi, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIAZON. Nananatili po ang commitment ng AFP-DND doon po sa mga prinsipyo ng pangangalaga ng karapatan ng mga manggagawa, at kung mayroon pong mga partikular na miyembro ng AFP na tumataliwas dito ay handa rin po ang AFP-DND na i-prosecute iyong mga gumagawa po ng mga violations na iyan, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. GAITE. Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, parang iyon na lang ang paulit-ulit na sagot na they will respect the human rights, trade union rights. Iba iyong sinasabi, iba ang nangyayari. Nakakadismaya na. Dito, tinatalakay natin ang budget ng DND; ngayon ay nakikita na natin na mas nilalabag kaysa nirerespeto ang batayang karapatan ng mga manggagawa, na matagal nang ipinaglaban para magkaroon ng pagpapaunlad ng working conditions nila sa larangan ng ekonomiya, at gayundin ang kanilang karapatan na marinig ang kanilang tinig sa usapin ng kanilang mga pampulitikang karapatan.

May iba pa nating mga kasamahan na magtatanong pero my second to the last question: Ano ang katanggap-tanggap na paliwanag sa pagpapatuloy ng nabanggit na mga paglabag na nadokumento ng CTUHR, ng ILO at iba pa sa usapin ng guidelines ng conduct ng DOLE, DILG, DND, DOJ, AFP, PNP sa usapin ng workers' rights and activities? Mayroon na bang ginawang hakbang ang mga naturang ahensya sa pag-imbetiga sa minimum o mayroon na bang kinasuhan na mga miyembro ng AFP dito sa usapin ng paglabag sa karapatan ng mga manggagawa para sa usapin ng violations sa right to organize ng mga manggagawa sa ating bansa, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, makikiisa po ang Kinatawang ito sa ating kasamahan. Kung mayroong maipakita na specific complaint or report na inihain sa appropriate agency at hindi inaksyunan ng AFP-DND, kasama po ako ryan kung tutugisin natin ang AFP-DND. Kaya kung mayroon pong ganoong instance na may naghain ng reklamo or complaint at hindi ginalaw ng ating kasundaluan or ng pamunuan ng AFP-DND, masasabi natin na sila ay remiss sa kanilang duty.

REP. GAITE. Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, nakalulungkot na ganyan na lang lagi ang sagot, magsampa ng reklamo, pero marami na ang napatay, marami na ang illegally arrested, marami pang sinasampahang kaso. Tatlo sa kasamahan namin, si Rowena Rosales, Oliver Rosales at si Bob Reyes, ilan sa mga nabilanggo sa mga gawa-gawang kaso. Ang hirap tanggapin na sinasabing walang human rights violations. Sa kabilang bahagi, bilyun-bilyong pondo ang inilaan sa Department of National Defense para dagdagan pa ang paglabag sa karapatang pantao. Sa haba ng listahan ng

human rights and labor rights violations na di umano ay ginawa ng mga sundalo at unit ng AFP, pero wala namang aksyon ang DND. Hindi katanggap-tanggap sa Kinatawang ito ang paliwanag sapagkat sa halip na iyong batayang usapin ng mga manggagawa na isang constitutional right na mag-organisa, mag-union, pumasok sa sama-samang pakikipagtawaran kasama ang karapatang mag-welga, ito ay hindi natin nakikita sa kasalukuyan mapa-Mindanao man na may martial law, o kahit dito sa Metro Manila, sa Southern Tagalog, sa Central Luzon at iba pang lugar ng Pilipinas, na ngayon, ang mga manggagawa ay nagsisialsang bunga ng paglabag sa mga karapatang pantao, paglabag sa kanilang constitutional right to security of tenure, ang kanilang constitutional right to humane conditions of work, ang constitutional right nila na tumanggap ng nakabubuhay na sahod. Kaya't sa usaping ito, ang mga sagot ay hindi sufficiently nakatutulong para lalong maglinaw kung bakit ganito kalaki ang kailangang budget ng DND o AFP.

Maraming salamat na lang po, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Doon sa binanggit na mga kasong hindi pa inaaksyonan, gagawa ng karampatang aksyon ang Kinatawang ito sa napapanahong sitwasyon.

Maraming salamat. Mabuhay po kayo.

REP. BIAZON. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Thank you, Rep. Ferdinand Gaite.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago from KABATAAN Party-List for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Rep. Sarah Jane Elago is recognized for her interpellation.

REP. ELAGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First, I would like to ask about the actions taken by the DND with regard to the COA report on unutilized donations for the victims of typhoon Yolanda and the Marawi siege which amount to P240 billion, depriving the victims of the needed assistance to alleviate their difficulties.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Sarah Jane Elago from KABATAAN Party-List for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). She is already recognized. Rep. Sarah Jane Elago may proceed.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Again, I would like to ask, what were the actions taken thus far by the DND in response to the COA audit report on saying that the donations for the victims of typhoon Yolanda and the Marawi siege, in the aggregate amount of P240 billion, have not been fully utilized, depriving the victims of the needed assistance to alleviate their difficulties.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, if I understood the question, it does not sound that good. But if I understood it correctly, the distinguished colleague was asking about the status of the Yolanda funds as donated for the victims of typhoon Yolanda. As of June 2019, the OCD has already fully disbursed all the donations received, specifically for the victims of Typhoon Yolanda. Total receipts amount to P136,415,000, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, what about the donations from foreign and local donors for the Marawi siege victims or for all those affected in the Marawi siege?

REP. BIAZON. The donated funds amounting to P36,920,725 for the victims of Marawi siege, P1,090,000 have already been disbursed as financial assistance to the victims, while the remaining P35,820,000 was earmarked as financial assistance for Marawi hostage survivors and affected families.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

Tungkol naman po doon sa P47 million na hindi pa nagagamit na pondo para sa mga sugatan natin na mga sundalo sa Marawi, kumusta na po ito? Naibigay na po ba sa kanila ang kinauukulan na suporta o nararapat na assistance para po sa kanilang recovery, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the data is just being retrieved as of the moment.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Hihingin na rin po ng Representasyong ito ang kumpletong detalye kung paano nagagastos ang mga pondong ito para sa ating Sandatahang Lakas, lalong-lalo na po sa ating mga sundalo.

REP. BIAZON. We will just submit, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, as requested. The information is available. The cash donations of P47,643,000 remain unutilized as of December 31, 2018, the Philippine Army exceeded by P9,980,000, the financial assistance granted to 118 certified killed in action beneficiaries contrary to the

GHQ Letter Directive No. 30, dated July 31, 2017. The COA has specific recommendations on what management is supposed to do with these, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ELAGO. Salamat, Mr. Speaker, at nalaman din natin kung paano rin tumutugon ang Philippine Army at ang DND sa mga rekomendasyon ng COA. Ngayon, nais ko pong sundan ang panawagan ng Representante ng KABATAAN Party-List tungkol sa mga nakaraan na budget deliberations ng ma-review ng Department of National Defense ang kasalukuyang agreement nito sa mga eskuwelahan pagdating sa pagpasok po ng military at ng kapulisan sa loob ng mga eskuwelahan.

Noong 2018, sinabi ni Secretary Lorenzana na siya na ang mamumuno sa pagko-convene ng tinatawag na Joint Monitoring Committee para sa University of the Philippines at Department of National Defense Accord or UP and DND (UP-DND) Agreement. Nangyari na po ba ang Joint Monitoring Committee Agreement na ito at ano po ang nangyari sa naturang hearing or meeting?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, sa naganap na pagpupulong, nagkaroon po ng pagpayag ang DND na rebisahin ang agreements na sumasakop sa presensya ng AFP, pati na ang PNP sa mga academic institutions, at nananatili ang commitment ng DND na hindi sasaklawin ang academic freedom, hindi susupilin sa ganitong klaseng engagement kung maisasakatuparan ito.

REP. ELAGO. Pero, Mr. Speaker, hindi pa po nangyayari itong Joint Monitoring Group meeting na magtse-check kung nasusunod ba ang mga nilalaman ng agreement na ito. Hindi pa po ito nangyayari. Ang Joint Monitoring Group po ay nakasaad mismo doon sa UP-DND Accord na sasamahan ng Faculty Regent, ng Student Regent, ng Vice President for Public Affairs ng UP, at gayundin ang mga opisyal ng Department of National Defense. Wala pa pong nagaganap na ganitong meeting, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. BIAZON. Ang pagpupulong na naganap pa lamang ay iyong kung saan pumayag ang DND na rebisahin muna bago magpatuloy sa ganitong klaseng monitoring activities.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, ang UP-DND Accord ay isang kasunduhan sa pagitan ng DND at UP, so ang responsibilidad po na kung ito ba ay babaguin o hindi ay nakasaalang-alang sa desisyon ng dalawang partido at hindi ng DND lamang. Tinatawagan po natin ng pansin ang AFP at ang DND na bago tayo mag-usap tungkol sa mga nais nating baguhin, kailangan muna mag-meet ang mga partido, tapos pakinggan po natin ang boses ng magkabilang partido. Ito ay bilang

pagkilala na rin sa naging tagumpay ng pagpirma noong UP-DND Accord, gayon din sa ibang mga agreement sa ibang mga paaralan. Halimbawa, ang Polytechnic University of the Philippines, mayroon din pong kahalintulad na agreement. Kaya maaari po ba na magbigay ng commitment ang ating distinguished Sponsor na makikiisa sa atin, kasama po ang DND sa isang solido na follow through ng Representasyong ito pagdating sa pag-uphold ng mga agreement na ito na naipanalala na noon ng universitites and colleges natin sa buong bansa.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, sumasang-ayon po ang ang Department of National Defense na bago magpatuloy ang kung anumang aksyon na gagawin, dapat may pagsang-ayon din ang ibang stakeholders at may konsultasyon na magaganap, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Ngayon, nais kong tanungin kung saan po pumapasok ang partikular na item sa pondo ng AFP o ng Department of National Defense na nag-conduct ng mga forum na katulad ng nangyari noong September 12 sa Isabela State University? Ito po ay isang forum na kung saan—medyo malabo po yata—mayroong wall of commitment—balikan po natin mamaya. Mayroong kahalintulad na forum na isinagawa noong September 13 naman sa Bicol University. Ito po ay pinamunuan ng 9th Civil Military Operations Battalion—9th Infantry Division ng Philippine Army. Sa loob po ng forum na ito ay gumamit ng mga litrato ng Representasyong ito sa loob ng mga poster na kine-claim na nanggaling daw sa amin pero hindi naman po nanggaling sa Representasyong ito. In short, fake statements, fake news at ginamit pa po ang litrato ng Representasyong ito na distorted sa loob ng naturang forum. Saan po bang partikular na item sa pondo makikita iyong mga ginagamit nating public funds para sa mga ganitong tipo ng forum?

Mr. Speaker, idagdag ko na lang rin po. Sa naturang forum din sa Bicol University, namigay po ang 9th Infantry Division ng Philippine Army ng mga crime prevention tips for students at kasama sa crime prevention tips tulad ng: avoid entertaining male friends at home without supervision; stay away from mobs, if not hurt you will be arrested; do not be very trusting to new acquaintances, observe your traits and peculiarities; make initiation rights for neophytes clean fun, and not a disaster. Ito ang ilan doon sa mga crime prevention tips for students na ipinamigay po ng 9th Infantry Division, ngunit nakalagay din po sa flyer na nanggaling ito sa Napolcom Region V. Dahil sila iyong namimigay noon, ibig sabihin po ay vetted ng Army natin iyong mga nakalagay na tips para sa ating mga estudyante.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, fine-tune trace lang po iyong specific item in the budget. Although, generally, nakapasok po iyan doon sa kanilang Public Affairs Fund, ngunit hiniling ko sa ating mga kasama dito na particular na itukoy doon sa kanilang budget iyong specific item na pinanggagalingan ng mga activities nila for Civil-Military Operations, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, magkano po ang nakalaang pondo dito sa 2019 at magkano po ang ating balak o panukalang budget para dito sa taong 2020?

Mr. Speaker, medyo malabo iyong nakalagay sa Isabela State University, pero, ito rin po ay isang activity ng Philippine Army kung saan sila po ay naglagay ng tarpaulin ng “Wall of Commitment” sa harap ng kanilang fora kung saan, nakalagay po dito, preventing daw the CPP-NPA recruitment of students by the KABATAAN Party-List and other youth organizations.

Ang nakapunta po diyan sa mga forum na iyan, ang members po namin. Sila po iyong kumuha ng litrato kahit daw pinagbawalan po sila na kumuha ng litrato dahil hindi nila matanggap, na pakiramdam po nila wala po silang choice kundi pumirma dahil po natatakot sa naturang activity.

So, nababahala po tayo, hindi lang sa ito ay direktang umaatake doon sa democratic rights ng mga estudyante. Dagdag pa rito, nagke-create po ito ng culture of division and fear among students, lalong-lalo na kapag mayroon po silang gustong sabihin sa kanilang university officials at may nais po silang mga maipaabot na mga report, na hindi na po nila alam ngayon kung saan sila lalapit kasi kapag nalaman na sila ay member ng KABATAAN Party-List, na natatakot po sila para sa kanilang buhay.

Ganyan po ang epekto ng ganyang tipo ng mga campaign. Kaya, iyong paglalagay po ng tarpaulin na iyan, sino po ang nag-a-approve ng ganyan, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, pagdating po doon sa materials na ginagamit sa CMO programs, ito po ay delegated doon sa units operating on the ground. Hindi naman po umaabot iyong pagpapagawa ng materials, pati na iyong nilalaman, hanggang sa higher level ng command. Ito ho ay nandoon sa level ng units, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, papayagan ba natin iyong ganyan na naglalagay po ng mga tarpaulin na hindi lamang lumalabag doon sa karapatan na sumali sa mga legitimate organizations iyong mga registered pa sa kanilang mga eskuwelahan, kundi naglalagay po sa panganib sa buhay, hindi lang ng mga miyembro ng

organizations na iyon, kundi ng mismong Miyembrong ito ng Kongreso?

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, unfortunately, hindi po makabigay ng categorical reply ang ating Chief of Staff. Una po, hindi siya personally familiar with the material, at mula ho rito, hindi rin ho kasi mabasa iyong nilalaman dahil ito nga ho ay delegated down to the units, na sila ang gumagawa ng mga materials na ginagamit sa kanilang CMO operations, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, may patakaran po ba ang AFP-DND ngayon tungkol sa pagsasagawa nitong mga campus peace development forums sa mga State universities and colleges at iba pang mga private schools, at kung mayroon, tayo po ay manghihingi ng kopya ng memorandum or ng guidelines ng AFP tungkol sa pagsasagawa ng mga naturang mga fora and discussions sa mga schools.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, at the level of the General Headquarters, mayroong general guidelines covering the activity of CMO. The command is also willing to share them with the House, through the Committee, those guidelines which we can peruse, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, nagre-report na ho ako sa kanila ngayon, na iyong mga tarpaulin na iyon na naglalaman po ng pangalan ng Party-List na aking Kinakatawan, ng KABATAAN Party-List, at direkta pong inuugnay sa CPP. So, bukod sa mariin natin iyang kinokondena, mariin din po nating idine-deny na dahil kami po ay isang Youth Party-List organization, ang panawagan po natin, gawan po ninyo iyan ng aksyon. Hindi po puwede na papayagan na lang natin na dalhin iyong mga pangalan ng mga organizations na iyan na sa dami ng mga members po niyan sa buong bansa, at magkakalat po tayo ng kultura ng takot, ng paghahati, at mula po doon sa binasa ko na ipinapamigay na mga flyers sa Bicol University, nagkakalat pa po tayo ng sexism at misogyny. So, pagdating po sa mga ganyang mga material at tutal iyan naman po, katulad ng sinabi ninyo, parte ng pondo para sa public affairs—may responsibilidad din po tayo na magkalat, hindi ng kasinungalingan, kung hindi ng katotohanan. Kaya po, kung wala pang mekanismo na nagtse-check sa mga ganitong tipo ng mga gawain, nararapat po na mayroon, at hindi iyong hahayaan na lang po nating lustayin ang pera ng taumbayan para sa mga napakamapanganib na mga akto po katulad nito.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, maaari lang pong—hinihiling ng DND na ma-furnish sila nitong kopya ng naka-flash sa screen ngayon para

diyan po magsisimula iyong kanilang aksyon, iyong kanilang inquiry at pagtugon doon sa kahilingan ng ating distinguished colleague from KABATAAN Party-List, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat ho.

Tungkol naman po sa aking pinakahuling katanungan, nakita ko po na naglabas ng bagong pamantayan ang Army tungkol sa paggamit ng social media. This is a welcome move for this Youth Representation especially that we all share the efforts and the aspirations to combat disinformation especially on social media. Nakalagay rin po dito sa naturang report, sa Army Balita, na ang mga paglabag po hinggil sa paggamit ng social media ng mga miyembro ng Hukbong Katihan ay dumarami. So, maaari po ba kayong mag-report tungkol dito, at kung wala po ngayon tayong kopya nitong report na ito, manghihingi po ang Representation na ito from KABATAAN at makikipagtulungan po tayo sa iba't ibang ahensiya, lalo na sa Department of Information and Communications Technology, kung paano natin sama-samang lalabanan ang pagkalat ng mga fake news, maa-identify ang mga source, at mapapanagot sila dito, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, nabanggit po sa atin ng Philippine Army na—kino-confirm po nila na mayroon nga ho silang social media policy at maninindigan sila na gagamitin ang patakaran na ito para sama-sama nating labanan ang fake news, ang paglabas lamang ng katotohanan, at pag-safeguard ng common agenda natin na magamit ang social media responsibly, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, balikan ko lang ulit iyong mga fora sa schools na kaugnay nitong paggamit nitong social media dahil sa social media rin po namin nalalaman iyong mga reports tungkol doon sa mga content ng Campus Peace and Development Forum na tayo po ay kasama ng DND sa paghahangad ng kapayapaan na nakabatay sa hustisiya at nakabatay doon sa kaunlaran para sa ating mga kababayang Pilipino, pero again, ito po ay nararapat lamang na nakabatay sa katotohanan dahil diyan din tayo makakakuha ng inspirasyon para harapin po iyong mga matagal nang mga hamon sa tunay na pag-unlad at demokrasya sa ating bayan.

Kaya nananawagan ang KABATAAN Party-List na bago magpatuloy ang mga fora na ito na naglalaman ng mga pekeng statement at mga distorted images ng Representasyon na ito, kailangan munang magkaroon ng imbestigasyon ang DND tungkol dito—number one; tapos pangalawa po, itigil muna natin ito hangga't hindi pa natatapos ang mga investigation hinggil po sa mga nilapit namin na mga kaso.

May we get a commitment from the distinguished

Sponsor, from the DND, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the request of this Representation.

REP. BIAZON. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, with regard to the request to look into the examples shown on the screen on the information material which the distinguished Lady finds objectionable, the DND is committed to look into these and take action, if warranted. That is why earlier, this Representation requested that the materials be furnished to the DND.

With regard to the continuance of CMO activities, the DND will pursue with responsibility the mandate for which we have allocated a budget. It is part of their operational procedures and their mission, but definitely, they will pursue it with the responsibility of sharing the truth to the people, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, the AFP and the DND can only continue with responsibility if they check first the truthfulness and the reliability of all the information shared in this fora and discussion. So, I hope, I reiterate our call for the DND to have proper verification first of all documents, flyers, and presentations shared in this forum, especially that these are presented before our scholars of the people and the inheritors of the future.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. Ngayon din po mismo, ibibigay ko na sa inyo iyong mga report na ito at naghahangad po kami na iyong katotohanan po ang maghahari pagdating sa ating mga pamantasan at kolehiyo. Bilang mga pag-asa ng bayan, iyon din po ang nais namin na mamamayani sa ating lahat bilang mga magkakapwa lingkod-bayan.

Maraming salamat muli, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. BIAZON. Thank you, distinguished colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Thank you so much, Rep. Jane Elago.

The Majority Leader is recognized, please.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. France L. Castro of ACT TEACHERS Party-List for her short manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Rep. France Castro is now recognized for her manifestation.

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

So, ito lang po, short manifestation lang po about the EO No. 70 na alam natin na pinamunuan ng AFP at ito po ang buong burukrasya ay pinakikilos dito sa EO No. 70.

Ang EO No. 70 po o iyong tinatawag na whole-of-nation approach sa pamamagitan po ng National Task Force ay hindi po naiiba doon sa mga previous na mga task forces na inimplementa ng iba't ibang administration. In fact, sa panahon ng dating Pangulo Arroyo, laganap ang naging extrajudicial killings dito sa mga panahon na ito, pero nagpatuloy noong panahon ni PNoy, at ngayon po dito sa kasalukuyang panahon.

Una po sa EO No. 70, nakita po ng Kinatawang ito iyong subjugating the civilian authority to military authority sa mga dokumento po ng National Task Force. Sa ilalim ng EO No. 70, makikita ang mga pruwena nito sa DILG, DSWD, DOJ, budget hearings and plenary. Practically, the entire bureaucracy is being used for counter-insurgency; therefore, all taxpayers' money are being used against them. Another one is weaponizing the entire bureaucracy or using it against what the regime perceives the labels to be enemies of the State. Makikita natin mismo sa mga dokumento, Mr. Speaker, na sa dokumento ng National Task Force, maririnig sa mga opisyal na kung ano ang tinatawag nilang enemy of the State. Ito ang mga progresibong organisasyon at unyon, militanteng party-list, and to a certain degree ay ang mga oposisyon.

Ang mga concrete effects po nito ay, una, withdrawal and demonization of financial support to Lumad Bakwit schools; closure of Salugpungan schools based on the wild, malicious and unfounded claims of the military; natigil ang edukasyon ng libo-libong Lumad; ibinabaon sa limot ang napakaraming EJKs; threats, harassment sa mga estudyante, guro, tribal leaders at iba pang demonisasyon at paglaban nila para sa Yutang Kabilin; forced evacuation or dislocation ng mga Lumad mula sa kanilang mga komunidad; attempted to propose soldiers to teach in schools; proposal for increased presence of police and military in schools, universities and colleges; all agencies will be reporting to AFP-NTF, kaunting kibot lang ay report—malinaw na mali ito kung titingnan natin sa kaso ng DSWD at DepEd. These are civilian agencies in charge of civilian programs and activities having civilian personnel.

Mayroon po ring mga report, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, declaration ng mga persona non grata sa mga LGU containing prohibition of dealing with progressive organizations. Ni-name po iyong front organizations gaya ng mga progressive party-list. So, ito po ay paglabag mismo sa basic rights ng ating mga mamamayan, right to movement, right to self-organization, and right to self-expression.

Kung sabihin na civilian authority ay still in control at assistance lang, hindi iyan ang sinasabi ng DSWD, MOU at EO No. 70 mismo. In due time, i-interpellate ko po ang DSWD dito to prove by showing that all documents are agreements.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the whole-of-nation approach is a deceitful policy. This is still militarization hiding behind a false mask of civilian supremacy. Huwag magpanggap na hindi militarista ito. Huwag magpanggap na hindi pasismo ang tunguhin nito. So, ito ay whole-of-nation approach, martial law sa buong bansa.

Thank you po, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Eufemia “Ka Femia” C. Cullamat of BAYAN MUNA Party-List for her short manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Representative Paduana?

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Rep. Eufemia Cullamat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Ah. Rep. Eufemia Cullamat is now recognized.

REP. CULLAMAT. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker, at magandang hapon. Magandang hapon sa ating Sponsor.

G. Ispiker, ang pagdagdag sa pondo ng DND ay pagdagdag sa paparaming bilang ng biktima ng paglabag sa karapatang pantao. Kabilang na rito ang lumolobong bilang ng mga brutal na pinapaslang.

Ang pagbibigay ng kapangyarihan ng DND na mag-pre-position sa mga supply para sa kalamidad ay katumbas ng pagbibigay ng dagdag kapangyarihan sa DND na gamitin ang kalamidad at ang mga supply para sa ibayo pang paglabag sa karapatang pantao at pagpaslang sa mga sibilyang tinatakan nila bilang mga kalaban ng pamahalaan. Paparaming bilang ng biktima ng batas militar sa Mindanao ang katumbas ng mga hinihingi ng DND na dagdag na pondo sa kapangyarihan. Hindi ito dapat payagan. Hindi ito dapat mangyari. Sa ngalan ng kapayapaan at karapatang pantao, hindi dapat bigyan ng dagdag pondo at dagdag kapangyarihan ang DND. Hindi kailanman.

Ako po ay nagsasalita ngayon bilang isang biktima ng mahigit 800,000 na kaso ng paglabag sa karapatang pantao sa ilalim ng martial law sa Mindanao. Danas ko ang epekto sa lahat ng pananakot na binibitiwan ng Pangulo na isinasagawa ng mga militar.

Noong July 6, 2017, dalawang buwan matapos idineklara ang martial law, kaming mga katutubo sa Surigao del Sur ay kinailangang magbakwit mula sa aming komunidad. Ito ay dahil nagising kami nang madaling araw o nang hatinggabi sa ingay ng mga

drone na lumilipad sa ibabaw ng aming mga tahanan. Apektado kaming mga 424 na pamilya at 2,047 indibidwal. Nangyari ito isang linggo lamang bago ideklara ng Pangulo na bobombahin niya ang aming mga paaralan. Bukod pa rito, pinapalibutan din ang mga komunidad ng mga sundalo.

Sariwa pa sa aming alaala noon ang pagmasaker sa aming lider pagkatapos okupahin ng mga sundalo ang aming komunidad. Lalo kaming natakot para sa aming buhay sa banta ng pambobomba. Sa taon ding ito ay hinarang ng mga sundalo sa kanilang checkpoint ang pagkain na tulong sana sa aming mga nagbakwit.

Noong June 2018, pumunta ulit ang mga militar sa aming komunidad at puwersahang nagtayo ng detachment. Naglalasing sila at binabastos nila ang aming kababaihan. Hindi kami malayang nakapagsasaka dahil nilimitahan ng mga militar ang oras na puwedeng pumunta sa sakahan. Para kaming mga magnanakaw sa sarili naming lupain na kailangan pang magmadali sa pag-ani ng makakain. Ang mga naabutan nila sa sakahan ay tinututukan ng baril at pinaparatangang mga rebelde.

Madaling araw, nilakad namin ang hindi bababa sa 16 na kilometro papunta sa sentro dahil hindi namin kayang malagay pa sa panganib ang aming buhay at buhay ng aming mga pamilya.

Noong January 24, 2019, walang awang pinatay ang dalawang Lumad sa aming komunidad, si Randel Gallego at Emel Tejero. Binaril sila ng mga militar habang nagkakarga ng abaka mula sa kanilang sakahan. Dalawa sa apat pa nilang kasamahan ay hinawakan pa ng mga sundalo at iginapos bago pinakawalan. Ang mga ito ay nangyari sa komunidad lamang namin. Marami pa nito sa iba't ibang bahagi ng ating bansa.

Noong Enero 28, sa Cagayan de Oro, biglang nawala is Jomorito Guaynon, Lumad lider, tagapagpangulo ng Kalumbay, organisasyon ng mga Lumad sa Northern Mindanao. Kinabukasan ay nalamang siya ay nakakulong na pala sa gawa-gawang kaso na illegal possession of firearms at explosives. Ito ang pinakamabigat sa aming damdamin. Ang pagtatanim ng mga ebidensiya upang bigyang katwiran ang panghuhuli nila at pagkakulong ng mga biktima.

Noong Agosto ay binaril sa ulo si Bai Leah Tumbalang, babaeng Lumad lider sa San Fernando, Bukidnon. Siya ay aktibong miyembro ng Kasilo, isang organisasyon ng mga Lumad at pesante.

Huwag din nating kalimutan ang naganap na masaker sa Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu sa South Cotabato kung saan pinatay ang walong magsasakang Lumad noong December 3, 2017. Kasama dito si Datu Victor Danyan, isang matapang na Lumad lider na tumututol sa pagpasok ng mina ng coal sa kanilang lupang ninuno. Tinanggihan niya rin ang pagpirma ng isang Integrated Forest Management Agreement ng mga Consunji.

Nagbibilad ng mais sa plasa ang pitong mga magsasaka nang dumating ang mga sundalo at biglang nagpaputok. Tinamaan ang mga magsasaka. Dalawang oras ang nakalipas, napagdesisyonan ni Datu Danyan na puntahan ang kanyang dalawang anak na kasama sa mga binaril. Pagdating niya sa plasa ay binaril siya sa ulo at sa dibdib na siyang ikinamatay niya.

Natatakot sa kanilang buhay at seguridad, napilitang magbakwit ang mga T'boli na residente dahil nakikita nila ang mga sundalo sa paligid ng komunidad. Kinakailangan nilang maglakad mula alas-kuwatro ng hapon hanggang hatinggabi. Ipinalabas ng AFP na ito raw ay lehitimong engkuwentro ngunit maging ang Commission on Human Rights ay kinikilala na hindi engkuwentro ang sirkumstansiya ng pagpatay sa walong T'boli.

Sa buong bansa, tinatayang nasa 800,000 na ang kaso ng human rights violations. May 93 kaso ng extrajudicial killings; 1,450 sa iligal na pag-aresto; 35 na kaso sa torture; 4,000 ang apektado ng iligal na pagkampo sa mga paaralan, simbahan at iba pang pampublikong istruktura; 400,000 ang biktima ng puwersahang pagbakwit; at 340,000 ang apektado ng pambobomba.

Hindi maikakaila na sa ilalaim ng martial law, lubhang nakapakarami nang brutal na mga paglabag sa karapatang pantao. Karamihan sa mga biktima ng ito ay mga magsasaka at mga Lumad.

Sa P189 billion na budget ng AFP, sana ay kilalanin ng militar ang mga paglabag sa karapatang pantao na ginagawa nila. Ang tanging nais lang namin na mga katutubo at magsasaka ay kapayapaan at malayang pamumuhay.

Hindi namin ito makakamit kung hindi man lamang kikilalanin ang mga paglabag sa aming mga karapatan. Hindi namin ito makakamit kung hindi man lang bibigyan ng hustisya ang mga biktima.

Kayo ay may mandatong protektahan at pagsilbihan ang mga mamamayang Pilipino. Magsilbi sa bayan, huwag sa iilan. Ang panawagan, itigil ang pag-atake sa mga sibilyan at higit sa lahat, wakasan ang martial law sa Mindanao kasi nakikita nating ito ay hindi epektibong tugon sa kinakaharap nating mga problema.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Maraming salamat po, Rep. Eufemia Cullamat.

Majority Leader, please.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Minority Leader Bienvenido Abante Jr.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Rep. Benny Abante is now recognized.

REP. ABANTE. G. Tagapagsalita, yamang wala na pong magtatanong sa panig ng Minorya ay itinutulak ko na ihinto na ang pagtatanong na ito sa pondo ng Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa. Itinutulak ko po, G. Tagapagsalita.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we join the Minority in their motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Department of National Defense.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). There is a joint motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of ...

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). ... the Department of National Defense.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). One-minute suspension.

It was 5:09 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:11 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Reps. Ging Suansing, Nikki Violago, Ria Vergara and Maricel Natividad-Nagaño from the municipality of Talavera, Nueva Ecija. We have Mayor Nerivi Santos Martinez, Vice Mayor Anselmo B. Rodiel III. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). To all the guests, please all rise.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. And, the Councilors: Hon. Reichel Ann Villanueva, Hon. Belinda Palilio, Hon. Reynaldo B. Balledara, Hon. Angelina A. Soleta, Hon. Mark Renieleo F. Rayo, Hon. Florentino C. Balmater, Hon. Manolito M. Silva, Hon. Joel Del Rosario. (*Applause*)

From the municipality of Bongabon, Nueva Ecija: Mayor Allan Gamilla, Vice Mayor Hernan Andres. The honorable Councilors: Christian Binuya, Victor Dela Cruz, Melodie Dela Cruz, Gregorio Pesa, Bobby Mantile, Alexander Guerrero, Gina Morales, Lope Valmonte. (*Applause*)

From the city of Palayan, Nueva Ecija: Mayor Adrienne Cuevas and Vice Mayor Moises Carmona. (*Applause*) Honorable Councilors: Romaric Capinpin, Pacifico Rico C. Fajardo Sr., Edwin Pineda, Julius Sta. Maria, Rosalia Merez, Garry Manapol, Julius Bautista, Antonio Malang, Victorino Rullan, Prince Joen Estallo; ABC President Julius De Leon; SK President Catalino Rullan. (*Applause*)

From the municipality of Rizal, Nueva Ecija: Mayor Hanna Katrina Andres; Vice Mayor Pacio Soliven; Municipal Administrator Rafaelito Andres. (*Applause*) The honorable Councilors: Gino Placido, Jason Sulfelix, Gilbert Arellano, Segundo Cervantes, Dennis Soliven, Rosalina De Guzman, Cindy Abesamis, Czespher Talens, and SB Secretary Ronald Abenoja. (*Applause*)

From the municipality of Santo Domingo, Nueva Ecija: Mayor Imee L. De Guzman, Vice Mayor Jhelyn Domingo-Velasco. (*Applause*) And the honorable Councilors: Jun Bugaoan, Jun De Leon, Jesus Bamejo, Eduardo Juan, Wilfredo Maniego, Emerson Matias, Olivia Pascual, and Arland Andres, Mr. Speaker. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). To all the guests of Cong. Ging Suansing, Cong. Nikki Violago, Cong. Ria Vergara and Cong. Maricel Natividad-Nagaño, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

Majority Leader, please.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, we move to acknowledge also the presence of the guests of our Majority Leader, Hon. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, and TINGOG SINIRANGAN Party-List Representative, Hon. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez. They are from the National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines Diliman: Mr. Luigi Miguel Andrada, Jessica Felize Babaran, Loren Mae Bolina, Thaddeus M. Calabia, John Carlos V. Comprendio, Job L. Edora III, Alix Jamie Erece, Thea Claris Espidol, Mikaeila Elysse Gatpatan, Jules Ian Gutierrez, Harvey S. Lacdao, Mikaela Jelena Lirio,

Erlina Bianca Magat, Crizalina Morales, Franc Anthony Mutya, Jamie Rose Posadas, Francheska Ronsayro, Ruth Sarmiento, and Gerald Joshua M. Suyat. Again, they are the guests of Hon. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Hon. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). To all those who have been mentioned, please all rise. (*Applause*) Welcome to the House of Representatives.

Floor Leader, please.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider the proposed budgets of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, including its attached agencies and bureaus.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

Floor Leader, please.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. They are Secretary Roy Cimatu, Usec. Ernesto Adobo Jr., Usec. Analiza Teh, Usec. Juan Miguel Cuna, Usec. Jonas Leones, Usec. Benny Antiporda, Usec. Sherwin Rigor, Asec. Corazon Davis, Asec. Darius Nicer, Asec. Marcial Amaro Jr., Asec. Michelle Angelica Go, Asec. Nonita Caguioa, Asec. Joselin Marcus Fragada, Asec. Joan Lagunda, OIC Asec. Ruth Tawantawan.

From the attached agencies, their heads are: Jaime C. Medina from the Laguna Lake Development Authority; Frances Veronica Victorio from the Natural Resources Development Corporation; Janilo Rubiato from the Philippine Reclamation Authority; Nelson P. Devanadera from the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development; Seville David from the National Water Resources Board; Alberto Sipaco Jr. from the Philippine Mining Development Corporation; and Peter N. Tiangco from the National Mapping Resource and Information Authority.

The heads of the line bureaus: Metodio U. Turbella from the Environmental Management Bureau; Sofio Quintana from the Ecosystem Research Development Bureau; Wilfredo G. Moncano from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau; Nonito Tamayo from the Forest Management Bureau; Emelyne Talabis from the Land Management Bureau; and Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez from the Biodiversity Management Bureau.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. “Kuya”

Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado to sponsor the budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). To the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, headed by Secretary Roy Cimatu, welcome to the House of Representatives. You are most welcome.

Majority Floor Leader, please.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my motion to please recognize the Sponsor, the honorable Vice Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Jose Antonio Sy-Alvarado.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Representative Sy-Alvarado is now recognized for his sponsorship.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am now ready to defend the budget of the DENR for the year 2020, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Go ahead.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Party-List Representative of BUHAY, Rep. Lito Atienza, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Fernandez). Rep. Lito Atienza of BUHAY Party-List is now recognized for his interpellation.

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

With the kind indulgence of the Sponsor, we would like to ask several questions that we would like to be answered by the Department now.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Gladly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Before we even talk about pesos and centavos, we would like to ask basic questions on the duties, functionalities and whatever they have done on the matter. May we be informed as to how much of the budget the DENR proposed will go to Metro Manila.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Can the Gentleman repeat the question, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ATIENZA. Ano po ang percentage in relation to the total budget ng Metro Manila po?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, more or less, it is P9.3 billion, P9.3 billion, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. So, almost one-fifth.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Out of the P25 billion, Mr. Speaker, yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Hindi po yata tama ang distribution dahil ang problema ng ating kalikasan ay nasa labas ng Metro Manila. Wala po naman tayong bundok, wala tayong gubat, wala tayong minahan, wala tayong pinoproteksyunang mangrove area, so, therefore, I really question the wisdom of allocating so much money for Metro Manila when the whole country needs more support from the DENR.

I would not even question the total of their budget because I know it is still lacking. Kulang sila sa kakayahan subalit kailangan i-prioritize iyong nangangailangan. Ang pera po ay kailangan ilaan sa ating bulubunduking kapuluuan, sa ating katubigan at marami pong bahagi ng ating bansa na kailangan ng pangangalaga. Therefore, with that clarification, I would like to ask the Department, how much are they now allocating for the protection of our forests?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, P809 million po ang Forest Protection Program ngunit mayroon po tayong Greening Program na P5.1 billion ang budget, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Lumalaki po ba ang area na mayroon na pong punongkahoy ngayon, considering that they have been given a big amount for the past four or five years, or maybe even more? Lumalaki po ba, at kung ilan mang milyong ektarya, ilagay po natin sa ating pag-uusap ngayong gabi.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, may kaliitan po talaga iyong naibigay na budget para sa forest protection po natin at umaasa po ang DENR na mas madadagdagan po natin iyong budget nito, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mayroon po ba kayong estimate as to the millions of hectares which are now healthy forest land, virgin forest? Sapagkat nawala na po iyan ng mga nakaraang taon. Pondo po tayo nang pondo riyan subalit kung lumiliit po naman ang area ng ating mga kagubatan ay mayroong hindi tamang nangyayari. Ilan po ba ang total area ngayon na matatawag nating covered by healthy vegetation, trees and restored green?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, mayroon po tayong mahigit pitong milyong ektarya ng forest and vegetation po sa ating bansa ngayong panahong ito, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Gaano kalaki po? Ilang milyon?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mahigit pitong milyon po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Eksperto po iyong nasa tabi ninyo, pakibulong lang sa kaniya. Gaano kalaki ang ating matatawag ngayon na forested areas?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, ang atin pong forested areas sa panahon po ngayon, based sa 2015 na survey po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ay mahigit pitong milyon po na ektarya.

REP. ATIENZA. Hindi ko po masyadong narinig. Ilang milyon?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. More than seven million hectares land.

REP. ATIENZA. Is it 4.7 million hectares?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Seven, pito.

REP. ATIENZA. Ah, seven million hectares.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Seven million hectares po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Binabati po natin sila dahil lumalaki ito; bumaba na po iyan ng four million at one time.

Kaugnay po niyan, ang nais kong tanungin ay, papaano po ba ang ating ibinibigay na suporta ngayon sa mga nagbabantay dito? I am talking about forest rangers who have been underpaid, undermanned in the past years. The other day, mayroong pinaslang na forest ranger, pinatay ng mga illegal loggers. Unang tanong ko po ay nahuli na po ba iyong mga illegal loggers na iyon o hindi pa?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, bawat forest ranger po ay nabibigyan natin ng humigit-kumulang P8,500 kada buwan at sila po ay binubuo sa ngayon ng mahigit 4,800 na forest rangers, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Nahuli na po ba iyong mga pumaslang doon sa ating forest ranger na ipinagtatanggol niya iyong napakalaking area niya, na wala siyang kalaban-laban noong siya ay pinatay? Kung hindi pa ho nahuhuli, sabihin na lang natin na “hindi pa nahuhuli, pero huhulihin natin.”

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, tatlo na po sa mga suspect na pumaslang sa ating forest ranger ang nahuli na pero may isa pa pong at-large, Mr. Speaker, at iyong tatlo pong nahuli ay kinasuhan na, iyong isa

naman po na at large ay pinaghahanap pa po ng batas, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. I am making a strong recommendation to the Department now as we can still do something about it. Let us give our forest rangers, finally, enough support. They cannot do their jobs properly and they cannot be considered safe in their work unless we provide them with the necessary tools like guns and ammunition, and other necessary support and operational coordination so that they may be protected. Otherwise, mauubos po silang lahat kung sila ay pababayaan nating manatili sa ating dati-rating sistema.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Exactly, Mr. Speaker.

Tamang-tama po ang mungkahi ng ating minamahala na Kinatawan mula sa BUHAY Party-List na bigyan ng tamang armas at gamit ang ating mga forest rangers, at ibigay natin sa kanila ang kanilang proteksyon na dapat naman nilang tinatanggap sapagkat sila ang nagbibigay ng proteksyon sa ating kalikasan, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. We are reiterating, we are stressing even that the forest rangers should be given once and for all the ability to defend themselves against these poachers and illegal loggers and criminals in the mountain forests of the land. Having touched on that, as we have pending bills along that line and we will propose, by law, that they be given a different treatment from what they have been given all these years.

Iyong atin po namang projects sa Manila Bay, in this budget, we have P1.3 billion allocated for the cleanup of Manila Bay. Iyon po ba ay maaari ninyong ma-justify? Sabihin ninyo sa aking kailangan iyan sapagkat nililinis namin ang Manila Bay.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Opo, Mr. Speaker, kailangan po natin iyang P1.3 billion na iyan, Mr. Speaker sa paglilinis ng Manila Bay dahil patuloy po ang pagkukumpuni natin ng mga esteros at pagpapalapad natin ng mga easements upang mapanatili na hindi mapagtatapanan ng basura ang Manila Bay, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Naririnig po natin na sinasabi ng DENR na sa dagat natin sa Maynila ay maaari nang makapag-swimming sa darating na Disyembre? Iyon po ba ay kanilang time frame and estimate for their ongoing clean-up?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, inaasahan po ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources na pagdating po ng Disyembre ay may mga area na sa Manila Bay na puwede ng

maideklara na swimmable, ibig sabihin, maaari na pong languyan. Ngunit ito po ay kailangan pa rin ng patuloy na effort. Kung paano natin inumpisahan iyong Manila Bay clean-up ay kailangan po patuloy pa rin iyong ating pagiging masigasig, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, Manila Bay is a dead body of water because it has been polluted with sewage water which continues to pour. Today, I just passed by Manila Bay. I dropped by the Manila Yacht Club and it smells and reeks of sewage waste. Why? Because the two water concessionaires have not done anything to solve the problem. Ang dapat pong magbigay ng proteksyon sa dagat natin sa Maynila ay Manila Water and Maynilad Water. Bakit po? Sapagkat iyong ating poso negro sa bahay at poso negro sa lahat ng establisyemento, poso negro ng mga gusali, deretso po ang agos diyan. Kung hindi nila nakikita ay bulag sila sapagkat nandoon po iyong outflow; doon lumalabas iyong imburnal ng ating mga kalunsuran.

I will ask them what they have done to force these two corporations, the two biggest corporations in the country who have already been called down by no less than the Supreme Court, to act. They continue to violate the Clean Water Act. They continue to not provide what is called for by their concession contract. Wala po silang kawala diyan.

Noong nag-file tayo ng kaso noong 2008, it took us 11 years to pursue them to follow the mandate of their contracts, that they have to provide wastewater treatment facilities, so that iyong tubig na lumalabas sa dagat ay malinis na po katulad noong ating mineral water, but they continue to defy this. Up to now, they have not paid the penalty imposed on them na one hundred thousand a day. Isinama ng Supreme Court pati ang MWSS, and we thank them for that, knowing very well that these two water concessionaires need to provide wastewater treatment plants commensurate to the volume of sewage pouring in and pouring out. This should be handled by a wastewater treatment plant. Kailan po gagawin iyan, may I ask the DENR now?

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Fernandez relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas.

With the passion that we provided it, we even got the Supreme Court to decide on a continuing mandamus to clean up Manila Bay. There is no escaping from that now; the continuing order exists and we will always remind the government, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, to force the issue on these two corporations now, not tomorrow, because we have had enough sufferings from this degradation, pollution and killing of the quality of water of Manila Bay.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, unang-una po, nagpapasalamat po ang DENR kay Rep. Lito Atienza sapagkat siya po ang nagkaso sa mga water concessionaires, kung kaya't mas nagsumikap ang mga water concessionaire na agad ay ayusin ang kanilang sewerage service coverage. Kung hindi po ginawa ng ating kasama na Cong. Joselito Atienza Jr. ang pagkakaso sa dalawang concessionaire na ito, baka po hanggang ngayon ay natutulog pa rin itong mga concessionaire na ito.

Sa panahon pong ito, Mme. Speaker, 22 percent na po ng Metro Manila ang naayos ang sewerage service coverage, ngunit hindi pa po ito natatapos. Ipagpapatuloy po ng DENR iyong pagbabantay sa mga concessionaire na ito at mamadaliin po ito at mas masidhi pang babantayan upang patuloy na po ang kalinisan ng ating kapaligiran, lalung-lalo na ang Manila Bay, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, I can see the Secretary is present, and I am asking him directly, when will you get the two water concessionaires pinpointed as the solution to the Manila Bay problem? Manila Bay's problem is not just garbage. Manila Bay's problem is not just the illegal settlers. Manila Bay's problems are aggravated daily by the non-delivery of their contract to provide the wastewater treatment. Sumisingil po sila sa atin, nagbabayad po tayo araw-araw, subalit hindi nila ginagawa iyong kanilang tungkulin. Kailan po ba tatapusin itong wastewater treatment facilities na ito? Can I get an estimate from the DENR now?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, sa 2037 po, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Sa totoo lang, Mme. Speaker, this issue is already academic. They can no longer escape from that commitment unless they would want to give up their contracts. Singil sila nang singil, wala pong ibinibigay sa ating kapalit na paglilinis ng ating imburnal. Sewage continuously pours into Manila Bay. Every time I visit the place, I feel that we are wasting good money. If we keep on just cleaning up without requiring the basic necessary solution to the problem, we will not get anywhere. I do not want Secretary Cimatú to go down in history as the leader of the Department that failed in its protection of our environment. Kapag nalinis po ang Manila Bay, maaring maging simula na iyan ng paglilinis ng Laguna de Bay, Pasig River, Bulacan River, Pampanga River, and all the lakes in the country which are now polluted and also degraded. If we cannot clean up Manila Bay with the Supreme Court, no less, ordering it, with the Supreme Court supporting the action of the DENR when we fined them P100,000 pesos a day for

non-delivery, if you cannot implement this, then you have failed. We will call your attention later on as we go on down the road.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, gagawin po ng DENR ang lahat sa loob ng kanyang kapangyarihan upang maipatupad ito sa mas mabilis na panahon kaysa sa 2037, na kung makikita natin ay napakatagal pa, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Ang sinasabi po ng water concessionaires, kukumpletuhin daw nila sa 2035. Panloloko iyon. Secretary Cimatú, I am addressing you, niloloko ka nitong dalawang korporasyong ito. I am addressing the whole Department, these two corporations are fooling the Filipino people. The other day, I read in the papers they got a loan again from a world financing institution, supposedly for these wastewater treatment facilities. Are they putting it in now?

Are they putting it in now, building the necessary plant to clean up our sewage? Nothing is being done. Para silang mga hari ng ating bansa na walang makagagalaw. Pipilitin natin. I will support Secretary Cimatú and the whole Department, if I see them also pinning the responsibility on these two corporations; otherwise, we will demand and I will file the necessary bill and I will also appeal to the President to cancel these contracts once and for all. They are due for renewal. Renewing what, renewing the collections while they are not delivering what they are supposed to?

So, we ask the Department to do everything it can. There is no escaping from this. Without the waste water cleaning process, Manila Bay will remain dead. Even if we put P100 billion to clean up the bay today, if sewage continues to flow every day, every minute at wala po tayong proseso ng paglilinis ng ating sewerage, mananatili pong ganyan ang Manila Bay. Huwag nating lokohin ang tao na sasabihin nating solve na ang problema by December. By December, I would challenge all of those from the Department of Environment, mag-swimming kayo ryan kung sa tingin ninyo ay puwede na. I assure you, you will not come out alive because that water is one of the dirtiest body of water in the whole country today.

Anyway, I do not want to belabor the point, hindi na po mababago iyan. Mayroon pong desisyon ang Korte Suprema by issuing a continuing mandamus in 2008. Mayroon na pong desisyon ang Korte Suprema sa kasong nai-file namin. Iyong mga nakapaligid po sa inyo, kasama ko iyang mga nag-file. Ewan ko lang kung ipinapaalala nila kay Secretary Cimatú, kailangan nating asikasuhin iyan. Wala tayong kawala ryan. We have to attend to our responsibility and commitment to the Filipino people. We have to be able to regain

Manila Bay and its clear, clean water. That could spell the success of the country economically. Kapag nalinis ang Manila Bay at nalinis ang lahat ng ating katubigan, ang Pilipinas ay itatanghal na first-world nation and our economy will provide all the jobs and all the food that our people are short of today.

So, therefore, again, I will depend on what you have said today. The two water concessionaires will be forced to perform or we cancel the contract and we will demand that each and every centavo collected from us be returned to each and every citizen. Kung hindi, ang tawag po diyan, “swindle.” Sinu-swindle po nila ang taumbayan. Hindi po lulusot iyan kung si Secretary Cimatú ay mamumuno ayon sa kaniyang sinumpaang tungkulin.

Shifting to another minor but major issue today, sometime in the past 10, 11 years, we tried imposing a decision, enforcing and imposing the decision of the Supreme Court on an issue of a land in Batangas, specifically in Calatagan, Batangas. Ang sabi po ng Korte Suprema, with finality in 1969 and warned all those who kept on refusing to follow the law, any appeal—they will already throw in the waste basket—that was in 1969. When I came across the case, I did not think twice, that was final. The farmers, the homeless, the poor of Batangas especially those in Calatagan have been deprived over a parcel of land, a piece of our patrimony, because that area is not wholly owned by the Ayala Corporation. Calatagan has 2,000 hectares, according to the Supreme Court decision, that belongs to the nation, it belongs to the government, it belongs to the Batangas farmers, it belongs to the poor of Batangas. Bakit tumigil po iyong kaso? Iyan po naman ay hindi kay Secretary Cimatú lang tumigil. Tumigil po iyan noong mga nakaraang taon na hinahabol na po namin, pina-survey na po namin iyan, lumabas na ang katotohanan na malaki nga ang area ng Calatagan na pag-aari ng Pilipinas, pero hanggang ngayon, ang Ayala Corporation ang mayroong hawak niyan.

So, we ask the Department, are you still interested in providing social justice to the people of Batangas or have you forgotten the function of the Department to enforce the law that has been rendered in our favor? Ang sabi po ng korte, survey-in ninyo at ibibigay natin sa inyo iyan at iyan ay maipapamahagi ng DENR, sa pamumuno ng Pangulong Duterte, sa mga mahihirap ng Batangas. The poor languish with no land and no home, while the rich control the 2,000 hectares which do not belong to them but to the government and the people.

Mayroon po ba silang maire-report ngayon? Kung wala, tatanggapin ko ang kanilang posisyon. Kung wala, inaasahan ko, bukas mayroon na silang gagawin. Maybe you can start with a phone call telling the Ayala Corporation, you better follow the decision of the Supreme Court; otherwise, we will be forced to do it in accordance with the law.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, sa panahon pong ito ay out of 2,000 po na nabanggit ng ating Party-List Representative mula sa BUHAY na hectares of land na hinahanap para sa ating mga kababayan sa Batangas ay 1,006 na pong ektarya ang mayroon nang naka-file sa Office of the Solicitor General na kaso upang maibalik sa mga farmers ang mga parcels of land, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Anyway, Mme. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, I have brought out the issue on the floor and I will continue to bring it out on this floor until the 2,000 hectares that belong to the Filipino people in Calatagan, Batangas are given to them. Wala silang lupa, wala silang bahay, subalit iyong Calatagan na kinaroroonan nila ay inaangkin ng pinakamalaking korporasyon sa ating bansa.

I appeal to the DENR, I appeal to the Secretary and the officers of the Department. Do something about this particular issue—1969 pa po iyan. Every day that passes, kapag bumabagyo, nababasa, nagkakasakit ang mga Batangeñong mga kababayan ko, subalit ang lupa na hawak ngayon ng malaking korporasyong ito ay hindi binabawi ng gobyerno.

I see the Regional Director who helped me survey that land, and for that, he suffered. In the last administration, he was removed from the Department, and I am happy that today, justice has been rendered on him. I am talking about Director Tamoria whom I see, and I hope he has not yet lost his sense of justice. He should continue, get permission from Secretary Cimatú, so that you can continue your good work. Huwag kang mabahala, ang katarungan ay nasa panig mo, ang batas ay nasa panig mo, ang mamamayan ay nasa panig mo, ang kailangan mo lang ay suporta ni Secretary Cimatú at ng buong Departamento. Pagmamasdan din po namin iyan kung ano ang ginagawa ninyo diyan.

As I assured the Gentleman Sponsor, he is not aware of all of these problems. He cannot answer it, I am sure, but the Department is here, and Secretary Cimatú just walked out. Maybe he is not interested in the problem. But, I am telling him, Atienza will continue nagging about this issue. Social justice demands that public lands be given to the public and not for the exclusive use of any corporation no matter how wealthy, no matter how powerful they are. Kailangan nating ipatupad ang katarungan. Iyong lupang kabahagi ng na-develop through 10 years, and probably centuries, do not belong to them. It belongs to the people, and that I will keep on asking, and now that Regional Director Tamoria is back in harness, I will even personally ask him, are you supported by the Department or not? If you do not want to support Director Tamoria, I would even resign my post in this Congress to support him in my personal capacity, because he is the only one with courage to implement the law in favor of the people.

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

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. AGLIPAY. Mme. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr. of the Third District of Camarines Sur to interpellate on the budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. of Camarines Sur is recognized.

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

I was listening intently to the interpellation being conducted by the former Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Congressman Jose L. Atienza Jr.

Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, okay. Of the sub-programs of the DENR, the Forest and Watershed Management Sub-Program will receive the highest budget allocation of P8.3 billion. Is this correct, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, from the breakdown of operations budget of the Department, the Natural Resources Conversion and Development Program ...

REP. BORDADO. Mme. Speaker, I am focusing on the sub-programs of the DENR, and I mentioned a while ago that the Forest and Watershed Management Sub-Program will receive a budget allocation of P8.3 billion. Is that correct?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

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

The major activity under this sub-program is Forest Development, Rehabilitation, Maintenance and Protection with a proposed budget of P6.65 billion. Is this correct, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

The budget for the National Greening Program is appropriated under this activity. In the President's

Budget Message, the NGP will be provided with P5.2 billion budget to cover the forestry rehabilitation efforts of planting over 150,000 hectares of forests, producing 166.8 million seedlings, and maintaining 318,871 hectares of forests and watersheds. Is this correct, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BORDADO. So, what is the update on the forest rehabilitation activity of the NGP for the past few years, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, from the year 2011, the Department has added 1.9 million hectares of trees in addition to the former 6.8 million hectares of forests, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. So in effect, can you provide us with the data on the total number of hectares of forests you plan to rehabilitate not only for the coming year, but for the whole project?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, until the year 2022, the Department targets an additional 1.2 million hectares of land to be planted with trees, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BORDADO. Okay. In the attached agencies, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, the Water Resources Management Program of the NWRB will have the highest increase in the budget at 29.8 percent from P13.1 million to P17 million. Activities under this program include water resources policies and plan formulation, program coordination, and information and communication. In contrast, the Mineral Resources and Geosciences Development Program of the MGB will have its budget reduced by 16 percent. Is this correct, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, that is accurate, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BORDADO. Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, with its additional budget this 2020, how is the NWRB planning to ensure that we will not experience another water shortage like what we did during the El Niño this year?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, definitely, the National Water Resources Board will have contingency plans in case there is another problem next year, but mostly, it will depend upon the rains if we will have a water shortage or not. The Department

also supports the creation of new dams, and new water embankment systems so we will have more water resources for the coming years, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BORDADO. So, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, in other words, you are telling us that the NWRB and the DENR should always be prepared for such eventualities. Is that correct?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, that is right, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BORDADO. Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, in its Annual Audit Report, the COA found that the Forestland Management Project and the Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management Project, both foreign-assisted programs, reported a low physical progress which caused the government to pay a commitment fee of P10.707 million. Is this correct, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BORDADO. The COA recommended that the heads of INREMP and FMP constantly monitor the implementation of project activities in order to avoid recurrence of commitment fees and ensure the attainment of project objectives and timely completion of projects. Is this correct, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BORDADO. Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, could the Department shed some light on what caused the slow progress of projects under these programs?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, the reasons for the delay of the implementation are the delay in the approval and release of the requested increase in the revolving fund, which took effect only in July 2018. Another, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, is the delay in the issuance of the no-objection letter by the ADB for the Natural Resources Management's activities and livelihood enhancement support projects due to tedious requirements of banks, and the difficulty in the compliance with other bank's requirements. Also, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, the prolonged and tedious process of securing environmental and social safeguards, requirements, examples, FPIC clearance from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), ECC and other water permits made the implementation very hard, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BORDADO. Okay. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker. Thank you very much, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the First District of Isabela, Hon. Antonio "Tonypet" T. Albano, for his interpellation.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Hon. Tonypet Albano is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. ALBANO (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Good afternoon to all my colleagues and good afternoon to the Gentleman from Bulacan.

May I ask a few simple questions from the honorable Gentleman regarding the programs of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Certainly, Mme. Speaker. It is an honor to be asked and be interpellated by a friend from Isabela, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ALBANO (A.). Thank you, Congressman Sy-Alvarado.

Mme. Speaker, I recognize that in 1992, Republic Act No. 7586, the law that was called the NIPAS—and from then on—this was passed for the protection of all the protected areas, particularly the virgin forests of the entire Philippines. Republic Act No. 9125 was then enacted and was called the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park Act of 2001, the biggest part of which actually is in my province and in my district, composing of 359,000 hectares. Kami po ang lungs ng Pilipinas. Ang second pong lung ninyo ay nasa Samar, which is composed of 335,000 hectares of virgin forests.

With these, Mme. Speaker, I would like to ask how much now has been given for Republic Act No. 9125, the implementation of the reserved projects, the very forest that gives us beautiful oxygen that we breathe here in the Philippines?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, for Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park, with an area of 359,486, more than 359,000 hectares, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, in 2017, they were given P1.8 million; in 2018, P8.86 million; in 2019, P4.03 million, and for 2020, Mme. Speaker, P1.03 million, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ALBANO (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. May I ask on the disparity. Why is it that for 2019, P4.3 million was given, and now, for 2020, there is a reduction of P1.3 million?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, the

Department has proposed a budget of more than P137 million, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, but sadly, we were only given P1.03 million, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, and we will be very happy to get back the additional P136 million for the Northern Sierra Madre, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ALBANO (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker, because there is a three-year investment program that I see here that was given to me by the Department, and it says here that there is a P137,270,828 that should be given for the protection of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park, which is very important, not only for Isabela, but also for the whole Philippines. But it seems that a meager P1.3 million is not enough, and so this Representation would like to ask the leadership and the President himself to help us bring the protection there, especially that in my province, Mme. Speaker, this year alone, one of our PENRO members was assassinated because they were protecting the forests of Isabela.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, the heart of the Department also bleeds because of what happened to the DENR employee back in Isabela, but definitely, the Department will not rest until justice is served, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ALBANO (A.). Thank you, and in that proposal, Mme. Speaker, if we can bring back the P137 million for the protection of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park. We aim not only to protect our forest, but also the people themselves who are protecting it.

One very important question, Mme. Speaker, next is the enactment of the Expanded NIPAS, which is actually Republic Act No. 11038, which comprises of 107 protected areas in the whole Philippines, and this comprises and affects 113 districts in the entire Philippines. In particular, there is also a Republic Act that keeps the watersheds of Tumawini, which is my district, and in this po I would like to ask the proponent, how much is the proposed budget for Republic Act No. 11038 from the NEP this 2020?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, the proposed budget in the NEP for the year 2020 is P1.4 billion, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ALBANO (A.). Alright, but is it not, Mme. Speaker, that there was a previous budget allocation given to the Department composed of around P3.219 billion?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. That is correct, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ALBANO (A.). So, there is a gap deficit, Mme. Speaker, of P1.819 billion. Is that correct?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. That is correct, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ALBANO (A.). Mme. Speaker, this is why I lament the situation because, can you imagine, 107 protected areas comprising of 113 districts and a meager P1.4 billion is allocated, and I know, there are agencies that can get funding so that we can bring back the P3.219 billion that is proposed by the Department. Is that true, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. That is correct, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ALBANO (A.). In this case, Mme. Speaker, am I right that there is an EPIRA and that there is a collection called the universal charge, which is one percent collection of the water that passes through all the dams and irrigations, to be collected by virtue of EPIRA and this should be given to the protected areas, such as in the Republic Act that I mentioned?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ALBANO (A.). In fact, is it not that there is a Malampaya Fund that we can add to this resource so we can add more money to this Republic Act that we mentioned?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ALBANO (A.). Is it not that there is a People's Survival Fund with the Climate Change Commission, comprising of P1 billion per annum that was not even utilized?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Series of questions—correct, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ALBANO (A.). And there is a National Greening Program, under the Department that is P5.1 billion?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ALBANO (A.). Mme. Speaker, in this instant, we are only asking for a meager P1.819 billion to bridge the gap deficit, so that we can bring back the proposed budget for RA 11038 that protects 107 protected areas in 113 districts, Mme. Speaker.

So, through this Representation, there is now a resolution, a manifestation brought by Congresswoman Sato that is signed by no less than more than 113 Congress people to effect and to ask the Department to bring back the budget that was proposed in the tune of P3.219 billion, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Gladly, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ALBANO (A.). Thank you and my last question is regarding the fire capabilities of the DENR. Mme. Speaker, is it not true that there are no facilities and equipment to fight any forest fires here in the Philippines?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, the equipment used by the Department is very minimal, and if forest fires occur, Mme. Speaker, the Department urges the Bureau of Fire to help suppress the fire, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ALBANO (A.). Thank you, for the candid response, Mme. Speaker, and that is why I urge the Department to actually establish a fire protection of our forests and protected areas, that we conduct a program this year to make sure that what is happening in the Amazons, in the fires in Malaysia and Indonesia where there are larger rainforests, will not happen and be prevented here in the Philippines, Mme. Speaker.

So, I would like to ask now the proponent and the Department if we can create such a program so that in the event when there is fire that breaks up in our protected areas due to forest fires or kaingin and the likes, we will be able to suppress and fight it.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, the Department can cover it in the Forest Protection Program, Mme. Speaker, although in the Fire Modernization Act of the Bureau of Fire, it is also included, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ALBANO (A.). Thank you.

Mme. Speaker, again, I reiterate the call of this Chamber and the majority of our Congressmen and Congresswomen to, put in effect, and restore the budget that was slashed in the DENR.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker, and good day.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the First District of Agusan del Norte, Hon. Lawrence “Law” H. Fortun. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Hon. Lawrence Fortun of the First District of Agusan del Norte is now recognized.

REP. FORTUN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Magandang hapon po sa ating mga kasamahan sa Kongreso.

Will the Gentleman yield to some questions or interpellation?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. Mme. Speaker, ako po ay taga-Butuan City. Ang tawag po sa aming siyudad ay “Timber City of the South.” Ito rin po ang regional center ng Caraga Region na kilala bilang “Timber Corridor of the Country.” Iyong amin pong region produces about 70 percent of the log output of the entire country. Kaya po ako ay medyo concerned doon sa National Greening Program mula pa nang ito ay inumpisahan noong panahon ng nakaraang administrasyon, noong 2011, at excited kami, lalo sa Caraga Region, when the National Greening Program, when in 2011, we started its implementation. The target was that 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 million hectares ay itanim mula sa period ng 2011 hanggang 2016. Later, ito ay naging Enhanced National Greening Program which already included the remaining unproductive, denuded, and degrading forests at pinahaba. The implementation was extended until 2028.

Over the years, Mme. Speaker, that is from 2011 to the present, the DENR had been receiving about P43.5 billion for the National Greening Program, but what is surprising to us all is that there has not been any significant impact of the program, in terms of addressing the loss of our forests.

Ang unang tanong ko lang po, for the record, may we hear from the distinguished Sponsor himself, what do you think of the National Greening Program. Is the program a success or a dismal failure?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, sa palagay po ng Representasyong ito, ang National Greening Program po ay mananatiling isang success although kailangan po nating ipagpatuloy at kailangan nating iayos ang ilan sa mga bagay na kakulangan po nito, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. Kapag sinabi po nating successful siya, tatanungin ko lang po—kasi iyong 1.5 billion trees na target ay from 2011 to 2016. Ito po ay itanim sa about 1.5 million hectares. How many trees have been planted so far? How many hectares have been covered? And among those covered, may I know from the distinguished Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, how many are critical watersheds?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, sa taong kasalukuyan po, Mme. Speaker, ay mayroon na tayong dagdag na 1.9 million hectares of land planted at 1.6 billion na seedlings nang naitanim.

Bagama't hindi po natin masasabi na naging malaking puno itong lahat, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, mas pinabubuti ng DENR ang sistema nito upang parati tayong magkaroon ng feedback mula sa pagtatanim ng puno hanggang sa pagtubo at pagpapalaki nito, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. Puwede po bang malaman kung ilan dito ang critical water sheds? Ilang ektarya ng critical water sheds ang tinaniman sa ilalim ng National Greening Program mula nang ito ay inumpisahan hanggang sa kasalukuyan?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, mula po 2011 hanggang 2017, mayroon na tayong 330,000 hectares ng critical watershed na nataniman, at sa loob po naman ng critical watershed and major river basin, mayroon nang 700,000 hectares na nataniman, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, I just would like to refer to some data that I gathered from the Senate website, which is quite different from what the distinguished Sponsor is manifesting now. The data say that 1.01 million hectares or 85 percent of the target forests have been planted with trees. Magandang pakinggan ito kasi 1.5 million ang target na hectares at 1.01 million na ang nataniman, ngunit ang nakababahala, bagama't 85 percent na ng target ang nataniman, ang naitanim po ay 602.7 million seedlings lang. If we are targeting 1.5 billion trees for 1.5 million hectares, that would mean 1,000 trees per hectare, but with only 602.7 million seedlings for the 1.01 million hectares, that would mean that only 593 trees per hectare have been planted. Ibig sabihin, malayong-malayo pa po sa target natin, because 1.5 billion trees for 1.5 million hectares mean 1,000 trees per hectare. Pero sa kasalukuyan, sabi ng website ng Senado, 593 trees lang po ang naitatanim per hectare. Medyo magkaiba po sa datos na ibinigay ngayon itong aming na-gather.

The sadder fact even, Mme. Speaker, is that while only about a little over 50 percent of the targeted trees that should have been planted, ang ating success rate or survival rate ay 68 percent lang. Ito ay sabi ng isang report mula sa Commission on Audit. That means, of the 1,000 trees per hectare, 593 lang ang ating naitatanim per hectare, at sa 593 trees which is less than 60 percent, only 68 percent is the survival rate. Why do we say now that the National Greening Program is a success?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor,

mukhang kailangan pong pag-aralan ng DENR ang ibinigay na datos ng ating kasama mula sa First District ng Agusan del Norte dahil magkaiba iyong parehas naming binabasang datos. Dahil po sa pagkakaiba ng datos, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, magiging magkaiba po talaga iyong ating pananaw sa iisang bagay, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

Bagama't magkaiba po ang aming datos ng ating iginagalang na Hon. Lawrence "Law" Fortun, sisikapin po, Mme. Speaker, ng Kagawaran na mapabuti pa ang National Greening Program natin, sapagkat hindi naman ito maaaring itigil dahil lamang sa mga naging problema noong nakaraan, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, at ang Kagawaran ay bukas para sa magagandang suhestiyon kung paano natin mas lalong mapapalaki, tunay na mapapatubo at tunay na magagamit ang mga nasabing watershed, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. Hindi po kagandahan lamang ang pinag-uusapan natin dito, hindi lamang kalusugan ang pinag-uusapan natin dito, hindi lamang bilang ang pinag-uusapan natin dito, survival po ng human race o ng sangkatauhan, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, ang pinag-uusapan natin dito, dahil mga puno lamang ang ating inaasahan na magsasalba sa ating lahat sa panahon ng patuloy na pag-init ng ating mundo, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

Kaisa po ang Representasyong ito, kasama ang buong DENR na naniniwala na kailangan nating mas lalo pang pag-ibayuhin ang ating National Greening Program. Kung may mga pagkukulang man noong nakakaraan ay repasuhin natin at dapat ipagpatuloy po natin ang programang ito, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. Mme. Speaker, hindi po ipinapanukala ng Representasyong ito na itigil ang National Greening Program. Gusto po nating tiyakin na magiging successful ito, kaya itinatanong natin, bakit magkaiba ang datos ng Senado na ayon sa kanila ay galing din sa datos na nakuha rin mula sa DENR? When we start with a wrong data, we cannot proceed with appropriate actions to address the prevailing problems of our country, especially in the case of reforestation, kasi kailangang tama talaga ang pagtingin natin sa lahat ng ito.

For example, napakalaki ng ibinigay na datos tungkol sa watershed rehabilitation. Ito, matagal ko na pong ipinaglalaban. I would like to be a little parochial this time. Ang amin pong siyudad, ang aming district has a critical watershed. The Taguibo Watershed in the city of Butuan is the only source of potable water in our city. Sometime in 2011, we had a water crisis for over a month, walang tubig na lumalabas mula sa aming mga poso, and that was because of the state of our watershed.

The National Greening Program started its implementation in 2011, but it was only in 2014 that

the Taguibo Watershed was made part of the National Greening Program. The Program is supposed to prioritize critical watersheds, but it took the DENR three years to include a critical watershed in its Program. Kung hindi ko pa po na-raise o na-bring up sa isang budget hearing, hindi po maisasama ang aming Taguibo Watershed sa National Greening Program. There was a commitment from then Secretary on the initial year to reforest around 700 hectares, kasi 4,000 hectares po ang aming watershed. Ngayon, less than a thousand hectares na lang ang may forest cover, and there was an initial commitment to reforest 700 hectares. That was in 2014. It is already 2019. Five years have lapsed. Hindi po umabot ng kalahati man lang ng 700 hectares ang na-reforest doon. Nagtanim, walang follow-through, ang baba masyado ng survival rate. Hindi na nga tinamaan iyong commitment, ang baba pa ng survival rate.

At any rate, Mme. Speaker, that is as far as my district is concerned, and I am afraid that this is also true in many parts of the country. Itatanong ko lang po, maliban kasi doon sa targets na kulang-kulang at iyong success rate na hindi nagkakatugma-tugma ang datos, marami ring problema sa paggastos ng pera para sa National Greening Program. Will the distinguished Sponsor confirm to this Representation, and for the record, Mme. Speaker, that while there have been excessive allotments in the Central Office for the National Greening Program, there have been deficiencies on sub-allotments for the Regional Offices and the Bureaus? Will the distinguished Sponsor also confirm that there has been considerable absence of work and financial plans for sub-allotments to the FMB or the Forest Management Bureau that has amounted to P229.776 million? Walang financial workplan para sa halagang ito. Will the distinguished Sponsor also confirm that payments of compensation to the so-called extension officers not performing functions related to the NGP have been made? Will the distinguished Sponsor also confirm that expenditures not used for the implementation of NGP were done, which were made also by the DENR? Will you also confirm that even in the procurement of vehicles, may labinlima, 15 vehicles have been purchased using the National Greening Program funds, and the vehicles, not one of them were used for functions related to the National Greening Program? Will the distinguished Sponsor also confirm that there have been expenditures for foreign travels including those in the Central Office officials from 2015 to 2018, the purpose of which was not related to the National Greening Program? Just for the record, it is just a yes or no, Mme. Speaker. These are factual findings.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes. From the COA, Mme. Speaker, yes.

REP. FORTUN. How does the DENR intend to address all of these misused public funds, especially those for the purpose of the implementation of the National Greening Program?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, in the issue of improper charging of expenditure to the NGP amounting to P72.27 million, the Department assured that all personnel hired using NGP funds are performing their functions and duties in line with the NGP, and all expenses will contribute to the attainment of the goals and objectives of the NGP. All motor vehicles procured will be redeployed to Regional Offices which will be used solely for the NGP. Total payments for the consultancy contracts per clients' satisfaction survey or CSS were sourced from the NGP funds. The scope of work under the two contracts largely deal with the clients' satisfaction survey, with the NGP as a banner program for the Department.

Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, in the issue of excessive allotments in the Central Office and deficiencies in sub-allotments to Bureaus and Regional Offices, the management adheres to the recommendation that funds intended for the implementation of the NGP are utilized only for the intended purpose. The NGP funds will be directly downloaded to the regions and PENROs, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

Pupunta na po ako sa ibang issue. We just hope that the National Greening Program will finally succeed, especially now that there are reforms that are about to be implemented, and we hope to see the light of day in terms of these reforms.

Mayroon lang po akong mga ilang tanong. Mayroong issues tungkol sa mga damaged nang reef ecosystems at the Panatag Shoal and Spratly Islands mainly due to China's reclamation activities and illegal fishing operations. Ang estimate po ng UP Marine Science Institute, ito po ay umaabot na sa P33.1 billion annually. All the reclamation and illegal fishing activities taking place there at the Panatag Shoal and the Spratly Islands are causing our country damage amounting to P33.1 billion a year.

The figure, while already staggering, sabi nila is even a conservative estimate considering the country's complex marine biodiversity, and this damage was shown by satellite images. As far as the reef ecosystems in the Panatag Shoal are concerned, the damage has reached the extent of 550 hectares. Doon sa Spratlys group naman, 1,300 hectares, and these figures do not even include areas not visible to the satellites. Sabi nila, if unabated, this will cost enormous threat to food security. Doon naman sa Scarborough Shoal, pag

napabayaan ito, mawa-wipe out lahat ng reefs natin doon sa loob lamang ng limang taon.

May I know what concrete actions are being taken by the DENR to address these?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, kasama po ang DENR sa gumawa ng proyektong ito, kasama ang UP Marine Science, kaya nabilang o na-estimate iyong nabanggit po ng ating kasamang Representante mula sa Agusan del Norte. Sa parte naman po ng pagkasira ng ating marine ecosystem, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, katulong po ng DENR ang Department of Foreign Affairs at Department of National Defense sa pagpoprotesta ng mga bagay na ikinakasira ng ating marine ecosystems na produkto ng poaching at panghihimasok ng mga taga-ibang bansa, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. Maaari po bang malaman anong porma ng mga protesta ang inihain ng DENR? Ito po ba ay in writing? Puwede bang bigyan ang Kongreso ng kopya ng mga dokumentong ito nang malaman naman natin kung totoong may kongkretong hakbang na ginawa ang ating Ahensya para ipagtanggol ang ating reef ecosystems.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, written and verbal po ang ginawang sulat ng DENR patungo sa DFA upang maging basehan ng Department of Foreign Affairs ang sulat ng DENR sa pagpoprotesta nito laban sa ibang bansa. Bagama't ang pagpoprotesta ay hindi na po nasubaybayan ng DENR, bagkus ito ay nasa pangangalaga na ng Department of Foreign Affairs, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. Yes, but can the House of Representatives be furnished copies of these documents?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Of course, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. Do we have a commitment from the Department to furnish us those copies within the week, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Within the week, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. Thank you.

Just to wind up, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, questions have been raised regarding the prioritization of the Enhanced National Greening Program. Binanggit na kanina na medyo mababa ang survival rate. Ang gusto nilang malaman, may bagong sites ba na tataniman, using the budget for 2020 at magkano sa P5.2 billion

na budget ang gagamitin para sa pagtatanim sa mga bagong sites, at magkano naman ang gagamitin para sa maintenance ng mga nataniman na?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, P1.1 billion po ang gagamitin para sa maintenance ng established plantations, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, at 150,000 hectares of land po ang new sites na tatamnan for the year 2020, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker.

REP. FORTUN. So, if P1.1 billion will be utilized for the maintenance, are we saying that the rest of the P5.2 billion minus the P1.1 billion would be utilized for the planting sa mga bagong sites?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Planting and Personal Services, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. Let us remove the Personal Services, doon lang po sa pagtatanim. We just want to know kung magkano ang ilalagay na pera para sa pagtatanim at para sa maintenance, sa pagtatanim sa mga bagong sites.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Cost of seedlings, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, is almost P1.9 billion, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. How much, Your Honor?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. One billion eight hundred ninety-six million two hundred twenty-four thousand pesos, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, according to the data that we just read, we said that only 593 trees per hectare are being covered. That means the target per planting is only—I mean, what we are able to achieve in terms of target for planting is only 60 percent or less than that per hectare, and of the 60 percent or less, only 68 percent is the survival rate. What is the logic of allocating funds for new sites na 150,000 hectares—hindi pa nga natin natatapos iyong target natin na initial P1.5 million? Hindi na nga kumpleto iyong naitanim, hindi pa kumpleto iyong survival rate, and here we are identifying 150,000 hectares more para tamnam naman ng panibago.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, may request po kasi sa ibang lugar kaya po magtatanim po tayo sa ibang lugar ng ibang species naman po, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, at inaasahan po na mas mataas na iyong magiging survival rate nito lalong-lalo na at babantayan nang mabuti ng DENR na may proper irrigation iyong mga bagong plantation areas, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. At any rate, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, will the distinguished Sponsor be open to amendments later on in terms of priorities for the National Greening Program?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. This is the last question, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, medyo naintriga lang po ako doon sa “shift.” I would like to clarify from the Department, there seems to be a shift in emphasizing bamboo planting instead of planting native trees endemic to the areas for the Enhanced National Greening Program.

May I know why the policy shift? Is this because of the economics in emphasizing more on harvestable trees rather than reforestation? Is there an impact study on this since other species may be affected in the biodiversity in the area as a whole by not planting native trees that are endemic to the areas?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, patuloy pa rin po ang road map ng DENR in accordance with its National Greening Program. Iyon lamang po na sa mga lugar na mahina ang survival rate ng mga punong naitanim na noong araw ay lalagyan po ito ng bamboo kung saan pinapaniwalaan po, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, na mas mataas iyong survival rate, ngunit hindi po iiwanan iyong orihinal na programa ng pagtatanim ng mga puno, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. Mabuti naman kung ganoon. May iba pa sana akong mga tanong pero marami pang ibang magtatanong. Kaya let me say thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you to the distinguished Sponsor. Thank you to the DENR.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize honorable Gentleman from the Lone District of Ifugao, Hon. Solomon R. Chungalao.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

REP. CHUNGALAO. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Honorable Chungalao is now recognized.

REP. CHUNGALAO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, and honorable Sponsor.

I just have one or two questions regarding my

province. May I know from the DENR family if there is an application from a private corporation to build a dam and ask from an ECC from the DENR in the upper Magat River, within the Alimit River Dam?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mayroon na po, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CHUNGALAO. So, an ECC was given to them. What kind of ECC was given to them? Is it right over the water or to build a dam? Kasi iba iyon eh.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Just for the construction of the dam, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CHUNGALAO. You mean, there is already an ECC issued for the construction of the dam?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, there is an ECC, Mme. Speaker, but it is in other parts of the country not near Mountain Province, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CHUNGALAO. My specific question is, there is a proposed dam higher than Magat Dam. The Magat Dam is located in Ifugao. There is another proposal to build another dam higher than Magat that would put one-third of my province, under water. That is within the Alimit River. That is the reason why I am asking if there is an ECC issued already to the private corporation.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, there is none.

REP. CHUNGALAO. There is none. Are you sure of that? Can I get the assurance from the DENR if there is an application for an ECC from the private corporation?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CHUNGALAO. Can our office be informed in black and white, as well as the Office of the Governor?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, the Department assures us that there is none. Even the application, they have not gotten it yet.

REP. CHUNGALAO. Thank you, thank you. That is my major concern and I would just like to express and reiterate that the headwaters from Magat all the way from Tinoc, which is the second highest mountain in Mt. Pulag, is a tri-boundary. I hope the DENR family creates a tripartite campaign because one-third of Mt. Pulag is Benguet, one-third is Vizcaya and one-third is

Ifugao, and that should be preserved because they form the headwaters that go and flow to Magat Dam. There will be no water in Magat on summer if that will not be preserved. Can I get an assurance from the DENR on that?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CHUNGALAO. That is all for the moment. At least, I can sleep tonight that there is no ECC given by the DENR yet for that proposed project because the FPIC has not yet been finished anyway, but they are acting as if it is sure to happen.

Thank you for that assurance. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, and sweet dreams to the distinguished Gentleman.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize our Representative from Party-List MAGSASAKA, Hon. Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Hon. Joseph Cabatbat from the Party-List MAGSASAKA is now recognized.

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

Mme. Speaker, my question is about the Unused Appropriations for 2017. May we know from the Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, how much was the Unused Appropriations for the year 2017?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, it is P1.2 billion.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

May I know why there is no continuing appropriations for the year 2018 under the 2020 NEP, because as I recall, the validity of the appropriations for the year 2017 is for two years for MOOE and Capital Outlays except for PS. So, what happened to the Unused Appropriations in the amount mentioned before, Mme. Speaker?

Let me rephrase, Mme. Speaker, if it would help the Sponsor. What happened to the Unused Appropriations? Did it revert to the National Treasury, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker. It is in the Treasury, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

The reason I brought this up is the fact that the appropriations are valid for two years, but there appears to be an unjustified diversion of the funds to the National Treasury. This represents a budget that should be used by the Department for their programs and projects. Unfortunately, it reverted to the National Treasury, Mme. Speaker. May I just request from the Department, Mme. Speaker, for a detailed report as to what contains the Unused Appropriations, Mme. Speaker.

Can I have that commitment to submit a report to me, to my office, as to what contains the Unused Appropriations?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

May I also ask from the Department if it generated savings for the year 2017 and 2018.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

May I ask also from the Department if it asked for augmentation on the deficiencies on its priority projects and programs?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

May I just ask for the submission of the report as to the savings and requests for augmentations for the year 2017 and 2018.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CABATBAT. Within this week.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Last question, I learned that the Department engaged the services of a foreign consultant, and the Department paid P11 million for that consultant, Mme. Speaker. The said consultant was engaged from July 2013 up to June 2017. May we ask from the Department what justified the engagement of a foreign consultant instead of a Filipino consultant, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, the foreign national had expertise for the needed

mechanized and modernized forest nursery in our National Greening Program. The Department tried to learn everything from him during the duration of the years that had just been mentioned in order to give us more technical knowledge so we can do it by ourselves, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CABATBAT. Mme. Speaker, just a clarification.

I understand that the said foreign consultant is very useful in the transfer of technology, but did the Department exhaust everything to find a local expert who can do the same task, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, due to the zero mechanized nursery in the Philippines, in our country, the Department exhausted all efforts to find a fellow Filipino, but to no avail, they did not. So, the last option is to get a foreign national, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Arenas relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Henry S. Oaminal.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. To add to it, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, he is a Filipino-Canadian, former Filipino, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CABATBAT. Ah, okay. So, his nationality is still Filipino or not anymore, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. He is now a foreign national, formerly Filipino, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CABATBAT. I understand that he has Filipino blood in him.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Okay, I stand corrected for the last time, hopefully, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. He is still a Filipino but he is working abroad, in Canada.

REP. CABATBAT. I hope we are talking about the same person ha.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Hopefully, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. CABATBAT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no further questions. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Thank you, Representative from the MAGSASAKA Party-List, Cong. Argel Cabatbat.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Third District of Negros Oriental, Hon. Arnie Teves, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Arnie Teves of the Third District of Negros Oriental is hereby recognized.

REP. TEVES (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everybody.

Matanong ko lang, what do we do with our people in the Department who do not see or report very blatant environmental violations? Alam na ng lahat ng tao, sila hindi.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, kailangan po ay tanggalin kaagad ng Departamento ang mga taong ito, kung mayroon man.

REP. TEVES (A.). I hope you do as promised. Next question, what do we do with illegal structures violating easements? Do we investigate or do we demolish?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the Department adheres to the due process of law, so the Department investigates first. After an investigation, if it is really a violation, then we move to that later, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. TEVES (A.). So, how long does the investigation take? If a structure has been there for five years, do we still investigate?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, kung nakita naman talaga ng Departamento na may violation ay dapat talaga silang mag-move na tanggalin na iyong mga illegal structure under the due process of law.

REP. TEVES (A.). Kaya nga, limang taon ko nang nakikita. Limang taon nang nakikita ng ibang tao, hindi nila siguro nakikita o kung nakita man nila, bakit wala silang ginagawa? Again, sana lang panindigan iyong mga sinasabi. Aasahan ko iyan.

Next, what shall we do with the offices and personnel who are ever present but are blind and deaf to the ever-present environmental violations? They do not file cases even when they are mandated to.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, kailangan pong paimbestigahan iyong mga kawani na pumapasok lamang sa opisina ngunit wala namang ginagawa.

REP. TEVES (A.). Again, how long does it take for the Department to investigate? These people have been doing it for the last—this is my fourth year in Congress—four years na, hindi pa sila nagfa-file ng kaso. Iimbestigahan pa ba natin? Apat na taon na.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, sa lalong madaling panahon po ay kailangan pabilisin ang imbestigasyong ito at kung tunay naman na walang ginagawa ang isang kawani ng ating gobyerno ay dapat tanggalin kaagad ngunit under the due process of law, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. TEVES (A.). Again, my question was not answered, Mr. Speaker. How long does it take to investigate and additionally, if I may amend my question, gaano katagal maaaksiyunan ang mga ganitong klaseng tao? Halimbawa, tatlong taon na siyang nandiyan. Tatlong taon na iyong dapat niyang nakita, hindi niya nakita. How long will it take to get him fired or get him penalized? Just give me a ...

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, under the Anti-Red Tape Law, it should be five days after such findings.

REP. TEVES (A.). Okay. So, I think the Department has been overdue by three years and five days already ha. Pakiayos na lang.

Next question, do you think it is still proper to continuously fund these offices and to continue to give salaries to these inefficient people?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, dapat po ay patuloy pa rin ang pagpopondo sa opisina ngunit para sa tiwaling kawani, dapat po itong matanggal at palitan ng mas episyenteng kawani, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. TEVES (A.). Okay. Sana lang, panindigan natin ang lahat ng sinabi. Aasahan ko iyan.

The Department is okay but some branches of this Department are kind of inefficient. For example, the office of the one doing the ENIPAS. I am sorry to say, they do not even have reports of illegal activities. Nakita na ng lahat ng tao, hindi nila nakita. Humihingi sila ng dagdag na budget. I am very much willing to support it because my brother was part of it, but again, I told them, let me know how you are spending your P100 because if you do not spend your P100 well, what is the use of giving you another thousand pesos?

Again, sana lang panindigan natin ito. Aasahan ko. Sana huwag na tayo umabot sa panlima kong taon dito sa Kongreso na nandiyan pa rin iyong mga hindi gumagawa nang tama. Sana lang pagtulungan natin dahil ang kawawa dito, nasisira pa iyong pangalan

ng Departamento, nasisira iyong pangalan ng ibang mga kaibigan ko ryan sa Department dahil lang sa kagagawan ng iilan ninyong mga tauhan, paki lang.

And please, I am an environmentalist. Let us help protect the environment.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Representative from Party-List BAYAN MUNA, Hon. Eufemia Cullamat, for her manifestations.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Eufemia Cullamat of BAYAN MUNA Party-List is recognized.

REP. CULLAMAT. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

Nais ko lang pong ipahayag iyong maikasing manipestasyon.

Mr. Speaker, ang OceanaGold ay kumukuha ng mga mineral, ginto at tanso sa Didipio sa lalawigan ng Nueva Vizcaya. Tinatayang mayroong 1.59 milyong onsa ng ginto at 0.21 metriko tonelada ng reserbang tanso ang matatagpuan sa minahang ito. Nagsimula ang mga komersiyal na operasyon ng OceanaGold noong 2013.

Expired na noon pang June 20, 2019 ang kontrata at lisensiya ng OceanaGold, subalit nagpapatuloy pa rin ang operasyon nito. Ito ay sa kabila ng pagtutol ng mga mamamayan doon at sa mga ordinansa ng provincial government na nagsasabing tigilan na ito, tigilan na nito ang operasyon. Iginigiit ng OceanaGold na maaari silang magpatuloy sa kanilang operasyon dahil ang application nito para sa renewal ay nakabinbin na sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources at sa Mines ang Geosciences Bureau.

Inendorso ng mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan ang application ng OceanaGold sa Pangulo subalit napilitan silang ibalik ito para kunin ang Free, Prior and Informed Consent ng mga katutubo at mamamayang may-ari ng lupaing apektado ng kanilang minahan.

Ayon sa mga Tuwali elder, kahit minsan ay hindi sila nilapitan ng OceanaGold para sa kanilang Free, Prior and Informed Consent o FPIC. Malinaw ito na paglabag ng OceanaGold sa ating mga batas at sa mga internasyonal na mga deklarasyon at kasunduan na kumikilala at nagtatanggol ng mga karapatan ng mga katutubo sa kanilang mga lupain, teritoryo at

kabuhayan. Ipinagpapalit natin ang buhay, karapatan at ari-arian ng mga katutubo para sa ginto at tansong mamimina ng mga korporasyon.

Ang OceanaGold ay nag-operate na nang mahigit 25 taon. Ang kanilang operasyon ay humantong sa pagka-dislocate ng mga katutubo at pagkasira ng mga kagubatan at ilog na nakapalibot sa Nueva Vizcaya. Apektado rin ang supply ng tubig ng mga pamilya sa paligid ng minahan. Ang sapilitan at ligal na demolition ng OceanaGold sa mga katutubong komunidad ay nagbunga sa pagbawi ng kanilang karapatan para mabuhay. Gayundin, binawian sila ng karapatan na protektahan ang kanilang kultura at depensahan ang kanilang lupang ninuno. Gayundin, ninakawan ng korporasyong ito ang mga lokal na pamayanan ng kanilang karapatan sa lupa. Buong kaarogantehang binakuran ng OceanaGold ang mga lupain at tinanggihan ang mga residente na ma-access ang kanilang tirahan at bukirin. Ang OceanaGold ay patagong nagpapatuloy sa pagbubutas sa kabundukan upang maghanap ng mga mina. Ginawa nila ito nang walang konsultasyon mula sa maliit at lokal na mga landholder.

Hindi lamang ito, G. Ispiker. Ang kanilang open-pit mining na operasyon ay nagdudulot ng pagguho ng Dinkidi Hill sa Nueva Vizcaya. Winawasak din ng mga operasyon sa pagmimina ang burol ng Mamparang sa Sierra Madre. Ang patuloy na mining operation ng OceanaGold ay hindi lamang magdudulot ng pinsala sa kapaligiran. Sapilitan din nitong pinapalayas ang mga katutubo palayo sa kanilang mga lupang ninuno.

Sa pagkakahalal ni Pangulong Duterte bilang Presidente ng Pilipinas, ipinapakita niya ang kanyang sentimyento sa kagyat na pagbabago katulad ng ipinangako niya noong kampanya. Sa kanyang unang taon, tumindig si Pangulong Duterte sa mga isyu sa kapaligiran tulad ng mapanirang pagmimina na laganap sa buong bansa, ngunit ang mga kasunod na taon, makikita na ang mga pahayag niya ay hindi sumasalamain sa kanyang aktuwal na pagkilos. Ang kanyang mga pangako na protektahan ang kapaligiran at ang mamamayan ay tinatalikuran niya. Masasalamain ito sa kanyang mga desisyon kung saan binaligtad niya ang mga nauna niyang tindig hinggil sa pagsasara ng mga mapanirang minahan dito sa Pilipinas, pagbawi ng suporta niya sa appointment ng mga progresibong opisyal, hindi pag-repeal sa anti-mamamayan na Mining Act of 1995, at lumolobong bilang ng biktima sa paglabag ng karapatang pantao. Mula nang maupo si Pangulong Duterte, nagkaroon ng 30 extrajudicial killings na may kaugnay sa mining kung saan 12 sa mga biktima nito ay mula sa mga pambansang minorya.

Ang pagpapatuloy ng militarisasyon sa kanayunan ay lubhang nakasasalanta sa pamumuhay at kapaligiran sa pambansang minorya. Patuloy din itong lumalabag sa

kanilang karapatan. Ang bilang ng nagpapatuloy na kaso ng pagpaslang sa mga environmental defender ay lubhang nakababahala. Patuloy itong lumolobo kung ihahambing sa nakaraang administrasyon, subalit ang ganitong sitwasyon ay lalo lamang nagtutulak sa determinasyon ng mamamayan na ipagtanggol ang lupaing ninuno, kabuhayan at kapaligiran mula sa pandarambong ng mga minahang korporasyon at lokal na panginoong may lupa. Ang malaking bilang ng pagpaslang sa mga environmental defender ng Pilipinas ay hindi maaaring balewalain. Kailangang kumilos ang pamahalaan upang pigilan ang mga malalaking negosyo sa pagkamkam ng mga lupaing ninuno ng mga katutubo. Kailangan ding pigilan ang paggamit ng dahas upang patahimikin ang mga tumututol. Dapat tiyakin na mayroong lehitimong Free, Prior and Informed Consent ng mga katutubo kung gagamitin sa pagmimina at iba pang negosyo ang kanilang lupaing ninuno.

Ang pagpapahalaga at pagtatanggol sa lupaing ninuno ang itinuturo namin sa aming mga kabataan. Ang layunin lamang nito ay pagpreserba namin sa kalikasan upang mapakinabangan sa susunod na henerasyon.

Ito lamang po, G. Ispiker, G. Isponsor. Maraming salamat sa inyo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The manifestation of Honorable Cullamat is duly noted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Representative from the Party-List BAYAN MUNA, Hon. Carlos Zarate, for his manifestation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Carlos Zarate of BAYAN MUNA Party-list is recognized.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Magandang gabi po sa ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor at sa DENR family. Mayroon lang ho akong dalawang katanungan at ang kasunod nito ay gusto nating makahingi ng detalyadong report.

Napag-usapan na rin po iyong Manila Bay rehabilitation. Gusto ko lang pong ma-confirm, sa taong ito, magkano po ang naging budget ng Manila Bay rehab?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. It is P1.4 billion, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. P1.4 billion. Sa susunod na taon po, magkano po ang hinihingi namang budget para sa Manila Bay rehab?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, for 2019 ay wala pong pondo iyong Manila Bay rehab. Iyon pong aking nabanggit na P1.4 billion, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ay para sa taong 2020.

REP. ZARATE. Ah, para sa taong 2020. Pero ang Manila Bay rehab po ay nagsimula na ngayong taon.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Opo, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Saan po kayo kumuha ng pondo kung wala naman palang pondo para sa Manila Bay rehab for this year?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, lahat po ng available funds na maaaring nakalap ng agencies under the family of the DENR ay pinagsama-sama at ginamit po. Pati po ang mga ahensiya labas sa DENR katulad ng MMDA, Department of Public Works and Highways, at DILG ay nahingan din po ng tulong para sa effort ng paglilinis ng Manila Bay, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po. Ibig pong sabihin, nag-augmentation kayo. Tama po ba iyon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, iyong Manila Bay rehab po na ginawa ngayong taong ito mula Enero ay mga bagay naman na nasa mandato pa rin ng bawat departamento. Hindi na po kailangang mag-augment dahil mayroon naman pong budget ang mga nasabing departamento. Kagaya po ng MMDA, sakop naman po nila itong ilang parte ng Manila Bay.

REP. ZARATE. Sige po.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Ang DILG ay...

REP. ZARATE. Sige po. Mawalang-galang na po at puputulin ko kayo dahil maigsi ang aking panahon. Kaya nga po ang itinatanong ko na budget ay ang partikular sa DENR kung saan ninyo kinuha. Hindi ko po itinatanong iyong sa DILG or sa MMDA. Ang partikular po ay sa DENR dahil kayo po ang pangunahing ahensiya sa rehabilitation ng Manila Bay.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, kumuha po tayo ng pondo sa operations at sa EMB, pati po sa ilang pondo po natin para sa mga water sampling na lahat naman ay pasok sa budget ng DENR para sa taong 2019.

Iyon lamang po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, mas mainam na mayroon talaga tayong nakalaang pondo

na para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay sa darating na taon upang mas maigi po ang ating pagpapaganda at pagpapalinis ng Manila Bay.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po.

So, ito pong P1.4 billion na hinihingi ninyo sa susunod na taon, puwede po bang mailatag ng kagalang-galang na Sponsor, ano po ang pagkakagastahan nito sa susunod na taon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, P200 milyon po ay gagamitin para sa pagsasaayos ng mga estero at disposal ng solid waste, gawa ng Phase 2 ng clean-up; P192 million naman po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ay gagamitin para sa coastal ecosystem restoration with geotextile liner sa Manila Bay; P300 million naman po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ay gagamitin para sa solid waste disposal from the seabed o kaya iyong sludge, o iyong burak sa ilalim, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor; P8 milyon po ay gagamitin sa solid waste mitigation in coastal barriers; P20 milyon naman, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ay gagamitin sa seaboard floating debris ng solid waste management kasama po sa Phase 2; P32,500,000 ay gagamitin sa pagtanggali ng mga inabandonang vessel, watercrafts, floating equipment and floating obstructions sa loob ng Manila Bay.

REP. ZARATE. Sige po, hihingi na lang po tayo noong kumpletong, detalyadong report tungkol dito.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Opo, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Kung ito naman ay nakaprograma, gusto ho rin hong malaman ng Kinatawang ito kung ito ay nakaprograma na. Kung mayroon nang mga ahensiya o kompanya na atin nang nakausap para sa mga proyektong ito, sana po ay mailagay natin doon sa hinihingi kong report para po makita natin kung paano talagang gugugulin itong P1.4 billion na ito at ano iyong mga particularities noong sinasabi nating clean-up, restoration, et cetera.

Makakakuha po ba tayo ng commitment mula sa Sponsor at sa Kagawaran on this?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Opo, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po. Napakahalaga po niyan dahil sinabi ko nga, isa ito sa napakalaking budget na paglalaanan sa susunod na taon at kailangang makita natin kung paanong gugugulin iyong bawat sentimo ng ating napakalimitadong resources.

Iyon na lamang po ang aking manipistasyon.

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

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Maraming salamat po sa aking kapwang naka-rosas, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Representative from the KABATAAN Party-List, Hon. Sarah Jane Elago, for her manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Sarah Elago is recognized for her interpellation.

REP. ELAGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Distinguished Sponsor, to the DENR family, good evening.

May we know from the distinguished Sponsor, what is the current policy of the DENR on mangrove cutting?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Bawal po iyan, Mr. Speaker and Your Honor. We penalize the violators, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ELAGO. Nitong nakaraang taon, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, tayo po ay nagpaabot sa DENR ng isang ulat mula sa mga residente ng Taliptip sa Bulacan, Bulacan hinggil sa pagpuputol ng mangrove sa kanilang area. Ito po ba ay naimbestigahan na, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor? Ito po ay matatagpuan doon sa mahal na lalawigan ng ating distinguished Sponsor.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, magpapadala po ng isang expert team ang DENR para po imbestigahan ang bagay na ito at kailangan po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, na managot kung sino man ang mga lumabag sa batas at sumira ng ating kalikasan, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, dapat lamang na agaran na itong maimbestigahan. Sa lalong madaling panahon, inaasahan po ng Representasyong ito na mabibisita agad ng DENR ang naturang area para mapanagot po ang mga sangkot dito. At lalong-lalo na na ang DENR po ay nagbigay na ng isang environmental compliance certificate, ng ECC para sa isang land developmental project sa Taliptip, Bulacan, Bulacan.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, ang grant po ba ng ECC para sa lugar na ito ay katumbas na rin ng pagpayag sa reklamasyon sa area?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Hindi po, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Ang grant po na ibinigay ay para lamang sa land development, para sa land recovery, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Hindi po kasama iyong reclamation, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Ngayon po na nailipat na ang kapangyarihan para sa pag-aapruba ng mga reclamation projects sa Office of the President, ano na po ang role ngayon ng DENR sa pagtitiyak na ang atin pong kalikasan ay mapoprotektahan pa rin at ang kabuhayan po ng ating mga kababayan sa mga apektadong area ay mapapangalagaan pa rin? Ano na po, currently, ang role ng DENR sa pakikipagtulungan nito sa Philippine Reclamation Authority?

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Patuloy pa rin po ang pagbabantay ng DENR na siguraduhin na hindi masisira ang ating kalikasan sa paggawa ng iba't ibang proyekto dito sa bansang Pilipinas. Bagama't po nagkaroon ng pagbawas sa kapangyarihan ng DENR upang magbigay ng ilang pahintulot, ang mandato pa rin po ng DENR na pangangalaga ng kalikasan ay nandito pa rin at iyan po ay patuloy na pananagutan at susubaybayan ng DENR para sa kabutihan ng taumbayan, lalong-lalo na ng lahat ng mamamayan ng buong Pilipinas, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, malinaw ho na ang binigay na ECC ay hindi po katumbas ng reklamasyon. Kaya po aasahan din natin na makakasama natin ang distinguished Sponsor sa pangangalaga sa kalikasan sa Bulacan at sa iba pang mga area na mayroon pong mga nakaambang na mga reclamation projects. Ang sa atin lang po, at nais ko na ring maitala sa kapulungan na ito ang panawagan ng mga residente ng Bulacan, Bulacan na hindi naman po sila tutol doon sa mga development na isasagawa sa area. Ngunit dapat lamang na mananatili ang mga mangingisda sa mga pook na pangisdaan at iyan po ay ang katiyakan ng relokalasyon din sa mga area kung saan pa rin sila makakapagpatuloy ng pangangisda—at iyan po ay sa tabing dagat—at kung saan din sila mayroong tiyak na lugar para sa relokalasyon na may paaralan, may serbisyong pangkalusugan.

Iyon lamang po, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker, at ang Representasyon pong ito ay tutol sa relokalasyon ng aking mga kababayan sa Bulacan, Bulacan, na isa sa mga bayan na nasasakupan ng aking distrito, ngunit patuloy po naming babantayan ang patuloy na pagpasok ng progreso upang hindi nito masaktan ang kabuhayan lalong-lalo na ang mga pangarap ng aming mga kapwa Bulakenyo, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, maraming salamat po.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Sharee Ann Tee Tan from the Second District of Samar.

REP. TAN (S.A.). Mr. Speaker, good afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Honorable Tan ...

REP. TAN (S.A.). I completely and strongly agree and concur with the Gentleman of Isabela.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Excuse me, Honorable Tan. Will you please wait for the recognition of the Chair?

REP. TAN (S.A.). Sorry.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Honorable Tan is recognized to interpellate the distinguished Sponsor. You may now proceed.

REP. TAN (S.A.). No, it is a manifestation, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Honorable Tan is recognized for her manifestation.

REP. TAN (S.A.). Mr. Speaker, I strongly agree and concur with the good Gentleman from Isabela, Representative Albano, in his request to give additional budget for the protected areas that are included in the E-NIPAS Law, so DENR can effectively and efficiently perform its mandate of enforcing established rules and regulations to protect and preserve protected areas. Included in the E-NIPAS is the Samar Island Natural Park, part of which is located in my congressional district. I hope through the leadership, Mr. Speaker, you will consider our request.

Mr. Speaker, since there are no further questions from the Minority, I move to close the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. *(Applause)*

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we join the Minority in terminating the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the period of interpellation and debate on the budgets of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, including its attached agencies is hereby closed.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The session is suspended.

It was 7:32 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:34 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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the Department of Agrarian Reform family. We have Secretary Atty. John R. Castriciones, Undersecretary Lucius Jun-Jun Malsi, Usec. Luis Mienrado Pangulayan, Usec. Emily Padilla, Usec. Virginia Orogo, Usec. Carim Panumpang, Usec. Bernie Cruz, and Usec. Homer Tobias.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Pimentel relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Henry S. Oaminal.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The officials of the Department of Agrarian Reform, headed by the honorable Secretary John Castriciones, is recognized. Welcome to the House of Representatives. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada of the Third District of North Cotabato, Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations, to answer questions on the proposed budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Jose Tejada of the Third District of North Cotabato is recognized for his sponsorship speech.

REP. TEJADA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Majority Leader.

Article II, Section 21 of 1987 Constitution provides: “The State shall promote comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform.” It is in this regard that 2 out of the 10-point Socioeconomic Agenda of the President are related to the mandate of the DAR. First is Agenda number 5, which says, “Promote rural and value chain development toward increasing agricultural and rural enterprise productivity and rural tourism.” The second, Agenda number 6, which says, “Ensure security of land tenure to encourage investments, and address bottlenecks in land management and titling agencies.”

With DAR being the lead aid government agency that implements genuine land agrarian reform, it is my honor and pleasure to present and defend the proposed budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform for Fiscal Year 2020 in the amount of P8.426 billion.

It is only when we uphold the rights of our tillers to own, control, secure, cultivate, enhance their agricultural lands, improve their quality of life towards rural development and national industrialization that we have made a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Mr. Speaker, this Representation is ready to answer any questions, concerns or clarification on the budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Thank you, Honorable Tejada, for your sponsorship speech.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Eufemia Cullamat of the Party-List BAYAN MUNA to interpellate the Sponsor of the proposed budget of the DAR.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Eufemia Cullamat of the BAYAN MUNA Party-List is recognized to interpellate the distinguished Sponsor.

REP. CULLAMAT. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

G. Isponsor, maaari po bang ipahayag iyong maiksing manifestation?

REP. TEJADA. Opo.

REP. CULLAMAT. Okay. G. Ispiker, may paniniwala kaming mga katutubo na ang lupa ay buhay. Lahat ng nagbibigay sustansiya sa ating mga katawan na nagbibigay daan para makamit ang sustansiya sa isip at sa kaluluwa ay manggagaling sa lupa. Ang bawat butil na inaani mula sa lupang ito ay dugo at pawis ng ating mga magsasaka. Sa kabila ng katotohanang ito, pito hanggang walo sa bawat 10 magsasaka ay walang

sariling lupang binubungkal. Huwad ang umiiral na programa sa reporma sa lupa. Katulad lamang ito ng mga dati nang programa ng mga nakaraang administrasyon, pero mas nagiging matingkad sa administrasyong Duterte.

Ang P45 billion na budget para sa DAR para sa taong 2020 ay mas pabor sa mga panginoong maylupa at negosyante.

Mr. Sponsor, ayon sa mga dokumentong ibinibigay sa aming tanggapan, 133,000 milyong ektarya ng lupa ang napailalim na sa CARP, at 200,000 ektarya pa ng mga lupaing pribado pa ang hindi naipapamahagi o kikilatisin pa lamang. Ano ang dahilan bakit naililigtas o mistulang ini-exempt sa pamamahagi ang mga pribadong lupain ng mga hasyenda, samantalang nagkukumahog naman na ipamahagi ang mga lupaing publiko at lupang pagmamay-ari ng gobyerno?

Hindi katanggap-tanggap na mas pinaglalaanan pa ang mga proyektong Build, Build, Build sa kabila ng matinding pangangailangan para sa lupang maaaring taniman ng pagkain. Libu-libong ektarya na ng lupa para sana sa agrikultura ang ginawang subdivisions, condominiums, malls, kalsada, ekoturismo at iba pa.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, sa sitwasyong ito, hindi makakamit ang layuning matapos ang land acquisition and distribution sa taong 2022.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, P15,000 lang ang nakalaang pautang sa mga magsasakang apektado ng rice tariffication o liberalization sa ilalim ng SURE Aid Program ng DA pero milyon-milyon ang nakalaan para sa mga landlord o panginoong may lupa.

Kailangang tugunan ang panawagan ng mga magsasaka para sa tunay na reporma sa lupa. Ang mga magsasaka ang pwersa sa produksyon at may malaking potensyal na maging gulugod ng ekonomiya. Sila ang kaagapay natin sa pagtitiyak ng food security.

Noong simula ay itinalaga si Ka Paeng Mariano bilang kalihim ng DAR, at nagkaroon ng pag-usad tungo sa totoong reporma. Nang siya ay tanggalin, kasabay ng iba pang progresibong miyembro ng Gabinete, naging mas malinaw ang layunin ng administrasyon na bigyang proteksyon ang interes ng mga malalaking negosyo.

Noong nakaraang agency briefing, kasama ang DAR, nagkasang-ayon kami ni Secretary Castriciones sa pagnanais na maipamahagi nang libre ang mga lupa sa mga magsasaka. Sinabi rin niyang ito ang gusto ng Presidente. Kung gayon, hinahamon ko ang Kongresong ito na isulong ang totoong repormang agraryo sa pamamagitan ng pagpapasa na ng Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill o House Bill No. 239.

Hinahamon ko rin ang DAR at ang administrasyon na suportahan ito at gawin ang lahat nang makakaya para totohanin ang pagsasakatuparan ng tunay na repormang agraryo. Katulad ng mga pagpapadali sa pagpapasa ng mga batas na nagpapagaan sa buwis ng mga malalaking

korporasyon at nagpapabigat sa buhay ng mamamayan, bakit hindi padaliin ang pagpasa ng batas na makabubuti sa mga mahihirap na magsasaka?

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, uulitin ko po ang panawagan ng mga magsasaka, gawing libre ang pamamahagi ng lupa, ipamahagi na ang malalawak na hasyenda at mga landholdings, i-condone na ang mga hindi mabayarang amortisasyon ng mga agrarian reform beneficiaries. Kailangan din ng tuloy-tuloy na suportang sebisyo at ayuda para sa mga magsasaka.

G. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, ito lang po, maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Thank you, distinguished Lady Hon. Eufemia “Ka Femia” C. Cullamat for your manifestation.

REP. TEJADA. Maraming salamat, iisa po ang ating layunin.

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

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Solomon R. Chungalao of the Lone District of Ifugao to interpellate the Sponsor of the proposed budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The distinguished Gentleman of Ifugao, Hon. Solomon R. Chungalao, is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Due to the absence of Rep. Chungalao, I withdraw my previous motion, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). You are withdrawing the motion to withdraw?

REP. AGLIPAY. Okay. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Geraldine B. Roman of Bataan to interpellate the Sponsor of the proposed budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Geraldine B. Roman of Bataan is recognized to interpellate the distinguished Sponsor.

REP. ROMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Mr. Sponsor.

As the Representative of the First District of Bataan, I would like to express my joy at the increase of the budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform. I am a

firm believer in true and genuine agrarian reform, but we can only justify the increase of this budget if we are able to show results and also demonstrate efficiency and accuracy in delivering the mandates of this Department. I would like to focus on two mandates and thrust of this Department.

First, is its Agrarian Justice Delivery Program. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, I would like to call the attention of the Department officials and the Sponsor to the fact that there are certain decisions that seem to have reached the Office of the Secretary but without enough accuracy and without apparent due diligence. I talk about due diligence and a system of checks to make sure that all the information that reach the office of our esteemed Secretary are true and accurate. It is common knowledge among my colleagues that sometimes the information is incorrect and has been influenced by material considerations, to be precise, by corruption.

My first question is this, how do we ensure that the beneficiaries are the true beneficiaries and not dummies in the service of landlords?

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, there are processes where identification of beneficiaries are being made down from the MARO to the PARO and then to the Regional Office.

REP. ROMAN. Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Sponsor.

My next question is, do you counter-check, the reports submitted by the MARO, the PARO and the Regional Director?

REP. TEJADA. The process with the reports of the MARO and the PARO and the Regional Directors, is that it goes to the Office of the Secretary which determines the validity of the findings made by the PARO and the MARO, Your Honor.

REP. ROMAN. How long does the validation process take place, on an average? Because Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues and the officials of the Department that on an average, it takes a very long time, actually, to validate this information, and the only justification for this lengthy period of time would be, actually, the accuracy of the findings.

REP. TEJADA. Yes, that is true, Mr. Speaker, because in the process we are looking into the legitimacy of the beneficiary down from the barangay level, their recommendation shall go and will be recorded in the Office of the Municipal Agrarian Reform Office to the Provincial Agrarian Reform Office.

REP. ROMAN. Mr. Speaker, is it part of the validation process that the MARO, the PARO, the

Regional Directors are given a specific period of time within which to operate or can it go indefinitely?

REP. TEJADA. As provided by law, they are given 30 days within which to complete the verification of the legitimacy of the beneficiaries being included.

REP. ROMAN. In that case, I cannot understand, if they are given 30 days, why some cases take as long as decades, decades of waiting on the part of our farmers?

Now, my second question is, in relation to checks and balances in the system of internal audit, do you have an internal system of checking if there is some sort of corruption that goes on within the system?

REP. TEJADA. Actually, the farmers are given the time to question and to challenge the identification of beneficiaries down to the barangay level which are then submitted to the MARO and the PARO.

REP. ROMAN. Does that mean that our farmers can actually submit complaints?

REP. TEJADA. Yes, Madam.

REP. ROMAN. To your knowledge, has the Department of Agrarian Reform processed these complaints and given due action to these complaints?

REP. TEJADA. Yes, Mr. Speaker. The validation through the normal process is made by the Office of the Department of Agrarian Reform. However, with the knowledge and familiarization of each member of the community, from then, they can raise complaints on the legitimacy of the identified beneficiaries of the Agrarian Reform Program.

REP. ROMAN. Okay, you are referring to the cases. Okay, let us go now to my second line of questioning, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask about the dynamics that goes behind the delivery of support services which is one of the three main thrusts of the Department of Agrarian Reform. When we talk about support services, we mean the things and the know-how that have to be transferred to the farmers to make their farming a successful enterprise. I would like to find out at which point of the justice delivery program can a farmer could actually avail of support services? Because if the decision of a superior court is not final or the case is still pending, can they already avail of the support services?

REP. TEJADA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the benefits of support services can even be made prior to or even after or before the giving of the CLOA.

REP. ROMAN. Before the giving of the CLOA, the farmers can actually receive the benefits of support services?

REP. TEJADA. For as long as they are identified as potential beneficiaries...

REP. ROMAN. As potential.

REP. TEJADA. ... under the rule of transparency, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ROMAN. What would happen if in the end, the superior court or the Office of the President should decide or they reverse the decision of the DAR and the farmers are declared as not legitimate beneficiaries? Will they return the support services?

REP. TEJADA. Yes, Mr. Speaker. The availment of support services are being given even before the giving of the CLOA but after the determination of their eligibility, then only thereafter that there will be non-availment of the support services that can be given to them.

REP. ROMAN. My last question, Mr. Speaker, is this, with regard to the support services, does the DAR coordinate with the DA and the NIA? Because I see some sort of duplication when it comes to the type of support services that you extend to our farmers. This is for our question on the matter of efficiency.

REP. TEJADA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we cater to all potential beneficiaries, whether they were identified by the DA or those who applied for membership or for the availment of the distribution of lands made by the Department of Agrarian Reform.

REP. ROMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to end my interpellation with an appeal to the Department to please look into your internal audit systems and also review your policies to make them more efficient so that we can deliver, especially when it comes to justice delivery program.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. TEJADA. We will comply Honorable Roman.

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

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Arlene D. Brosas of the GABRIELA Party-List to interpellate the Sponsor of the proposed budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Arlene D. Brosas of GABRIELA Party-List is recognized to interpellate the distinguished Sponsor.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Sponsor, maaari po bang makapagtanong kaugnay ng budget ng Department of Agrarian Reform.

REP. TEJADA. Yes, of course, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The Gentleman who has the floor may do so if he so desires.

REP. TEJADA. Opo.

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

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, the Agribusiness Venture Agreements (AVAs) are contracts between agribusiness corporations and farmers based on the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program or CARP. In situations wherein it is not economically feasible to subdivide the lands awarded to beneficiaries, farmworkers are allowed to form cooperatives or associations which deal with private corporations or businesses for the purpose of entering into a lease or growers agreement for up to 25 years.

ARB cooperatives awarded with individual and/or collective-type CLOAs and individual farmers often enter into AVAs with private corporations because of the following:

1. Difficulty and failure to pay land amortization resulting to actual threats of foreclosure;
2. Lack of cooperative-led activities and support to members;
3. Lack of capital to support production cost;
4. Lack of subsidies and social services from the government; and
5. Diminished productivity of the awarded lands, and among other reasons, primarily to support their individual or collective production and render the lands productive to sustain their livelihood.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, former DAR Secretary Mariano suspended the implementation of DAR Administrative Order No. 4 and implemented a thorough review of all AVA contracts in 2016. This move was approved by President Duterte in September 2016. Ano na po ang status ng review ng AVAs na pinangunahan ni former Secretary Mariano sa DAR?

REP. TEJADA. Patuloy ho, Mr. Speaker, kasi ito ay napag-usapan sa PARC Execom.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, nagpapatuloy ang?

REP. TEJADA. Pagre-review po.

REP. BROSAS. Pagre-review.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, with regards to the AVAs, the DAR is saying that growership is better than lease. Tama po ba?

REP. TEJADA. Ito po, Mr. Speaker, ay depende po sa kagustuhan ng magsasaka at saka sa crop na gusto nilang itanim po.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, hindi naman itinatakda ng DAR kung ano ang gusto ng mga magsasaka, they can choose.

REP. TEJADA. Sapagkat sila po ang nakasama po sa pag-uusap, ang kagustuhan po ng magsasaka ay siya pong nasusunod.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, in a recent research done by the Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura o UMA, Dole Philippines buys pineapples from the growers for only P350 to P357 per kilo in 2018 for the regular size and at P150 a kilo for the small size. The growers only earned a net income of P118.00 per hectare for a three-year cycle or P3,278 per month. They just earn P48,000 during the first cropping, and P70 on the second cropping. Iyon po ang dahilan kung bakit parang mas okay na ang mga magsasaka ay piliin na mag-cooperative pero maliit ang kanilang kita, samantalang kung under sila ng mga corporations, hindi rin naman naibibigay sa kanila iyong tamang kita para sa kanilang pangangailangan.

REP. TEJADA. Sa ganoong sitwasyon po, ang mga magsasaka na kasama po sa Dole ay siya pong masaya dahil sila po sa karamihan ng nandoon ay mayroong pag-uusap na ganyan po. Sila po among other groups, sila po ang siyang may pinakamagandang oportunidad na manggagaling sa shared income with the Dole, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, why is the Land Bank of the Philippines granting loans to pineapple growers cooperatives, which have teamed-up with Dole Philippines, Inc. among others, in Polomoloc, T'boli, Tupi and in Surallah. This includes the T'boli Farm Growers Multi-Purpose Cooperative, which is an organization of landowners based in Edwards, Sinolan and T'boli, all located in South Cotabato. Sa esensya po, bakit po iyong Philippine government ay gumagamit ng people's money to provide capital to the growers instead of Dole Philippines? Hindi ba dapat Dole Philippines ang siyang mag-provide noon?

REP. TEJADA. Sa katunayan po, Mr. Speaker, ang transaksyon po ng Dole sa kanyang mga magsasaka at saka kooperatiba po ay magandang programa, na kung saan po iyong mga magsasaka as a group ay napagbigyan po ng magandang kredito dahil po sa hanggang ngayon po ang relasyon po ng Dole Philippines at saka magsasaka na nasa isang kooperatiba po ay siyang nagiging magandang ehemplo sa mga paglagay ng kooperatiba at kontrata sa mga korporasyon pong ganito.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, the primary objective of the Agribusiness Venture Arrangements is to take control of vast tracks of lands which lead to further undermining the agrarian reform beneficiaries' rights to the awarded lands. Isang halimbawa po rito ay iyong ongoing dispute between the Madaum Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association Inc., or MARBAI at Lapanday Foods Corporation over the 145-hectare land in Tagum City, Davao del Norte that led to the cruel shooting of ARBs by the armed guards of the Lapanday Foods Corporation. Ano po ang status ng dispute between the MARBAI at Lapanday Foods Corporation?

REP. TEJADA. Ang mga bagay na po iyan, Mr. Speaker, ay napag-uusapan sa kaso, at sa ngayon po, nanalo po sa Court of Appeals ang HARBCO, ang farmers group po ang nanalo sa Court of Appeals at sa DARAB po.

REP. BROSAS. Again, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor. Nasa Court of Appeals at ...

REP. TEJADA. Sa DARAB po.

REP. BROSAS. DARAB.

REP. TEJADA. Nanalo sa DARAB din po.

REP. BROSAS. Wala pa pong ibang resulta or kung ano na ang status nito ngayon, kundi nakaapila?

REP. TEJADA. Pagkatapos po ng Court of Appeals at saka DARAB po, mayroong apilang ginawa sa Supreme Court ang Lapanday Foods Corporation at saka ngayon po ay pending pa for resolution by the Supreme Court, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, mayroon po bang napanagot sa nangyaring karahasan perpetrated by the Lapanday Foods Corporation—iyong binabanggit ko po kanina na shooting ng mga guards ng Lapanday Foods Corporation?

REP. TEJADA. Sa mga pangyayari pong ito,

hindi po nakasama sa hurisdiksyon ng Department of Agrarian Reform, because these are actually criminal cases committed by individuals, Mr. Speaker, which, of course, is beyond the control and the supervision of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

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

REP. TEJADA. However, bago po ipagpatuloy po, Congresswoman—tumutulong po ang lawyers ng DAR sa mga magsasaka na kung saan po ang karapatan nila bilang magsasaka ay napoprotektahan ng Departamento ng Agrarian Reform po.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, simple lang po, nakapagbayad ba ng danyos ang Lapanday Foods Corporation para sa mga magsasaka na naapektuhan nito at ano po ba ang naging role ng Department of Agrarian Reform o ano ang naitulong nila sa mga magsasaka kaugnay ng insidente na ito?

REP. TEJADA. Ang indemnity po sa nangyaring karahasan ay naka-pending pa po sa Supreme Court and it is in the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court whether damages should be paid. However, the Department of Agrarian Reform, through its effort of catering to the needs of the farmers, is supporting the cause of the farmers, but the decision of whether to indemnity or payment for damages has been given is lodged with the Supreme Court, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, kongkreto pong tanong, kongkreto pong sagot. Baka puwede pong sagutin kung ano iyong mga naibigay doon sa mga magsasaka, kasi iyon iyong tinatanong ko e. Ano iyong suporta na naibigay. Very specific po, pagpapagamot, ano ang naging role ng DAR dito?

REP. TEJADA. Okay.

REP. BROSAS. ... Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor?

REP. TEJADA. Nagkaroon po ng Panama disease doon sa MARBAI, so kailangan po ang suporta ng Departamento hindi lamang sa prosecution or litigation cases, but in a manner that it can help the interests of the farmers, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, kasama ba sa sinuspending AVA ang sa pagitan ng MARBAI at Lapanday Foods Corporation? Mayroon pong mga sinu-suspend or mga cases na kinansela iyong AVAs, hindi ba?

REP. TEJADA. Iyong suspension po, Mr. Speaker,

ay depende po sa finality ng judgment ng kaso po, Mr. Speaker...

REP. BROSAS. So...

REP. TEJADA. ...and before the finality, Mr. Speaker, hindi ho natin maaasahan, because it is something that has to be determined from the result of the cases or determination of what actually transpired with the events and circumstances on which the decision should be based, Mr. Speaker, po.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, simula noong pangyayari sa MARBAI hanggang ngayon po ay wala pang finality? Wala pang nangyayari? Wala pang inaabot ang mga cases na ito between MARBAI and Lapanday Foods Corporation?

REP. TEJADA. Ang determination po of the rights of the individuals is determined, and because it was submitted to the Supreme Court. Iyong Supreme Court po ang magde-decide at tayo po ay nasa proseso na kung saan po ang litigasyon ay ang Supreme Court po ang pinakamataas na kung magde-determine what their rights and privileges are and what benefits each party on the appealed case with the Supreme Court ay mabigyan po ng katarungan at ito ay dapat na ibigay sa kanila po.

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

Ang ibig sabihin, wala pa pong nangyayari, ano? Kasi sinasabi ninyo na ang Korte ang siyang magbibigay ng ganoong ano, ano? Ever since nang nagkaroon po ng shooting ng armed guards ng Lapanday Foods Corporation doon sa Tagum City, Davao del Norte, hanggang ngayon ay wala pa ring mga inaabot na na finality, tulong or kung anuman sa mga magsasaka ng MARBAI.

Relatedly, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, the NEDA Technical Working Group review in 2013 reported that there are roughly 1.2 million hectares under AVAs, but only around 50,000 hectares are monitored or listed by the DAR. Tama po ba?

REP. TEJADA. Puwede bang pakiulit po.

REP. BROSAS. Ang NEDA Technical Working Group po dati ay nag-review noong 2013 at ang ini-report nila ay 1.2 million hectares under AVAs, but only around 50,000 hectares are monitored or listed by the DAR. There was a plan to locate these AVAs and review contracts. May we be enlightened on the status of the review?

REP. TEJADA. Ayon ho sa datos dito ay mayroon

pong number of ARBs involved is 40,947 at ang area of hectares po ay 52,931 po.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Mayroon po ba kayong kumpletong list of AVAs and hectarage?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, we would like to ask for one-minute suspension of the session.

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

It was 8:11 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 8:12 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Honorable Tejada is recognized.

REP. TEJADA. Mayroon po ba tayong dokumento sa AVAs, Mr. Speaker, in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao? For the interest po ng ating kasamang Congresswoman, if she wishes, we can give them copies of the AVAs, as well as identified regions and areas of concern, wherein AVAs—it is necessary for the benefit, for the protection of individual and group farmers, including the identity po ng investors, pati po iyong farmers and farmers cooperatives po.

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

May we be furnished with a copy of that.

REP. TEJADA. Yes, Mme.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, does the Department of Agrarian Reform provide alternatives to AVAs, whereby ARBs can maximize the lands awarded to them?

REP. TEJADA. The Department of Agrarian Reform supports the initiatives or the desires of the farmers entering into cooperatives to get into activities like these as mentioned by the Honorable Brosas.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ano-ano po iyong mga alternatives na ibinibigay ng DAR?

REP. TEJADA. Sugar-cane farming or block farming in the economies of scale po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, on to my next point, the distribution of lands in Hacienda Luisita during the term of President Duterte, may we know more details about this, like the list of names of beneficiaries and from which barrios they come from?

REP. TEJADA. Mayroon po tayo. We have the list; we have 110 hectares distributed po dito sa Hacienda Luisita po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, 110 hectares ang distributed. Gaano pa po kalaki ang idi-distribute?

REP. TEJADA. Iyon na po ang kabuuan ng number of hectares na puwede pong ibigay sa area po ng Hacienda Luisita.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Mr. Speaker, on to my next point, on the DAR Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2019, in order to hasten the processing of requests to convert agricultural lands for residential, commercial, and industrial use. Last February 2019, inilabas or ini-release ninyo po iyong DAR Administrative Order No. 1 or Streamlining the Processing of Applications for Land Use Conversion. The DAR formed an inter-agency task force on land use conversion and created the IRR. Imbes na 120 days bago mag-automatically approve ang land conversion application, gagawin itong 30 days na lang. Coincidentally, this was the month wherein the Rice Liberalization and Tariffication Bill was signed into law by President Duterte. Sa madaling sabi po, pinabilis nito ang proseso ng land use conversion. Sa pagpapabilis ng proseso ng land use conversion, lalong nawalan ng proteksyon ang ating mga lupaing pang-agrikultura. Iyong mga lupaing para dapat sa produksyon ng pagkain, kami po sa GABRIELA Women's Party-List believe that this move further threatens food security, as well as the livelihood of our farmers lalo na sa lugmok na kalagayan ngayon ng ating magsasaka na nababaon sa utang sa pambabarat ng kanilang mga produkto dulot ng Rice Liberalization and Tariffication Law.

Base po sa inyong ulat, nakuha at natanggap po namin iyong report, so base sa inyong ulat, mayroong 39,505/8,919 total conversion—ano po ang status ng mga ito? Ilan po ang napunta sa residential, commercial and industrial?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, this Representation request for one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). One-minute suspension.

It was 8:17 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 8:18 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, the conversion does not specify whether—the purpose is for commercial, housing, industrial or residential because the determination of these is under the LGU and the reclassification is by the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, hindi natin alam kung alin diyan ang gagamitin for residential, commercial o industrial. Kanino po ang last say para dito sa pag-identify kung residential ba, commercial at industrial?

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Chairman, the conversions were made as to the areas devoted and converted into industrial, housing or commercial purposes, Mr. Speaker. We can provide the honorable Congresswoman all the details as to the determination of the classification these agricultural lands were converted into.

REP. BROSAS. For example, Mr. Speaker, not an example, actually, kailangan po natin ng data. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, kung hihingi po tayo ng hectarage of agricultural lands converted to non-agricultural lands, naka-categorize ng alin ang naging real estate, commercial, at industrial mula po noong 1972 to 2018 kaya po bang i-provide iyon ng Department of Agrarian Reform?

REP. TEJADA. Puwede po tayong mag-submit, pero for purposes of clarification, those which were converted in 1972—there was a lapse of time in which they can be converted into, the situation where they can be converted for some other purpose.

There was a lapse of time within which the beneficiary of the Agrarian Reform Program—the individual beneficiaries are given a chance to venture into some other activities after the lapse of time provided that, during that time, they cannot use or convert the land for some other purpose other than that for which it was given to them by the Department of Agrarian Reform, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, kasama po ba sa dapat mino-monitor ng Department of Agrarian Reform iyon? Kaya po bang i-provide nila ang listahan ng na-convert na from agriculture to non-agricultural lands, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor?

REP. TEJADA. It is within the mandate of the Department of Agrarian Reform to monitor the implementation of programs being undertaken for the benefit of giving such privileges to our farmers, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, say generic, kasi sinabi ninyo baka hindi na. Baka nagbago na ang use from residential to commercial to ganito, pero mayroon po kayong listing from agriculture to non-agriculture, right, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor? Iyon po ang hinihingi natin.

REP. TEJADA. Diyan po, mayroon po tayong datos and we are ready to provide the honorable Congresswoman the details on this identification and the still-existing privileges that the individual beneficiary of the Department of Agrarian Reform, in its programs, is undertaking and enjoying, Mr. Speaker.

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

Bigyan ninyo po kami ng kopya noon. Nasabi ng DAR noong nakaraang budget briefing na hindi natanggal ang mga kailangang i-submit ngunit nakasaad sa Section 9 ng Administrative Order No. 1, series of 2019, that "The DENR ECC shall no longer be part of the requirements for the processing of the application of land use conversion." Ginawa itong post-condition. Sa dating proseso, kailangan muna ang ECC prior to the application, for ordinary applications, or prior to the commencement of actual land development para sa housing project.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, pinadali po ba ng Administrative Order No. 1 na ito ang land use conversion, at may mga tinanggal bang requirements? Yes or no, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor?

REP. TEJADA. Walang tinanggal na requirements subalit po, Mr. Speaker, mayroong proseso na pinagawa kung saan ang repetitious submission of documents ay tinanggal para sa pag-proseso po nito ay mawawalan ng time and confusion kung saan dapat maibigay o dapat maipatupad ang kailangan ng batas, at kung saan iyong proseso ay dapat masunod.

Ang DENR po kasi, after ng classification, after the identification, sila ang nagde-determine kung ang gusto pong mangyari ay naaayon at sumusunod sa environmental law which is required for purposes of classification and the approval of application for conversion, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, hindi tinanggal ito pero post-condition siya.

REP. TEJADA. Yes.

REP. BROSAS. Inilagay lang ito sa huli. Ano po ang implication nito kapag nag-apply for land use conversion ang mga tao? Ihahabol na lang nila ang ECC?

REP. TEJADA. Itong requirement po ng DENR is for determining what is the purpose and what are the structures to be implemented or established in the areas converted, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, hindi kailangang mag-secure, lalo na kung nag-a-apply ng ECC, ganoon ba iyon? Or kailangan pa rin mag-secure pero puwedeng ihuli iyon? Ganoon ba iyong post-condition?

REP. TEJADA. Iyong pag-secure po ng ECC is upon the start of the implementation of the project for which the purpose of conversion is being undertaken and requested.

REP. BROSAS. Again, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. TEJADA. Halimbawa po, mayroong grant pero the DENR will determine whether doon sa application, kung saan ang purpose at kung ano ang gagawin sa lugar, at doon pa lang malalaman kung bagay ba at puwede bang gawin sa lugar na iyon, na ma-convert iyong isang bagay at kung dapat, sa intention po ng nagpapa-convert, ay puwedeng bigyan ng DENR ng ECC.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, sinasabi po ba ninyo na, halimbawa, maaaring gamitin na iyong land for conversion, na puwedeng isunod iyong ECC. Paano kapag nagkamali? Paano kapag may problema, at dahil po post-condition ito at hindi na maibabalik iyon, ay nagsimula na ang proyekto o na-convert na iyong land? Paano na po iyon, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor?

REP. TEJADA. Kapag hindi po naka-comply sa standards set by the DENR and the LGU, then, puwede pong i-revoke iyong authority for the conversion ng land, iyong request for conversion by the applicant, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, puwedeng ma-revoke pero sa start ng pagko-convert ay puwedeng mangyari, habang wala pa ang ECC, ganoon?

REP. TEJADA. For purposes of construction po,

kailangan po talaga ang approval o ng ECC kasi po, without the approval or without the grant of the ECC by the DENR, per the Building Code which requires the capability of the land area for purposes of construction of a building, the land actually would not be able to sustain the structure that will be established in the area converted for purposes of structural implementation, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, simple lang po ang tanong ko. Ang tanong ko ay kung pinadali—o hindi—ng paglalagay as a post-condition ang ECC sa land use conversion? Ano po ang tingin ng DAR dito?

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, there is no waiver of the requirement. It is just being put in the right perspective, that the processes shall be followed without the requirements being submitted or replicated again by another agency for purposes of compliance. Na-streamline lang po natin ito kasi the activity should be exercised in a manner that the Department should establish with efficiency in delivering the services to the beneficiaries or applicants for the purpose of having their desire for the accomplishment of their intentions, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, nag-agree po ang Kinatawag ito na dapat walang mawala sa requirements at hindi dapat mapabilis ang pagpoproseso nito lalo na kung ang usapin natin ay mauubusan tayo ng lupa para sa agrikultura, hindi po ba, at ang usapin dito ay self-sufficiency and food security. Kaya my next point, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, sa context po na ngayon na nalugi talaga ang magsasaka dahil sa pagbagsak na presyo ng palay, dahil sa pagbaha ng imported rice, malaki ang pangamba natin na mapapasailalim ang mga bukirin sa land use conversion at maging subdivision or for commercial use. Ano po ang safeguards sa ilalim ng Administrative Order No. 1 ang puwedeng tungtungan ng rice farmers natin laban sa malawakang land use conversion?

REP. TEJADA. Iyong irrigated land areas po are non-negotiable for purposes of conversion, Mr. Speaker, including irrigable. Bawal po ang conversion and that is an absolute prohibition under the law, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Again, Mr. Speaker, ano iyong safeguards?

REP. TEJADA. Irrigated and irrigable lands are non-negotiable for purposes of conversion, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Irrigated and irrigable lands are

non-negotiable. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor.

Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ilang tanong na lamang po. Ano po ang result ng ARBs sa Hacienda Nene based on the list of actions taken by the DARMO or DARPO that we received? Kaninang umaga, na-receive naman namin iyong report that the DARMO conducted a dialogue with some of the representatives of NFSW or the National Federation of Sugar Workers. Ano po ang naging resulta ng pag-uusap ng DARMO at DARPO kaugnay sa Hacienda Nene sa Sagay massacre kung saan ilan pong magsasaka ang pinatay?

REP. TEJADA. Ang Department of Agrarian Reform po ay nagbigay ng lupa sa mga biktima ng Hacienda Nene.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, nagbigay ng lupa?

REP. TEJADA. Opo.

REP. BROSAS. Ilan po ang nabigyan ng lupa? Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, can we have the report na lang which have the names or kung sino ang beneficiaries.

REP. TEJADA. Yes, po, Mr. Speaker, the Department is willing to furnish you a copy of the desired information.

REP. BROSAS. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, iyong mga requests po namin sa DAR sana, again, iisa-isahin ko po para klaro: hectarage of agricultural lands converted to non-agricultural lands by region, the total hectarage from 1972 to 2018; the list of pending land use conversion applications with hectarage by region as of 2018; the list of ARB organizations; and the list of AVAs and their hectarage.

REP. TEJADA. Nakapag-submit na po ang Department of Agrarian Reform ng list. For clarification, with the statements provided, Mr. Speaker, the Department is very much willing to comply with the submission of the desired information by the honorable Congresswoman Brosas.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, this is the latest, ang hinihingi po natin ay iyong from 1972 to 2018. Ito na po ba? This is it? This is from June 2016 to present, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor.

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Agrarian Reform has already submitted the totality, but the segregation—the matter of segregating the needed information for purposes of clarification, whether the identity as determined and desired by the honorable

Congresswoman, shall be submitted for purposes of clear identification—the purpose and the desired information that the honorable Congresswoman, Mr. Speaker, is requesting from the Department of Agrarian Reform. We are very much willing to provide the honorable Congresswoman Brosas the information needed, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, of the four requested, may I reiterate: 1) iyong hectarage of agricultural lands converted into non-agri; 2) list of pending land use conversion applications; 3) list of ARB organizations; and 4) list of AVAs and hectarage.

REP. TEJADA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we will provide these.

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

REP. TEJADA. Thank you po.

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

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo from the First District of Lanao del Norte to interpellate the Sponsor of the proposed budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo from the First District of Lanao del Norte is recognized to interpellate the distinguished Sponsor, Hon. Jose “Pingping” Tejada.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the honorable Sponsor allow me to ask some questions so I can place some facts on record here in the Plenary, Mr. Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The Gentleman who has the floor may do so if he so desires.

REP. TEJADA. Yes, it is an honor, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The Gentleman now may proceed.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first question is with regard to the sponsorship speech. Can the Sponsor just confirm that the Department of Agrarian Reform is implementing or pursuing a mandate that is stipulated or enshrined in our Constitution which, I think, is under Article XIII, Section 4 as mentioned.

REP. TEJADA. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Would the honorable Sponsor consider this a power of the State, a responsibility of the State?

REP. TEJADA. Yes, Mr. Speaker, because it is a mandate, it is provided in the Constitution. It is a mandate for social justice and empowerment of the farmers and everyone else who need the attention, and the promotion of whatever is their desire is the primary concern of the State, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the honorable Sponsor, what is the budget then for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region for the DAR? The budget for their personnel and salaries, the budget for their programs, do these exist for calendar year 2020?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 8:37 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 8:38 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

Honorable Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo is recognized.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, I would just like to request, so as not to further delay the budget or the discussion of the budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform, that if possible, these data I am asking for, the honorable Secretary and the honorable Sponsor would just submit the information to the Committee Secretariat.

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, we will comply with the request of Hon. Khalid Dimaporo.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Just for this to be on record again, Mr. Speaker, does the Department of Agrarian Reform have regional line offices inside the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region for calendar year 2020?

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, under the ARMM, the

implementation and the coverage by the Department of Agrarian Reform is within the structure of the autonomous government; however, because of the approval of the BARMM, Mr. Speaker, it is yet to be determined whether there is an intention as to whether the Department of Agrarian Reform would still be functioning as a national agency and it is acceptable to the people of the BARMM that the same shall be administered by the national government, or it is desired that it will be administered under the new approved law, Mr. Speaker. The same matter is still being negotiated because the Department of Agrarian Reform has yet to have a dialogue with the personalities or the leadership of the BARMM, on the determination as to whether a national law or national budget will be implemented by the national government or by the new BARMM territory, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

In a nutshell, from how I understand it, there seems to be a little bit of confusion that, because of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, the Department of Agrarian Reform is treading very carefully not to insult or suppress the spirit of autonomy that resides within the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region. So, there will be coordination with the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region. Am I correct in saying this, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor?

REP. TEJADA. Yes. Being an autonomous government, Mr. Speaker, does not deprive or separate the autonomous region from the concerns of the national government, Mr. Speaker. They may have the law or they can cooperate, but this national government is still mandated to support and defend the autonomous government of Muslim Mindanao, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Just to make it faster because I am trying to drive a point, Mr. Speaker, the powers of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Regional Government are in Article V, Powers of Government, Section 2, Powers of the Bangsamoro Government. Just to place it on the record, I would like to read all of these powers, okay. It starts with:

- a) Administration of justice;
- b) Administrative organization;
- c) Agriculture, livestock, and food security;
- d) Ancestral domain and natural resources;
- e) Barter trade and countertrade;
- f) Budgeting;
- g) Business name registration;
- h) Cadastral land survey;
- i) Civil service;
- j) Classification of public lands;
- k) Cooperatives and social entrepreneurship;
- l) Creation, division, merger, abolition or alteration of boundaries of municipalities and barangays;
- m) Creation of government-owned or -controlled corporations and pioneer firms;
- n) Creation of sources of revenues;
- o) Cultural exchange, and economic and technical cooperation;
- p) Culture and language;
- q) Customary laws;
- r) Development programs and laws for women, labor, the youth, the elderly, the differently-abled, and indigenous peoples;
- s) Disaster risk reduction and management;
- t) Ecological solid waste management and pollution control;
- u) Economic zones, industrial centers, and free ports;
- v) Education and skills training;
- w) Eminent domain;
- x) Environment, parks, forest management, wildlife, and nature reserves conservation;
- y) Fishery, marine, and aquatic resources;
- z) Grants and donations;
- aa) Hajj and Umrah;
- bb) Health;
- cc) Housing and human settlements;
- dd) Humanitarian services and institutions;
- ee) Human rights;
- ff) Indigenous peoples' rights;
- gg) Inland waters;
- hh) Inland waterways for navigation;
- ii) Islamic banking and finance;
- jj) Labor, employment, and occupation;
- kk) Libraries and museums, and historical, cultural, and archaeological sites;
- ll) Loans, credit, and other forms of indebtedness;
- mm) Mechanisms for consultation for women and the marginalized sectors;
- nn) People's organizations;
- oo) Power sector investments;
- pp) Public utilities' operations;
- qq) Public works and infrastructure;
- rr) Quarantine regulations;
- ss) Registration of births, marriages, and deaths, copies to be furnished to the Philippine Statistics Authority;
- tt) Regulation of the manufacture and distribution of food, drinks, drugs, and tobacco;
- uu) Science and technology, research councils and scholarship programs;
- vv) Social services, social welfare, and charities;
- ww) Sports and recreation;
- xx) Technical cooperation for human resource development;

yy) Tourism development;
 zz) Trade and industry;
 aaa) Urban and rural planning development;
 bbb) Urban land reform and land use; and
 ccc) Water supply and services, flood control, and irrigation systems.

These are the powers that are vested in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Regional Government and the list does not mention agrarian reform. Am I correct in saying this, honorable Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TEJADA. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Thank you. That is the point that I would like to wrap up with, honorable Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

When we were conducting or crafting the Bangsamoro Organic Law here in Congress, we had our version and in the Congress version, we had the powers defined, what we are going to give to the Bangsamoro. We also defined the powers of the State but when we had the bicam, Sen. Franklin Drilon said, "No, we do not define the powers of the State because the powers of the State are defined already in our Constitution." So, what we defined are the powers that we are going to give to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Regional Government. What is not defined in the Organic Law is then the power of the national government.

So, it is my personal opinion, based on the spirit of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, that there is no need to negotiate with the BARG. It is the mandate of the DAR to go into the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region and to ensure that their mandate, which is enshrined in our Constitution, will be fully implemented. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, to fulfill that mandate, kulang ang budget ng Department of Agrarian Reform. So, I hope we can put this into consideration when we discuss the budget of the DAR in the period of amendments, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

Daghang salamat sa tanan.

Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.
(Applause)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Thank you, Hon. Khalid Dimaporo.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate from the Party-List BAYAN MUNA to interpellate the Sponsor of the proposed budget of the DAR.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate of BAYAN MUNA Party-List is recognized to interpellate the distinguished Sponsor, Honorable Tejada.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Magandang gabi po sa ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor at sa pamilya ng DAR. Mayroon lang po akong ilang katanungang paglilinaw patungkol ho sa budget ng DAR.

Unang katanungan ko po, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, naniniwala po ba ang ating Sponsor at ang Kagawaran ng Repormang Agraryo na ang sentro para masolusyonan ang tinatawag nating social injustice sa ating lipunan, na nagbunsod din nang napakahabang rebelyon sa ating bayan, ay ang libreng pamamahagi ng lupa sa ating mga magsasaka, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. TEJADA. Naniniwala po kami, Mr. Speaker, kaya po sa mga programa ng ating gobyerno ngayon ay talagang gusto natin na maibigay po ang biyaya sa ating magsasaka, na kung sila po ay mabigyan ng pagkakataon na makapag-ari po ng lupain na kung saan ay mapag-umpisahan po ng kanilang magandang kinabukasan para sa kanilang pamumuhay at para sa kanilang pamilya po.

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

Kung magkagayon, kung may nakahain na isang panukalang batas dito sa Kapulungang ito, ng House of Representatives, na naglalayon na magkaroon ng bagong batas sa libreng pamamahagi ng lupa sa ating mga magsasaka, sinusupportahan ba ito ng ating Sponsor at ng Kagawaran ng Repormang Agraryo, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. TEJADA. Kagalang-galang po na Zarate, kami po ay sumusuporta sa ating layunin na bigyan ng karapatan at equal opportunities ang ating magsasaka, na kung saan po ay sila ang mas nakararami kaysa anong sektor man ng ating sosyedad, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po.

Maraming pagkakataon na po na ating binusisi kung gaano matagumpay o hindi matagumpay ang nakaraang mga programang repormang agraryo dahil ho bilyon-bilyon na ang ating naigugol dito, pero sinasabi po sa statistika na napakarami pa ring mga magsasaka ang hindi nag-aari ng lupang kanilang sinasaka. Ang sabi ng Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, 8 sa bawat 10 magsasaka ay hindi nila pag-aari pa rin ang lupang kanilang sinasaka.

Ang susunod ko pong katanungan patungkol diyen, at naitanong ko na ito sa ilang pagkakataon pero hindi ho ako nabigyan ng malinaw na sagot, sa kasalukuyan, doon ho sa naipamahagi nating mga lupa sa mga benepisyaryo ng repormang agraryo, libu-libo na ito, maitanong ko lang po, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ilan sa mga lupaing ito ang nasa kamay na ng mga magsasaka? Ilan naman ang wala pa sa kamay

ng mga benepisyaryong magsasaka, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. TEJADA. Ang Departamento po, Mr. Speaker, kagalang-galang na Congressman Zarate, ito po ngayon ang ginagawa ng Departamento para po malaman natin. The intention is to provide and give land to the landless for purposes of agricultural development, Mr. Speaker, but the success of which depends upon the implementation and retention of the privileges given to the individual farmers, Mr. Speaker. That is the mandate of the Department of Agrarian Reform na kung saan po iyan ang aming sinusubukan at iyan po ang binibigyan namin ng pagkakataon para ma-verify po. What is the purpose of giving if we do not know the success of the purpose of giving, Mr. Chairman? Kaya po tinitingnan natin, at ang Departamento po rin ay tinitingnan ang success level po at ng retention ng mga magsasaka, na ang mga lupa po ay nasa kanila pong kamay at nagpapatuloy at tumutulong sa kanilang magandang hanapbuhay para sa kanilang mga pamilya po.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Ayon po sa inyong naging ulat nitong nakaraang budget briefing, mayroon pong 2,669,444 hectares or 55.53 percent ng mga pribadong pag-aaring mga agrikultural na lupa ang naipamahagi na mula noong 1972 hanggang June of 2019. Kaya ko po tinatanong, sa mahigit 2 million kalupaang ito na sinasabi nating naipamahagi na natin sa mga magsasaka, ilan pa sa mga kalupaang ito ang nasa talagang mga benepisyaryo na mga magsasaka? Kung sinasabi po ninyo ngayon ay wala kayong datos at ngayon pa lamang gagawa ng paraan ang Kagawaran para mag-survey at alamin kung talaga nga bang nasa kamay pa ito ng mga magsasaka ay siguro po napapanahon na iyan. If it is not, it is not too late but kailangang gawin ito dahil sa katunayan, as observed by this Representation, there is now a reconcentration of lands to corporations, to landlords. These are lands that were previously distributed under the previous Agrarian Reform Program during the time of Marcos and even under the CARP.

Kaya ako po ay pabalik-balik kong tinatanong iyan—ilan na ba talaga? In every budget ay nagreport tayo that we distributed these numbers, these hectares of land, pero ang tanong, hawak pa ba ng mga magsasaka ang mga iyan sa ngayon o iyong mga magsasakang benepisyaryo ay nangagsibalik ulit at naging tenant ulit sila, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, iyan po, that is the desire of the Department, Mr. Speaker, because it is the mandate of the Department that land distribution not only be focused on the manner of distribution, but also on the success of the intention of the distribution of the lots to our farmers. Kaya po, Mr. Speaker, ang

Departamento po—kung maganda, paano po, dahil sa sobrang dami ng benepisyaryo at sa limited resources po ng ating Departamento sa pag-conduct at pumunta sa kanila para ma-verify po ang katotohanan na hawak pa ng mga ito, ay nangangailangan po ang Departamento ng mga taong mapag-uutusan o titingin kung totoo ba. It is a matter of looking into and going to the ground para malaman po natin kung totoo o hindi na nasa kamay po ng mga magsasaka na nabigyan ng biyaya ng gobyerno iyong success po sa tunay na adhikain at mission at vision ng atin pong Department of Agrarian Reform. It will take time, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Zarate, for that effort of the Department to come up with that resolution for us to be able to determine and claim the success on the purpose of the Department of Agrarian Reform in giving lands to the landless of our constituency, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. So, sinasabi po ninyo na ginagawa ninyo iyan ngayon at sana po sa madaling panahon, kagyat ay gawin natin ito para hindi ho tayo lumulutang. Milyun-milyon ang sinasabi nating na-distribute na natin sa mga magsasaka pero sa katunayan ay wala na ang mga ito sa mga kamay nila. So, in relation to that, matanong ko lang po, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, may inilaan po bang pondo sa ating Panukalang Budget sa 2020 para po dito, sapagkat alam natin kailangan ng follow-up survey nitong ating mga na-distribute na kalupaan, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, kami po sa Departamento ay humingi ng P421,211,000 para ho ma-accomplish ang purpose because the intention of the Department, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Zarate, is that we will come to a point where the intention of government to provide land for the landless is to improve their lives through rural and other economic activities that will improve the lives of those at the bottom which would contribute to the development of the economy and the growth of our country, so that everyone will be happy to be a part of our Republic of the Philippines and during our time, that we did something for the betterment of our people and our country, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, Mr. Sponsor. So, mayroon pong budget, P421 million. In particular, ano po ang programang ito para lang po for the record? Ano po ang title noong programa or activity or project na nilaanan natin ng P421 million?

REP. TEJADA. Ito po ang hinihingi na budget for the purpose of profiling the agrarian reform beneficiaries...

REP. ZARATE. Profiling.

REP. TEJADA. ... so that we can come in and look into what we should do to improve so that we can comply with the intention of giving good benefits to our lowly farmers, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. So, kabahagi po ito ng inyong budget sa susunod na taon. Gusto ko lang malinaw iyan na part ito ng budget ninyo sa susunod na taon.

REP. TEJADA. Iyan po ay proposal natin because the proposed budget ay P14 billion ang hiningi natin pero tayo ay binigyan lang po ng P8.4 billion.

REP. ZARATE. So, iyon po ang gusto kong malinaw. Sa susunod na taon, klaruhin po natin, may pondo ba o wala para doon sa profiling ng ating mga ARBs? Yes or no?

REP. TEJADA. Wala pa po, Mr. Speaker, subalit sa effort po and with the available funds in the Department, we will slowly, maybe not to complete the effort, but we will start doing the job of looking into the profiling of the beneficiaries, Mr. Speaker, with the limited resources. However, Mr. Speaker, if this honorable Congress would have a way of really trying to comply and complete the process to look into the success of the intention, we will very much welcome that, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. Noong nakaraan pong budget presentation ninyo, sinabi ninyo na between 2020 hanggang 2022, ang target ninyo ay LAD-free na ang DAR at speaking of the budget proposal, kabahagi ng budget na iyan ay iyong parcelization of collective CLOA. Sa katunayan, hanggang 2022, mayroon ho kayong panukalang budget para sa subdivision of collective CLOA that will cover 723,181 hectares na pinondohon po ninyo ng P3.3 billion hanggang 2022. Tama po ba ang pagkakuha ko sa budget ninyo? Between 2020 to 2022, ang pinondo ninyo para ho sa subdivision of CLOA, for its parcelization, is P3.3 billion. Kung atin pong isa-isahin iyan, lumalabas na may budget kayong P46,478.17 per hectare para po doon sa parcelization. Tama po ba iyon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TEJADA. Mayroon ho tayong naprepare para doon sa counterparts of foreign-funded programs at saka DOP kung saan po ay puwede nating gamitin para doon sa kailangan ng ating ahensiya para po maisakatuparan ang ating intention, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Tama po ang pagkakuha ko na hanggang 2022 ay popondohan ninyo ito ng P3.361 billion, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Kinuha ko po ito dito sa inyong budget presentation.

REP. TEJADA. Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Zarate.

REP. ZARATE. Okay. So, ang inyo pong gugugulin ay P3.3 billion. So, lalabas na P46,478.17 per hectare ang gagastusin ng Kagawaran para lang sa parcelization or pag-subdivide ng CLOA.

Ang susunod ko pong katanungan diyan, viable ho ba na ang collective CLOA, para maging successful ang ating pangrepormang agraryo, ay i-parcelize, bubuwagin po natin at ibibigay natin isa-isa sa mga benepisyaryo? Iyon po ba ang tutunguhin ng ating programa, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, na kailangan pa natin gumastos ng P3.3 billion sa susunod na tatlong taon para po dito sa parcelization of collective CLOA?

REP. TEJADA. Kailangan po, Mr. Speaker, kasi may mga susundin tayong proseso kung saan po ang mga CLOA ay kailangan ma-parcelize po para kung saan po nandoon ang individual ay magkakaroon po siya ng sariling hawak na titulo, na kung saan ang individual interest at saka po kagustuhan niya ay masunod. Kapag hindi po natin ginawa iyan ay mahirap po ang intensiyon ng bawat isa na ang karapatan po—at ang intensiyon ng gobyerno ay makaramdam po ng kasiyahan sa pag-aari ng lupa ang indibidwal na benepisyaryo po natin.

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

Maitanong ko lang po, mayroon bang pag-aaral na ginawa ang Kagawaran ng Repormang Agraryo na mas mainam na ang CLOA ay indibidwal kaysa isang kolektibong CLOA? Halimbawa po, sa mga banana plantations sa Mindanao, karamihan po rito ay collective CLOA para mabuhay ang kooperatiba. Alam po naman ninyo na ang kooperatiba ay napakarami ang miyembro.

Ngayon po, tanong ko lang, kung mayroong kooperatiba at nabigyan ng collective CLOA, sa pag-aaral ninyo po ba ay mas economically viable ito na i-parcelize kaysa gawing kolektibo siya, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, for taxation and other purposes, the benefits and the intention of the law in giving is that it will be in the minds and in the hands of individual beneficiaries for purposes of development. The parcelization of the CLOA does not mean that they cannot group themselves again through cooperatives, with the good intention of each one of them to organize themselves for purposes of support coming from the government, which is actually part of the system of the government to provide support for groups or cooperatives, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. So, ang tanong ko po—hindi ho

ninyo nasagot ang aking katanungan—mayroon po bang isang kongkretong pag-aaral na mas mainam na i-parcelize kaysa maiwan itong collective CLOA vis-à-vis doon ho sa usapin na maging economically viable siya, na ang atin pong magsasaka na naging benepisyaryo ng repormang agraryo ay mag-i-improve ang kanyang buhay at hindi na siya aabot sa punto na ibebenta niya ulit iyong lupang naipamahagi sa kanya, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, iyan po ang mandato ng batas natin na susundin po.

REP. ZARATE. Alam ko po mandato iyan pero ang tinatanong ko po, mayroon bang pag-aaral na ginawa ang Kagawaran? At any rate, kung wala pong pag-aaral ay puwede naman nating sabihin na wala para po pumunta ako doon sa ...

REP. TEJADA. Puwede maging bahagi po ng pansin, na pag-aaralan po natin at magbibigay po kami ng report sa inyo ng pag-aaral. Sa mga bagay po na iyan ay puwede po natin gawin ang pag-aaral for the success of the intention that we have for the purpose of implementation on governance, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Mainam pong pag-aaralan natin dahil bilyon ho ang gugugulin natin para ma-parcelize o mabuwag iyong collective CLOA—P3.3 billion ito sa susunod na tatlong taon. We are not even sure now na ito iyong solusyon para iyong ating mga magsasaka ay maiangat natin sa kahirapan. So, mas maganda po na bago tayo maglaan ng pondo, sa Kongresong ito ay alam natin na iyong pinopondohan natin gamit ang napakalimitadong resources ng ating bayan ay napupunta sa tama.

I will now move on to my other question in relation to the budget. Bakit po sa susunod na tatlong taon ay maglalaan tayo ng mahigit na isang bilyon naman para po sa redocumentation noong mga collective CLOA, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker? If these CLOAs were already issued, bakit po magpopondo ulit tayo ng mahigit isang bilyon for the redocumentation, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker? Sinasabi rito sa inyong ulat, a redocumentation of some 507,638 hectares. Bakit po maglalaan tayo ng isang bilyon para i-redocument ang CLOA na ito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TEJADA. What we have documented are actually distributed but there are others which need to be identified for the purpose, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker.

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

Iyan po ang punto ko. Kanina ay sinabi ninyo, P421 million for profiling pero dito ho sa inyong panukala, mayroon kayong halos mahigit isang bilyon, dahil hindi na ho talaga natin alam kung mayroon palang mga kalupaan na na-document na natin pero kailangang i-redocument in the next three years. Dito pumapasok iyong katanungan ko—nasaan na ba iyong mga magsasaka na nabigyan natin ng lupa, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TEJADA. Kailangan po kasi magkaroon tayo ng proseso na ganoon para po ma-determine natin paano magbigay ng individual CLOA po para sa ating mga benepisyaryo.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you po.

So, sa katotohanan, kapag pagsamahin po ninyo iyong parcelization to subdivide the collective CLOA and redocumentation, sa susunod na tatlong taon ay gugugol po tayo ng halos apat na bilyon para diyan pero hindi natin alam kung ano na ang profile noong mga binigyan natin ng lupa.

I will move to another point in your budget presentation. Sinasabi po ninyo na hanggang 2022, sa new private agricultural lands, ang target po ninyo hanggang 2022 ay 328,968 hectares ang iko-cover pa. Tama po ba ito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TEJADA. Tama po iyon.

REP. ZARATE. Ang magiging pondo, popondohan po ito sa susunod na tatlong taon ng P3.1 billion, ay halos katumbas lang noong parcelization na may budget na—mas malaki pa nga iyong para sa parcelization because that is P3.3 billion pero para dito po sa coverage for 328,000 hectares, P3.145 billion ang ating gugugulin. Tama po ba ito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TEJADA. Tama po iyon.

REP. ZARATE. Samakatuwid, bawat ektarya, ang atin pong ibabayad sa may-ari ng lupa ay nasa P9,562.90. Tama po ba ito, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TEJADA. Tama po.

REP. ZARATE. Ito po ang susunod ko na katanungan diyan. Realistic po ba ang figure na iyan para po masabi natin na sa susunod na tatlong taon ay mako-cover po natin at maipamahagi itong 328,968 hectares, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TEJADA. Iyan po ay nasa pag-aaral sa tamang valuation po, na kung saan kailangan nating gamitin para po ma-accomplish natin iyong ating purpose sa 2022, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ako ho, wala ho akong problema kung ganoong kamura ang ibabayad ng Kagawaran doon sa mga nagmamay-ari ng lupa, pero ito lang po ang pinangangambahan ko, dahil kapag ito po ang na-offer ninyo, gaya ng nangyari sa mga nakaraan, iko-contest po ito ng landowner, kaya ang mangyayari nito, iyong kanilang titulo ay hindi pa rin mata-transfer sa Republic of the Philippines at hindi rin natin ito maipapamahagi sa mga magsasaka. Puwede po ba ang ganoong scenario, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, sa valuation po na iyon at saka sa computation po natin ay hindi pa po doon kasama ang landowner's compensation po.

REP. ZARATE. So, ang P3 billion na ito, ano po pala ito for the next three years kung hindi kasama rito ang landowner's compensation?

REP. TEJADA. Iyan po ang cost of documentation para po natin mabuo iyong proseso na ma-i-shift po natin ang titulo.

REP. ZARATE. Documentation lamang po ito?

REP. TEJADA. Lahat po, pati survey and documentation of the land in the process of evaluation po.

REP. ZARATE. Okay. So, documentation lang po itong mahigit P9,562 per hectare?

REP. TEJADA. Of course, when we say documentation, that comprises all the processes that come up during the documentation, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. So, magkano po pala ang projection natin na gugugulin? Hihingin ho ito o kailangang malaman ito ng Kongreso. Kung ang tina-target ho ninyo na 328,968 hectares pa ang inyong iko-cover at ipamamahagi sa susunod na tatlong taon, magkano ang gagastusin ng gobyerno para maipatupad ito at mayroon po ba? Ang nakalagay ho dito sa inyong report, budgetary requirement, year 2000 to 2022, P3.1 billion, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TEJADA. Ang valuation po kasi ay depende sa variety of crops being planted. Kung ano po ang naitanim doon, ang value po ng land is determined by the kind of crop that is planted in that area for purposes of distribution, kasi ho mayroong lupa na wala ho talagang tanim at mayroong iba naman na may tanim. So, for the purpose and intention of giving it to them, the land valuation shall be included because of the types of crops that are being planted, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Thank you. Salamat po.

So, ibig sabihin, hanggang ngayon, nag-uulat na tayo rito na ito iyong iko-cover natin, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, pero habang nag-uusap tayo ngayon ay hindi pa natin alam kung magkano talaga ang kakailanganin pa, at ating na ipinagmamalaki na sa susunod na tatlong taon, iko-cover pa natin 328,968. Mahirap hong wala tayong pinag-uusapang figure dito dahil kung, halimbawa ngang ma-cover ninyo itong 328,000 na mahigit na ito, saan ho kayo kukuha ng pambayad kung, halimbawa, sasabihing P1 trillion ang ibabayad diyan, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, ito pong ating pinipresenta po ay for a three-year period, so, definitely, we do not have the exact valuation but we can estimate how much by checking the trend of the business as well as other needs for purposes of complying and achieving the intention of coming up with the number of hectares in the next three years, Mr. Speaker. Hindi natin kasi alam ang panahon. Magkakaroon po ng changes in time and in the attitude and structure of governance na hindi po natin, definitely, masisiguro kung ano po talaga ang mangyayari sa ating intensiyon at sa trabaho po ng Department of Agrarian Reform, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat, G. Isponsor.

Sabagay, tatlong taon nga iyan. Ganito na lang po, next year, 2020, ang target ninyo po ay 100,154, so, magkano po ang nilalaan ninyong pondo to compensate the landowners for the 100,154 hectares that you are targeting na ma-cover for that period, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TEJADA. The estimate, Mr. Speaker, is that we can accomplish and comply with the number of hectareage that needs to be titled and distributed to our people. However, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker, on the matter of the expenses and the need for appropriation for a specific project, Mr. Speaker, nasa panahon po iyon. Titingnan po natin kung ang Kagalang-galang na Carlos Zarate ay mabibigyan po natin ng pagkakataon na maipatuloy po ang ating adhikain para sa kabutihan po ng ating magsasaka at para ho sa katuparan ng intensiyon ng ating bansa na magkaroon po tayo ng total distribution of land for the intention of uplifting the lives of our poor farmers in our country, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat, G. Isponsor. Dalawang items na lang po.

Nabanggit po ninyo na mayroon namang successful agrarian reform communities. Tama po ba iyon?

REP. TEJADA. Totoo po. In fact, Mr. Speaker, sa lahat po ng pagkakataon, ang idea po ng success ng

ating mga cooperatives at ARBs po ay siyang nagiging inspirasyon natin kaya dapat po ipagpatuloy ang ating adhikain po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Kung mayroon pong successful agrarian reform communities, mayroon rin pong failure na agrarian reform communities. Tama po ba iyon?

REP. TEJADA. Natural po iyon but the intention of the Department, Mr. Speaker, is that we should have more successes than failures, and we should learn from the failures so that we can come up with all successes with the intention of uplifting the lives of our poor farmers and everyone in the community, Mr. Speaker. Hindi lang ho iyan pero ang ating intensiyon ay pagandahin ang buhay ng ating magsasaka kasi kapag maganda po ang buhay nila ay gaganda ho ang ating komunidad, at iyan ay isang bagay na maganda para sa ating bansa.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat, Mr. Sponsor. Pahingi na lang po ng listahan noong mga sinasabi nating successful ARCs at ano ang factors kung bakit sinabi ninyong successful sila, at pati ang listahan naman ng mga ARCs natin na naging failure at kung ano ang factors bakit failure ang mga ARCs na ito.

Huling katanungan ko na po. Nabanggit natin na iyong EO 75 na nagmamandato na lahat ng mga kalupaang agrikultural na pag-aari ng mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan ay kailangang pabilisin ang pag-distribute nito. Tama po ba iyong sinabi ko?

REP. TEJADA. Nasa batas po iyan, ang government-owned lands na puwede pong ipamigay ay ating ibibigay.

REP. ZARATE. Yes. So, may plano na po ba, may kongkretong plano na ang Kagawaran kung kailan finally madi-distribute ang mga kalupaang nasasakop ng buong Davao Penal Colony, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TEJADA. One hundred forty-four thousand hectares po, sa proseso po na pinagdadaan ng ating Departamento at saka intensiyon nito at suporta na ibinibigay po ng ating gobyerno na kung saan po ito ay mapamimigay at sana po, sa tulong ng lahat. Pagtutulungan po natin kung saan po ang intensiyon natin na lahat po iyan ay para sa kabutihan po nating lahat, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Kaya ko po naitanong iyan dahil ilang beses na rin hong nagkaroon tayo ng pagdinig dito sa Kongreso, na iyong ating agrarian reform beneficiaries na nandiyan sa DaPeCol at sa mga kooperatiba, inaantay na po nila ito ngayon, ano. Ano ba ang timeline na tinitingnan ng Kagawaran

para itong mga kalupaan ng Davao Penal Colony ay maipamahagi na sa ating mga manggagawang bukid o sa mga magsasaka, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker? Dito ho sa target ninyo for the next three years, 144,647 lamang ang nakikita kong iko-cover ninyo na mga kalupaan na pag-aari ng mga ahensiya. So, ang tanong ko, kabahagi ba rito ang lupa na nasa control ngayon ng Davao Penal Colony, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TEJADA. Kasama po iyan, Mr. Speaker. Nasa inventory na po iyan.

REP. ZARATE. Nasa inventory. So, saan po sa timeline natin napapaloob iyong distribution ng lupa sa DaPeCol?

REP. TEJADA. Nasa panahon po na kung saan po ang intensiyon at kaganapan ng mga bagay, na kung saan po tayo ang dapat o atin ito pong ma-comply, iyan po ang ating gagawin, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po, napaka-vague po ng sagot na iyan. Hindi ko alam kung tatanggapin ng mga magsasaka at manggagawang-bukid ng DaPeCol ang sagot na iyan na nasa intensiyon, kasi ang intensiyon na iyan ay puwede ho hanggang sa 2022. Napakatagal na pong panahon na nag-antay ang mga ating mga agrarian reform beneficiaries kaya po gusto ko hong makarinig ng kongkretong sagot. Ano ba ang timeline ninyo? Hindi naman bagong isyu ito dahil napakatagal nang dininig ito sa Kagawaran ito.

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, binigyan po natin ng tatlong taon pero that would not deprive the Department of its effort to accomplish it earlier than the projected three-year period of accomplishment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, sa pagsagot ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor. Wala na po akong katanungan.

Maraming salamat po sa pagsagot. Magandang gabi po sa ating lahat.

REP. TEJADA. Maraming salamat po, Congressman Zarate.

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

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Minority Leader, Hon. Bienvenido Abante of the Sixth District of Manila.

REP. ABANTE. Thank you, Majority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Excuse

me. Hon. Bienvenido M. Abante Jr., Minority Leader, the Representative of the Sixth District of Manila is recognized.

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

Sana po talagang magkaroon tayo ng tunay na land reform program. Hindi lang po tayo nananawagan sa pamahalaan pero nananawagan tayo sa masyado nang mayayaman, ang mga mayroon nang napakaraming lupa, na tumulong na dito po sa ating bayan.

Anyway, there being no more questions to be asked by the Minority, I move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on behalf of the Minority, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TEJADA. Thank you.

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

REP. AGLIPAY. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we join the Minority in the motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform is hereby closed.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. AGLIPAY. I move to suspend the session for a few minutes, Mr. Speaker.

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

It was 9:23 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 9:24 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.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the consideration of the proposed

budget of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, may I move to acknowledge the presence of the Chairperson of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Virgilio S. Almario. Mr. Speaker, I likewise move that we recognize the Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations, the Representative of the Second District of Albay, Hon. Joey Salceda, to answer questions on the proposed budget of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Pimentel relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Henry S. Oaminal.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Before the Chair recognizes Honorable Salceda, the Chair would like first to acknowledge the presence of the officials of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*).

Honorable Salceda is now recognized for his sponsorship speech on the budget of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Hon. Sergio C. Dagooc of the APEC Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Sergio Dagooc of the APEC Party-List is now recognized to interpellate the distinguished Honorable Salceda. Honorable Dagooc will please proceed.

REP. DAGOOC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May we inquire if—where are the officers? Mr. Speaker, when I saw the faces of the officers of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, well, they are very artistic, so, the Minority, Mr. Speaker, has no single Member who would like to interpellate on their budget. Therefore, I move, Mr. Speaker, to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). What is now the pleasure of the Majority Leader?

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we join the Minority in the motion

to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts is hereby closed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. I move that we proceed to the consideration of the proposed budget of the National Archives of the Philippines.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize from the Party-List PROBINSYANO AKO, Rep. Jose “Bonito” C. Singson Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Jose “Bonito” Singson, Jr. is recognized.

REP. SINGSON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good evening to all our esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives present tonight.

Mr. Speaker, may I?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). You may proceed.

REP. SINGSON. I would just like to make a manifestation relative to matters concerning the National Archives of the Philippines. I plan to take my concerns probably to a committee hearing at some point in time in the future, but this is just to start the ball rolling, so to speak, Congressman Salceda, Mr. Speaker.

The mandate of the National Archives of the Philippines states:

The task of guaranteeing that documents and records are preserved and accessible to the public lies with the National Archives of the Philippines. Its main responsibility is to preserve the primary sources of information on Philippine history, the basic components of cultural heritage and collective memory. These documentary sources are the embodiment of community identities as well as testaments to shared national experiences.

Meaning to say, the National Archives, in other words, is the repository of our heritage at mayroon po tayong kasabihan na kapag hindi po natin alam kung saan tayo nanggaling, hindi po natin malalaman kung saan tayo pupunta. Right now, based on the records we have gathered, the National Archives of the Philippines is home to about 60 million documents from the centuries of Spanish rule in the Philippines, the American and Japanese occupations, as well as the years of the Republic. It is also the final repository of voluminous notarized documents of the country. I mentioned this just to emphasize the importance of the role of the National Archives of the Philippines.

I have several questions, as I said, but I do not expect them to be answered tonight for purposes of expediency.

Mr. Speaker, what is the state of our archiving system today? Considering what I had earlier mentioned the importance of the National Archives, what is the state of the archiving system of all these important documents of our history? Then the next question is, whatever happened to that case about the previous head of the agency of this office, who was accused of stealing priceless documents and replacing them with copies for his own personal purposes? May I be able to present all the details regarding this matter, again, as I said, when we do call for a committee hearing?

Relevant to that, today, the newspapers—yesterday, we saw the newspapers report a record-high price, during the auction of a particular print of the so-called Amorsolo—Murillo ...

REP. SALCEDA. Map, Velarde.

REP. SINGSON. ...Murillo Velarde map, which is a very important document because this is now being used as a basis for our claim versus China regarding the Panatag or the Panacot Shoal. This was auctioned off, I think, yesterday for P46.7 million, Mr. Speaker, and it is just a print of a map.

The National Archives of the Philippines, from what I remember, is the repository of a lot of these documents. There was a time during the turnover of the Spanish colonizers—well, they turned over to us, to the Philippine government, all their records amongst which were these priceless documents, important documents, proof of our heritage, proof of our sovereignty, proof of the territorial boundaries of our beloved country. I want to find out if these documents are still within the possession of the National Archives, or if they have been lost. I also remember an incident where there was a fire several years ago and there was a claim that a lot of these documents were destroyed, but based on my inquiry, that fire was stage-managed just so they will be able to bring out some of these priceless documents.

So, Mr. Speaker, again, as I said, I am not expecting

any answers to those questions which I will continue to ask in a proposed investigation during a committee hearing. Mr. Speaker, I am ending my manifestation on that note. So, 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 budget of the National Archives of the Philippines.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, before I move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget, I would like to acknowledge the presence of the National Archives of the Philippines family led by Executive Director Victorino Manalo and Deputy Executive Director Marietta Chou.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The presence of the officers of the National Archives of the Philippines is acknowledged. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we join the Minority in the motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the National Archives of the Philippines.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the National Archives of the Philippines is hereby closed.

REP. SINGSON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to manifest that the earlier budget is that of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts proper.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Is it only for the National Commission for Culture and the Arts proper? What about the others?

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Earlier, Mr. Speaker, we moved to approve the budget of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, but I would like to manifest that it is for the National Commission for Culture and the Arts proper, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The manifestation of the Majority Leader is duly noted.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE PHILIPPINES

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the consideration of the proposed budget of the National Library of the Philippines.

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

The Majority Leader is directed to please introduce its officers.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the officers from the National Library of the Philippines, Director Cesar Adriano, Administrative Officer; and from the Budget Section, Maureen C. Terrenal.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The presence of the officers of the National Library of the Philippines is hereby acknowledged. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize from the RECOBODA Party-List, Hon. Godofredo N. Guya.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The honorable distinguished Gentleman of the RECOBODA Party-List is recognized.

REP. GUYA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not see the officers of the National Library. Mayroon ba? Okay.

Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as there is no member of the Minority who wants to interpellate, I move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the National Library of the Philippines.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). What is the pleasure of the Majority Leader?

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we join the Minority in the motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the National Library of the Philippines.

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

The period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the National Library of the Philippines is hereby closed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING COUNCIL

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider the proposed budget of the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

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

Before we proceed, please introduce the officers of the Anti-Money Laundering Council present today.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of Executive Director Mel Georgie Racela of the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The presence of the officers of the Anti-Money Laundering Council headed by their Executive Director is acknowledged. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize, from the Party-List ACT TEACHERS, Rep. France L. Castro, to interpellate the Sponsor of the proposed budget.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. France L. Castro of ACT TEACHERS Party-List is recognized to interpellate the distinguished Sponsor.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Magandang gabi po sa ating lahat. So, would the good Sponsor yield to some of my clarificatory questions?

REP. SALCEDA. Opo.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mr. Speaker, may I know or can you educate this Representation on the mandate of the AMLC?

REP. SALCEDA. Basically, it protects and preserves the integrity of our bank accounts to ensure that the Philippines shall not be used as a money laundering site for proceeds of any unlawful activity and to extend cooperation on the international investigation and prosecution of persons involved in money laundering activities wherever committed.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, I agree, Mr. Speaker. So, ang question ko po ay iyong may kinalaman po doon sa Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations or POGO. Ano po iyong comment ng ating Sponsor about the operations of POGO? Sinasabi kasi noong

isang Chinese official na parang ayaw niya or dapat pagbawalan ng Philippine government ang POGO dito sa bansa dahil sa China ito ay iligal.

REP. SALCEDA. Wala pa pong request ang China at iyong POGO operations ngayon po ay ligal dahil po ito ay ibinigay ng Pagcor na siyang may prangkisa mula po sa Kongreso.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, wala pong official request pero mayroon pong comment iyong isang official ng embassy kaugnay doon sa operations. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, alam po natin na iyong mandate ng AMLC sa Section 7 ng IRR ng Anti-Money Laundering Act, nakalagay din dito, Mr. Speaker, that “The Anti-Money Laundering Council is hereby created and shall be composed of the governor x x x and the functions are defined hereunder, x x x to require and receive covered or suspicious transaction reports from the covered institutions.” Mayroon pong sinasabi din po on page 2 noong IRR na:

“Covered Transaction” is a transaction in cash or other equivalent money instrument involving a total amount in excess of P500,000 within one (1) banking day.

“Suspicious Transactions” is a transaction with covered institutions, regardless of the amounts involved, where any of the following circumstances exist:

1. There is no underlying legal or trade obligation, purpose or economic justification.
2. The client is not properly identified.
3. The amount involved is not commensurate with the business or financial capacity of the client.
4. Taking into account all known circumstances, it may be perceived that the client’s transaction is structured x x x.

So, ang tanong ko po lang, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, ano po iyong role noong AMLC dito sa mga overseas gaming operations na ito in terms of money laundering? Mayroon ba kayong comment about this, iyong role nito doon sa POGO?

REP. SALCEDA. Covered po siya kasi Pagcor po ang nagbigay ng license. Covered po siya ng AMLC kasi nga po ang Pagcor po ay covered ng atin pong batas.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, malinaw po, Mr. Speaker, ang nakalagay dito sa mandate ng AMLC, na covered ng Anti-Money Laundering Act itong mga operations ng POGO. May report po ngayon na mayroong P21 billion na mga unpaid taxes ang mga POGO operations na ito.

REP. SALCEDA. Sa wages po iyon.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Sa wages po ito?

REP. SALCEDA. Ibig sabihin, non-remittance of wages.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. So, ang AMLC po ba ay aware or very vigilant dito sa mga transactions involving POGO operations?

REP. SALCEDA. Automatic po, dahil po iyong mga transactions, sabi mo na nga ay P500,000, at nasa Republic Act No. 10167 na covered po ang Pagcor at lahat po ng franchisees po ng Pagcor, so, lahat po.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, wala po ba tayong nakikitang mga suspicious transactions na nakalagay po doon sa mga provisions natin?

REP. SALCEDA. Ang sagot po diyan ay ongoing po ang kanilang imbestigasyon at para po ma-proteksiyunan ang integrity po ng evidence at ng proseso ay ...

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, ang ibig sabihin, kung ongoing po iyong mga investigations, mayroon po tayo na ginaganap na investigation sa AMLC kaugnay nitong anti-money laundering, okay.

REP. SALCEDA. Malalaman po natin iyan kapag na-file na po nila.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, puwede po bang makahingi ang Kinatawang ito noong update sa mga investigations na may kaugnayan po doon sa Anti-Money Laundering Act?

REP. SALCEDA. Once it is released, it will be released to all. Ang problema, wala hong advance copy.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, ano po iyong timeline noong investigation natin? Siyempre, ang ating Pangulo ini-endorse niya itong POGO kasi sabi niya na malaki din naman iyong kinikita ng ating gobyerno rito, pero kung mayroong ding ganyan na lumalabag po doon sa batas, ito ay isa ring detriment sa Filipino people. So, kailan po ba iyong timeline, puwede nating malaman?

REP. SALCEDA. Pagbalik natin, bago matapos ang November.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. So, aasahan ko po ito, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. So, iyon lang po at marami pong salamat.

REP. SALCEDA. Salamat.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Sr. Dep. Minority Leader, Hon. Janette L. Garin.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The Sr. Dep. Minority Leader, Hon. Janette L. Garin, is recognized.

REP. GARIN (J.). Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member from the Minority who would wish to interpellate the Sponsor of the proposed budget of the Anti-Money Laundering Council, we move that we terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the said agency.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we join the Minority in the motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

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

The period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Anti-Money Laundering Council is hereby closed.

GOVERNANCE COMMISSION FOR GOCCs

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the consideration of the proposed budget of the Governance Commission for GOCCs.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the family of the Governance Commission for Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations: Atty. Samuel G. Dagpin Jr., Chairperson; Atty. Michael P. Cloribel, Commissioner; Marites Cruz-Doral, Commissioner; Atty. Michael D. Pabalinas, Director; Atty. William Angelo B. Ruyeras, Director; Atty. Gene Carl L. Tupas, Director; Atty. Johann Carlos S. Barcena, Director; Mr. Jaypee O. Abesamis, Director; Atty. Irving V. Occeña, Director; Ms. Jacqueline D. Ponseca, Director; and Atty. Annabelle B. Duka, Director.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The presence of the officials of the Governance Commission for GOCCs is acknowledged. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Ferdinand L. Gaité from BAYAN MUNA Party-List to interpellate the Sponsor of the proposed budget.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Ferdinand R. Gaité of BAYAN MUNA Party-List is recognized to interpellate the distinguished Sponsor.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Pahihintulutan ba ng ating Sponsor na makapag-clarify ng ilang katanungan hinggil sa budget ng GCG, Your Honor?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The distinguished Joey Sarte Salceda, the Sponsor of the budget, may do so, if he so desires.

REP. SALCEDA. Willingly.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The Gentleman may now proceed.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po. Itinatag ang GCG by virtue of Republic Act No. 10149 in 2011, and one of its objectives is to eliminate any excessive, unauthorized, illegal and unconscionable allowances, incentives and benefits to officers and employees of government-owned and -controlled corporations. Is that right, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SALCEDA. That is correct.

REP. GAITE. Salamat po. Ang isa rin po sa mga tungkulin ng GCG na nilikha sa ilalim ng RA 10149 ay ang pag-evaluate ng iba't ibang mga government-owned and -controlled corporations with the end view of or the eventual possibility of merging, abolition, streamlining or privatizing such agencies, depende doon sa lalabas na evaluation sa mga naturang ahensiya. Tama po ba iyan, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SALCEDA. Tama po.

REP. GAITE. Ngayon po, puwede ho bang mabigyan kami, ng Kinatawang ito, partikular doon sa layunin na iyon, ng kopya ng lahat ng mga ahensiyang na-merge, na-abolish, na-streamline at na-privatize since the inception of the GCG in 2011 and the number of employees affected by the said policies, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. SALCEDA. I have them, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GAITE. Salamat po. One of the objectives of the GCG is to come up with the Compensation and Position Classification System for the GOCCs. Maitanong ko po muna—ilan po ba ang covered na government-owned and -controlled corporations sa ilalim ng GCG, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SALCEDA. One hundred twenty-two.

REP. GAITE. One hundred twenty-two. Tama po ba, Mr. Speaker? Iba-iba po iyong katangian nila dahil mayroong pumapaloob sa Salary Standardization Law, habang iyong iba naman ay exempted. Tama po ba, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, that is correct.

REP. GAITE. Noong 2016, naglabas po ang dating Pangulong Benigno Simeon Aquino III ng Executive Order No. 203. Maitanong ko po—papaano po lumabas itong Executive Order No. 203? Mayroon ho bang ginamit na consultancy firm to come up with the proposed Compensation and Position Classification System for the GOCCs, separate and distinct from the employees under the national government agencies, state colleges and universities, and local government units which were placed under Executive Order No. 201? Mayroon po bang ginamit na consultancy firm para ilabas ito, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SALCEDA. Mayroon, ang Willis Towers Watson, at sila ay binayaran ng P27 million

REP. GAITE. Towers Watson, tama po ba, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, Willis Towers Watson.

REP. GAITE. Okay. Maraming salamat po. Noong inilabas itong Executive Order No. 203 noong 2016, hindi po ito naipatupad. Ano hong reasons noong 2016 kaya hindi ho naipatupad itong CPCS o Compensation and Position Classification System for the GOCCs? Ano ho iyong naging problema?

REP. SALCEDA. Bago po iyong Presidente at nag-issue po siya ng EO 36, essentially suspending EO 203.

REP. GAITE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Executive Order No. 36 came out in 2017, tama po ba, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, tama po.

REP. GAITE. Okay. You had one year to implement the said law but apparently, sa tanong kung anong rason o ano ho iyong naging problema bakit hindi naipatupad iyong CPCS na dapat effective noong 2016, ang sagot ay noong 2017, instead na ipatupad ito ay sinuspinde ni Pangulong Duterte ang naturang CPCS, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SALCEDA. Nag-iingat lang po ang Pangulo na wala hong unintended negative consequences po, kaya prerogative niya po bilang bagong upo na Pangulo noong Hulyo 2016, na-isyu naman po iyong EO 36 after one year po, so, base po iyan sa kanyang pag-aaral. So, in short, Your Honor, it falls within the doctrine of executive discretion dahil po sa ang batas na ito ay issuance ng isang Chief Executive and therefore, sa kanyang pananaw, that he had to study this before issuing EO 36.

REP. GAITE. Tama po naman iyon, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, na ang Pangulo—well, presidential executive order rin iyong EO 203, na sinuspinde ng EO 36. Ang tanong ko po, bakit? Kung naaalala ko, noong State of the Nation Address ni Pangulong Duterte in July 2017, after the SONA, ni-raise ni Pangulong Duterte ang usaping ito kasi, tulad ng nabanggit, ang isa sa mga rason kung bakit itinatag ang batas na ito is to eliminate any excessive unauthorized, illegal and unconscionable allowances, incentives and benefits.

Hindi ho kaya iyon ang rason, na doon sa ginawa ng Willis Towers Watson na consultancy firm, binago iyong salary schedule? For example, iyong government financial institutions, iyong pinakamataas doon ay kaiba sa current Salary Standardization Law na 33 Salary Grades dahil ito po ay pinaliit nila at ginawa na lang na iyong maximum ay Job Grade 21. Hindi kaya ito ang dahilan kasi iyong Job Grade 21, as proposed under Executive Order No. 203 by the consultancy firm, Willis Towers Watson, ang suweldo para sa Salary Grade 21 ay P1,085,699 maximum. Ito iyon nasa proposed Executive Order No. 203 para sa Job Grade 21, particularly for government financial institutions, and if I remember it right, ito iyong sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte kung bakit sinuspinde niya ang EO 203 sa pamamagitan ng EO 36, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SALCEDA. It was recommended by the economic managers, EO 36.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po. Ito iyong ilan lang sa mga katanungan namin dahil, apparently, mayroong unintended consequence. Ano po iyong unintended consequence? Dahil sa delay po ng implementation noong Compensation and Position Classification System para sa mga GOCCs, habang

itinaas na ang mga suweldo, bagamat kakarampot, para sa mga national government agencies noong 2016 by virtue of Executive Order No. 201, noong hindi naipatupad iyong Executive Order No. 203 noong 2016 January, hindi na nagkaroon pa ng increase, kahit maliit, iyong ating mga kawani sa mga GOCCs. Kaya sa buong 2016, habang iyong mga kasamahang empleyado sa mga national government agencies ay mayroong kakarampot na increase, mas malubha iyong ating mga GOCCs dahil wala silang increase. On top of that, Executive Order No. 201 also provided for additional benefits. Ngayon, mayroon na tayong mid-year bonus or mid-year allowance pero dahil din doon sa delay, wala rin silang natanggap. Mayroon ho bang ginagawa ang GCG para doon sa damage ng delay in the implementation of the salary schedule for GOCCs? Mayroon bang ginagawang hakbang para ma-cure o mabigyan ng remedy itong nangyari sa ating mga kawani sa mga GOCCs, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SALCEDA. Out of the 122, binigyan po sila ng option na gamitin po iyong SSL 4, kaya 17 lang po ang hindi nag-apply.

REP. GAITE. Maraming salamat po pero dito, ang inyong binabanggit lang pong bilang ay iyong mga exempted sa Salary Standardization Law, pero iyong mga agencies na dating exempted sa SSL—may mga unions tulad ng COURAGE, ay nasa ilalim nito, for example, ang National Food Authority, National Housing Authority, at iba pa. Sila po ay napagkaitan ng increase noong 2016 kasi nga po sa delay ng implementation noong CPCS. Nag-increase na lang sila noong 2017. Ang ibig sabihin, for the whole year of 2016, while their counterparts in other national government agencies were already receiving slight increases in salaries, sila po ay wala. Mayroon ho bang ginagawa ang ating GCG para ma-address itong nangyari sa ating mga GOCCs na hindi kasama sa Salary Standardization Law, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SALCEDA. Sila po ay under the Office of the President. Iyong decision-making po is their boards as they have boards as GOCCs. So, bilang President and head of the Executive Department, covered po ang GOCCs, at ni-refer niya po sa DOJ kung puwede niyang i-supersede iyong kanilang institutional authority to increase salaries na hindi po kelangan ng review ng Presidente. I think the President always has plenary review powers over the behavior of everyone under the Executive Department.

REP. GAITE. Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, apparently, hindi pa rin nagkakaroon ng restitution iyong ating mga kawani sa mga GOCCs dahil wala silang increase in the

whole year ng 2016. Ang Kinatawang ito, at the proper time, will make the proper resolution para ma-address iyong ganitong pagkakait sa kanila ng karampatang mga sahod at benepisyo, at para rin kahit paano ay mayroong karagdagang benepisyo silang matanggap kahit sa retroactive na paraan.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Sponsor. Salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SALCEDA. Salamat po.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize from the APEC Party-List, Rep. Sergio C. Dagoo for his interpellation of the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Sergio Dagoo of the APEC Party-List is recognized for his interpellation of the distinguished Sponsor.

REP. DAGOO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening everyone, especially to GCG. Mr. Sponsor, would you allow me to ask some clarificatory questions?

REP. SALCEDA. Willingly, Your Honor.

REP. DAGOO. Some of the questions that I was supposed to ask were already asked by my colleagues, but I would just like to emphasize something. Considering na lahat ng mga benefits ng mga GOCCS and allowances will undergo evaluation and approval by the GCG, is there a time frame for GCG to act on all of these things? Is there a time frame, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SALCEDA. In nine months. There is a new study that has been commissioned by Willis Towers on the CPCS for GOCCS, which we expect by April, Your Honor.

REP. DAGOO. Sorry, Mr. Sponsor, I did not hear the answer.

REP. SALCEDA. Sa Abril po may lalabas na po na bagong EO patungkol po sa adjustment din ng mga suweldo at benefits po ng mga GOCCs.

REP. DAGOO. Opo, Mr. Sponsor. May time frame ba si GCG to act on all of those things, including evaluation of their performance-based benefits? Is there a time frame?

REP. SALCEDA. This October 20, Your Honor,

next month, the certification of the IATF will come out. Unfortunately, the IATF only comes out with this in October of every year.

REP. DAGOO. Sorry, Mr. Sponsor, I could not hear.

REP. SALCEDA. October po.

REP. DAGOO. October?

REP. SALCEDA. Next month.

REP. DAGOO. To be specific, how many months will it take for the GCG to act on, for example, allowances and benefits of the GOCCs and their performance-based benefits? What is the time frame—to be specific, how many months or weeks?

REP. SALCEDA. Dalawang klase po iyan, iyong CPCS po sa Abril. Iyong mga benefits po, ngayon pong Oktubre. So, iyan po ang timeline para po sa GOCCs.

REP. DAGOO. Is it true, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, that there are still GOCCs waiting for the evaluation and approval or disapproval of their performance-based benefits for 2017 and 2018? Is it true? Can you confirm this, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SALCEDA. Ang mabagal po ay iyong IATF. I guess, Your Honor, at the appropriate time, because sila, tapos na po ang lahat ng evaluation at ngayon, for the certification na lang po ng IATF. Kaso nga, ang IATF ay sa October lang po sila nagmi-meet at nag-i-issue po ng certification.

REP. DAGOO. So, is GCG, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, telling this Representation na wala silang magagawa, at kahit maghintay iyong mga empleyado na pinagtrabaho na nila ng dalawang taon ay hindi pa maibigay ito sa kanila? Are they telling that to us, to this Representation, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SALCEDA. Iyong IATF ay creation by executive order ng atin pong Pangulo, ng Chief Executive, at dahil po ang GCG ay under po ng OP, therefore po, kailangang sumunod doon sa proseso na after their evaluation ay kailangan po i-certify ng Inter-Agency Task Force.

REP. DAGOO. Inter-Agency Task Force, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, is a group wherein the GCG is also a member. It is in the group, it is in the IATF which also seeks the requirements. Bakit itinuturo nila iyong task force na iyan when they are part of the task force? Ang ibig bang sabihin niyan ay pababayaan na lang natin iyong mga government employees sa GOCC, kahit

SSL covered sila as cited by my colleague, Congressman Gaite? Pababayaan na lang natin sila because of those rules, and also because of those rules ba ay hindi na lang sila kakain, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor? Hindi ba naintindihan ng taga-GCG na kumakain din iyong mga taong iyan at may mga pangangailangan din sila? 2017 and 2018, bakit aabot ng dalawang taon?

REP. SALCEDA. With respect to the role of the GCG, Your Honor, tinapos nila ang lahat ng evaluation, kaso nasa IATF na po, where it is just one of the members, and there are conditions before the IATF can issue a certification with respect to compliance with the requirements. Actually, kung iisipin po natin, iyong mga members nito ay ang DBM, NEDA, DOF, PMS at sila—lima lang po. Kung iisipin, hindi naman sa madali pero hindi ho siya napakalaking council para hindi po talaga natin—I think Congress, in tss collective wisdom, can exercise its oversight powers over the EO, over that issuance by the President, with respect to the bureaucratic difficult rigidities imposed sa pagbibigay po ng benefits sa mga GOCCs, lalong-lalo na po iyong hindi nakapag-comply.

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the statement of the Sponsor. However, I would just like to be specific. In the case of the National Electrification Administration, you required a scorecard; then, on your scorecard, you did not consider that one of the things that you wanted to comply with is iyong number of sitios to be electrified in a particular year. Paano po ma-electrify ang mga ito ng National Electrification Administration when the energization of the sitios is dependent on the budget released to them by the DBM? For example, ang hinahanap ninyong target ay 1,000 sitios and the budget being requested is P6 billion, what if the budget allocation is only P2 billion, kaya paano nito ma-electrify iyong 1,000 sitios? So, definitely, they could not pass that and as a matter of fact, there were instances that in 2018, sa tingin ko, na-comply na nila, but until now, naghihintay pa rin sila.

So, with all due respect, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, I am requesting for a specific answer from the GCG. Kailan ninyo maipalalabas, whether approved or disapproved, iyong para sa National Electrification Administration? Approved or disapproved, ipalabas na ninyo para makita natin kung hindi sila ay nag-comply, hindi iyong nabibitin sila ng dalawang taon.

REP. SALCEDA. October.

REP. DAGOOC. October. Thank you for that, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. I hope that this honorable Chamber would take cognizance that some of the functions of this particular government agency overlap with those of the Civil Service Commission, DBM and

COA. Paulit-ulit na kino-comply, the same employees, iyong tatlong agency requirements. I hope that this Chamber will take cognizance of that.

So, with the answer of the GCG that ipalalabas nila iyong sa NEA by October, I will end my interpellation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Minority Leader, Hon. Bienvenido M. Abante Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The Minority Leader, Hon. Bienvenido M. Abante Jr. from the Sixth District of Manila is recognized.

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

The problem with government at times, Mr. Speaker, is that we have non-performing agencies, and I do not know if we call it political patronage or political accommodation, or we are wasting the money of government over some agencies that we feel are not actually performing as they should perform.

May I first ask, Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor of the Governance Commission for GOCCs, in summary, what is the real mandate of this Commission?

REP. SALCEDA. Essentially, to evaluate the performance of the GOCCs and mag-recommend kung alin po ang kelangan i-merge, i-abolish, pati na po ang mag-recommend ng kanilang compensation scheme. So, it is generally to evaluate the performance of our government-owned and -controlled corporations.

REP. ABANTE. I looked at the GOCC Governance Act of 2011, Republic Act No. 10149, which created the Governance Commission for GOCCs. In reality, this was only activated around 2016. Am I right, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SALCEDA. June 2011, Your Honor, correct.

REP. ABANTE. Yes, In 2011, that was created, correct?

REP. SALCEDA. That is right.

REP. ABANTE. When was it activated?

REP. SALCEDA. Same year, Your Honor.

REP. ABANTE. After that, I think this agency experienced a good number of lawsuits and in fact, even questioning the constitutionality of the agency, am I not right?

Now, on the Civil Service Commission, for example, where Section 2 says “(1) The civil service embraces all branches, subdivisions, instrumentalities, and agencies of the Government including, government-owned or -controlled corporation with original charters.”

My question is, what is the difference between this agency is mandate and that of the Civil Service Commission?

REP. SALCEDA. The Civil Service Commission was created by the Constitution.

REP. ABANTE. Yes.

REP. SALCEDA. And the GCG is our creation—it is a creation of Congress.

REP. ABANTE. Yes.

REP. SALCEDA. To perform very specific tasks, on a very specific sector of the government—the GOCCs.

REP. ABANTE. The GOCCs.

REP. SALCEDA. Correct.

REP. ABANTE. Now, let me ask this—upon hearing the interpellation made a while ago by Congressman Gaite, where he said that the GOCCs are under the Office of the President, is this agency, the Governance Commission for GOCCs under the Office of the President?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes.

REP. ABANTE. It is. All right. Now, you said here that one of the mandates of this agency is “to ascertain, whether such GOCC should be reorganized, merged, streamlined, abolished or privatized.” Am I right?

REP. SALCEDA. They have done that.

REP. ABANTE. All right. From the time that it was created by Congress until today, what was the performance of this agency as far as this mandate is concerned?

REP. SALCEDA. They have recommended for abolition, 30 agencies; approved for privatization, 3; and essentially right now, non-operating and inactive, 23 based on the performance evaluation of the government-owned or -controlled corporations. So, all of these, Your Honor, have been implemented.

REP. ABANTE. Your overall budget as provided in the NEP 2020 is about P189 million, is that correct?

REP. SALCEDA. Correct, Your Honor.

REP. ABANTE. It is P45.7 million, of which or about 24 percent goes to the GOCC regulatory program. Is that correct?

REP. SALCEDA. That is correct, Your Honor.

REP. ABANTE. This program under the agency is tasked to guide the GOCCs in significantly contributing to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development. Under this program, what is that agency doing?

REP. SALCEDA. Unang-una po, may mga inutos tayo sa GOCCs na ito kung ano ang kontribusyon nila sa national goal. May nilatag po ang gobyerno na mga targets o kung ano ang kontribusyon nila sa national development. Ang gawain po ng GOCCs, hindi sila magtatakda ng goal, ang Kongreso o Presidente lang. So, ang ginagawa ng CGC ay sisiguraduhin na ma-achieve nila iyong mga goals na inatas natin sa kanila.

REP. ABANTE. Iyong ano po?

REP. SALCEDA. Iyong inatas natin sa kanila. Halimbawa, sabi nga kanina ng Congressman ng APEC, sa 1,800 sitios, 1,200 lang ang natapos. In the following year, natapos iyong 822, so, may basehan po iyong NEA na humingi ng mga natapos namin pero iyong mga ganoong klase ay hindi po nasasakop ng Civil Service Commission.

So, iyon po ang isa sa malaking pagkakaiba ng CSC at ng GOCCs, kasi kung iisipin, ang nagma-manage po ng GOCC ay merkado, ang market forces. Pinapasiguro lang ng gobyerno, dahil tayo ay nakikipagkumpitensiya sa merkado, pinapasiguro natin na ang minimum standards ng good government ay nandodoon pa din. Actually, kung iisipin natin, dalawa po o marami po sa mga departamento natin, walang kalaban po pero ang kalaban po nila ay BPI. Hindi pa rin tayo na—pinasiguro lang natin na sila ay tapat sa mga patakaran ng gobyerno. Iyon po ang ginagawa ng GCG doon sa 122 na natitira na government-owned and -controlled corporations.

REP. ABANTE. Okay. Now, except for the percentage of the GOCCs with improved corporate governance, a scorecard rating would be around 65.47 percent. Ang sabi rito, only 60 GOCCs are compliant, at ang sabi ng agency ay 35 of them are non-compliant. Hindi po ba?

REP. SALCEDA. May isinagawa po tayo, dahil iyon ang mandato natin. Papaano mo mare-review kung wala ka pang standards? So, based po sa performance indicators ay tama iyon, iyong kanila pong pag-review ng operations ng GOCCs. Ito rin ang basehan ng kanilang bonus.

REP. ABANTE. Okay. Kaya nga po, ano, if only—kung, halimbawa, 65 percent lamang ang compliant, ano po ang ginagawa ng agency sa 35 percent na GOCCs na hindi compliant? Ito ba ay about the Performance-Based Incentive System, ito ba iyon?

REP. SALCEDA. Basically, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, siyempre, they continuously hold hands para po matulungan ang mga GOCC ma-achieve ang kanilang indicators and at a certain stage, Your Honor, they make a recommendation to their supervising authority, let us say, for the DBP to the DOF, to essentially adjust the targets because, sometimes, it is really the target setting that matters. Kung minsan po, hindi naa-achieve dahil may target na nilaan tayo kaya kailangan pag-aralan natin kung bakit. Ito ay dahil ba sa inefficiency ng DBP—example lang po ito—o dahil napakataas ng target na nilagak natin sa kanila. So, ang importante po ay mapag-aralan ito at may nagbabantay na mapasiguro na naa-achieve nila iyong targets na nilaan ng Kongreso at ng Presidente para dito sa GOCCs.

REP. ABANTE. So, ang ibig sabihin po ay accurate ang basis nila sa pinag-uusapan natin, iyong compliant itong GOCC o hindi compliant ito.

REP. SALCEDA. Actually, Sir, ang mga sinasabing compliance ay—online po ito, doon po sila magsa-submit, so, there is no capture by GCG. Eventually, wala ho ang sinabi mong political patronage kanina but essentially po, kahit virtually mechanical compliance, with all the blank spaces once they submit. Iyong mga iba po, hindi nag-submit kaya non-compliant sila. So, ang susunod po doon ay pupuntahan ang GCG para alamin kung bakit hindi sila nakapag-submit sa digital na GLMS na tinatawag, at ang sunod pong step diyan ay pag-aralan mismo o kausapin ng management para po mapasiguro na naa-achieve nila ang mga inaatas sa kanila ng Kongreso at ng Presidente.

REP. ABANTE. For example, noong January 3, 2018, in compliance with the austerity measures of the President, a memorandum from the Executive Secretary has provided directives for applications for foreign travel of all government officials in the Executive Department. Ito po ba ay sinunod ng GOCCs, ang memorandum na ito na nanggaling sa Executive Secretary? Sinusunod po ba ito?

REP. SALCEDA. Opo.

REP. ABANTE. How many GOCCs, kung alam po ninyo, have been requested to explain excessive travels? Halimbawa, mayroon po bang agency na nakapag-file na ng any administrative complaint against erring GOCC officials in violation of the memorandum of the Executive Secretary on foreign travel?

REP. SALCEDA. That is the quirk of our system and in that law, in that issuance by the Executive Secretary, essentially, hindi po imbuelto ang GCG.

REP. ABANTE. Ano po iyon?

REP. SALCEDA. Hindi po inimbuelto ang GCG. Direkta po ang reporting with respect to performance vis-a-vis EO 77.

REP. ABANTE. Kasama po iyon, hindi po ba?

REP. SALCEDA. Hindi.

REP. ABANTE. Hindi po kasama iyon?

REP. SALCEDA. Hindi sila isinama.

REP. ABANTE. Okay. Mayroon pa po akong nais itanong tungkol sa rampant corruption, for example, in the GOCCs, specifically the GSIS. Mayroon po ba tayong natagpuan na rampant corruption sa ilang mga GOCC natin?

REP. SALCEDA. Alam po ninyo, may tatlong klase, kahit dito sa Kongreso—nonfeasance, hindi mo ginawa; misfeasance, talagang may intensiyon dahil po may pagka-deliberate ang hindi mo pag-perform; at iyong last po ay malfeasance. Dito po sa Kongreso, mayroon tayong komite for malfeasance, the Committee on Good Government.

REP. ABANTE. Okay.

REP. SALCEDA. Mayroon tayong Committee on Oversight dati na siyang tumitingin sa nonfeasance. So, basically, doon po sa GCG, simple lang—ikaw po ang DBP, target mo to be number two sa commercial banking sector, bakit number four ka lang? That is nonfeasance, non-achievement of performance indicators. So, hindi ho—puwede ho siguro, kaya nga dumiretso na ang Presidente dahil kung titingnan ninyo ang mandato ng GCG, it is a more affirmative approach to the management of the GOCCs dahil may indicator ka, mayroong kang target. We will establish the indicator, kung ano po iyong dapat na performance

ninyo. Pagkatapos, sasabihan kayo, “Hoy, hindi mo na-achieve, wala kang bonus. Hoy, hindi mo na iyan ma-achieve, kailangan kang i-abolish. Hoy, baka mas maganda kung i-merge na lang kita.”

REP. ABANTE. So, hindi kasama iyong corruption ng GOCC kapag pinag-uusapan ang performance o non-performance.

REP. SALCEDA. Sa GOCC po, iyan ang mandato pero I think they can defer.

REP. ABANTE. So, walang pakialam ang agency kapag pinag-uusapan ang bad performance ng GOCC?

REP. SALCEDA. Halimbawa, kapag may nakita kang ...

REP. ABANTE. Hindi po ba ang korapsyon ay bad performance?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, tama po pero ang sinasabi niyan—and usually, base po sa mandato ng ating mga ahensiya, nandiyan ang PACC which has primary jurisdiction over corruption. So, kung may natagpuan sila, their duty is to report it to the PACC.

REP. ABANTE. Kung mayroon po silang natagpuan.

REP. SALCEDA. Yes.

REP. ABANTE. Siguro po ay wala silang natagpuan, so, walang nire-report, sapagkat kapag pinag-uusapan po natin ang mandato ng GCG patungkol sa pag-evaluate ng performance, whether it be good performance or bad performance, dapat pinapakialaman ito ng GCG.

REP. SALCEDA. Doon po sa EO na 8888, kapag may korapsyon o reklamo sa isang korporasyon, hindi lang po tungkol sa hindi pag-service, halimbawa, ng isang request ng isang kliyente kundi kung talagang tahasa ang korapsyon, ang gagawin po, basta ikaw ay GOCC, ire-report po nila sa PACC.

REP. ABANTE. Yes. Tulad po nito, ang sinabi na isa sa mga mandato ng GCG ay conduct periodic study, examination, evaluation, assessment of the performance of the GOCCs, and require reports on its operations and management, including its assets and finances.

REP. SALCEDA. Tama po.

REP. ABANTE. Ang ibig sabihin, kapag nagkaroon po ng isang bad performance on the issue of corruption

ay pinapakialaman dapat ng GCG at dapat gumagawa kaagad ng karampatang report. Kung ang report po na iyan ay isina-submit sa PACC, dapat ay malaman din natin iyan, ano po?

REP. SALCEDA. Iyon po mismo dahil may scorecard at kung hindi ka po pumasa, simula na iyan ng rasonableng pagdududa na baka may ibang nangyayari kaya hindi mo po naa-achieve ang target. Samakatuwid, Your Honor, it is the first line of defense against corruption. The first line essentially is citizen's action, and the last line being the courts. So, kapag tiningnan mo, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, mayroon tayong proseso pero ang uunahin po natin, na mayroong presumption of regularity ang mga korporasyon na ito na we created to serve the people.

Pinasiguro lang natin through GCG dahil po sila ay corporate, otherwise, bakit hindi na lang natin sila ipinasok sa isang departamento? Kasi nga may functions sila na kailangan nilang mag-deal sa merkado. Samakatuwid, Your Honor, iba ang mga factors na kinasasangkutan compared to our civil service—iyong mga direkta katulad po ng Department of Health at iba po, na may karagdagan po na disiplina na kinakailangan.

Disiplina ng merkado, hindi mo ma-achieve profit targets mo, ang dividends na ipinangako mo, kung mahina kang lumaban sa merkado—katulad ng DBP, Landbank, they are fighting titans of the banking industry but still, GCG is there to ensure that they perform the minimum standards of behavior that pertain to being owned by the national government.

So, hindi ko sinasabi na hindi nila ginagawa. Ang sinasabi ko, ang focus nito, at tama naman po iyong focus na tingnan ang performance nila against targets, against indicators kasi—makikita ninyo kaagad, it has a preemptive way of making these GOCCs behave dahil may nagbabantay. Pangalawa po, kapag mayroong assessment na hindi mo na-achieve, puwede na ho nating tanungin—Bakit hindi na-achieve, may corruption ba diyan? So, bagsak siya sa PACC. Baka naman hindi ka na talaga makalaban sa merkado kaya kailangan nating i-merge ka o baka naman mas maganda na i-privatize o i-abolish ka.

Samakatuwid, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, binibigyan natin ang sarili natin, ang gobyerno, ng options kasi ibang nilikha po ang GOCCs. Hindi sila katulad po ng Kongreso, hindi katulad po ng Presidente, kasi ito po ay likha natin kasi nakikita natin, to make markets behave, importante po na may government presence. For example, nabanggit kanina ang NEA, ayaw gawin ng malalaking distribution company ang mag-service ng missionary areas kaya na-create natin ang NEA. Bakit natin na-create, halimbawa, ang WESM? Ito ay para po ma-check natin kung tatatlo na lang ang naglalaban-laban na andoon pa, at mino-monitor natin ang kanilang performance.

Kaya po, hindi ko sinasabi na walang corruption. Ang sinasabi ko, may naka-focus po sila na, “Ito ang iniutos namin sa inyo. Ginagawa mo ba mo ba sang-ayon sa proseso?”

REP. ABANTE. Naniniwala po ako sa inyong sinabi, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. Sa akin po ay parang nakakalito, na baka mayroong duplication o overlapping responsibilities sa ibang ahensiya.

REP. SALCEDA. Mayroon pero gawa natin iyon dahil creation natin ang GCG. It is a creation of Congress and therefore, we may wish to consider amending the law so there would be no overlapping.

REP. ABANTE. Kung mayroon pong duplication at overlapping of responsibilities, dahil iyan po ay na-create ng Kongreso, dapat i-repeal din ng Kongreso.

REP. SALCEDA. Ganito lang po iyan, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker. Ang CSC ay hindi tumitingin po sa mga organisasyon at ang tinitingnan nila ay empleyado. Ang GCG ay nakatingin po sa operation efficiency ng mga korporasyon. Ang CSC ay nakatingin po sa chartered GOCCs, at ang GCG ay nakatingin sa lahat ng mga pag-aari ng gobyerno dahil kung minsan, kung na-repossess, halimbawa, ng DBP ang isang asset, ito ay nagiging parte po ng ating ownership. Ang isa pa po—ang CSC, hindi nire-review ang organisasyon ng bawat organisasyon pero ang GCG, tinitingnan po ang organizational o ang tinatawag na OSSP ng GOCCs.

Samakatuwid, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, may overlap nga, opo, pero pinasiguro po ng Kongreso na may special focus ang GCG with respect to the governance of the GOCCs. May ginagawa sila na hindi ginagawa ng CSC. Kung gusto natin, i-collapse po natin sila at ibigay natin sa CSC iyong specific functions na hindi ginagawa ng Civil Service ngayon.

REP. ABANTE. Ilan po ba ang empleyado ng GCG?

REP. SALCEDA. One hundred twenty lang po.

REP. ABANTE. Sa palagay ko, mas maganda ang sinabi po ninyo na itong Civil Service na creation ng Constitution, na ibigay na lang sa kanila ang tungkuling ito, opo. Now, wala pa naman ako sa Kongreso noong ang GCG po ay na-create, so, siguro kinakailangan na po o it is high time na i-repeal na natin ang creation ng agency na ito.

REP. SALCEDA. Correct po.

REP. ABANTE. Last question na lang po. In

the latest COA audit report, the COA noted that the Governance Commission for GOCCs spent P15.622 million on hiring 47 contractual employees which cost the government P1.3 million monthly. Sa palagay po ba natin, itong P1.3 million monthly na ini-spend ng GCG ay necessary po? Or we call these contractual employees as “unnecessary employees,” Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SALCEDA. Sinagot po nila iyan.

REP. ABANTE. Sinagot na po nila?

REP. SALCEDA. Opo.

REP. ABANTE. Ano po ang pagkakasagot nila?

REP. SALCEDA. Kailangan po nila ng tao.

REP. ABANTE. Ano po iyon?

REP. SALCEDA. Ang dami nating iniutos sa kanila, hindi po kaya ng 120.

REP. ABANTE. Hindi po kaya ng 120.

REP. SALCEDA. Opo.

REP. ABANTE. Okay. Tinanggap naman po ng COA iyan?

REP. SALCEDA. Opo.

REP. ABANTE. Okay. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, wala pa namang panahon para pag-usapan po ang pag-repeal ng agency na ito.

REP. SALCEDA. Opo.

REP. ABANTE. Bilang lider ng Minority, there being no more questions coming from the Minority, wala po akong magagawa kung hindi to move to terminate the interpellation of the Minority.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we join the Minority in the motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Governance Commission for GOCCs.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to terminate the period of interpellation and

debate on the budget of the Governance Commission for GOCCs is hereby approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

COMMISSION ON THE FILIPINO LANGUAGE
AND THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL
COMMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the consideration of the proposed budgets of the Commission on the Filipino Language and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request that we acknowledge the presence of the family of the Commission on the Filipino Language led by Virgilio S. Almario, Chairperson; and from the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, Dr. Rene Escalante and Carminda Arevalo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The Chair would like to recognize the presence of the officials of the Commission on the Filipino Language and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize from the Party-List ACT TEACHERS, Rep. France L. Castro, to interpellate the Sponsor on their proposed budget.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. France Castro of the ACT TEACHERS Party-List is recognized to interpellate the distinguished Sponsor, Hon. Joey Salceda.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is just a manifestation. I would like to have an update about the funds regarding the newly approved RA 11106 or the Filipino Sign Language Act.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Go ahead with your manifestation.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mr. Speaker, may I know if there is already an IRR about this RA?

REP. SALCEDA. No IRR, no funds.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). May we know, Mr. Speaker, the reason that this law na na-approve natin last year, before the Seventeenth Congress ended, ay wala pa ring IRR?

REP. SALCEDA. It is just one of—I think it is more of the primary jurisdiction. I think sila po iyong nilalapitan pero isa lang po sila doon po sa mga inatasan natin na magsagawa ng batas, na magpatupad po ng Sign Language Law.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Mr. Speaker, ang KWF po ang in-charge doon sa overall na paggagawa ng IRR dito. Mayroon pa po bang mga ibang agency, iyong implementation ay with, for example, the Department of Education? Nakakalungkot, Mr. Speaker, kasi napakahalagang measure ito para sa ating deaf and mute community at isang tagumpay ito, iyong batas na ito, Mr. Speaker, pero hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa rin lubusan iyong tagumpay natin dahil wala pang IRR.

REP. SALCEDA. Hindi pa—mayroon na at hawak ko po iyong IRR pero hindi pa po siya approved. Continuing po ito at ang head po talaga ay ang CHR, at ang KFW-NCAA ay may contribution bilang parte po ng kanilang bagong mandato na nilagak natin under RA 11106, declaring the Filipino sign language as the national sign language of the Filipino deaf. So, ang dami pong inatasan dito at nandito po ito kung gusto ninyong makita.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Puwede po bang malaman iyong problema kung bakit nagkakaganito?

REP. SALCEDA. Ganito po—mabuti nang magkaalaman—kapag nagpapa-meeting po sila, walang quorum. Hindi po pumupunta ang Philippine Council for Women, hindi po pumupunta iyong National Council for Children. So, Mr. Speaker, I think ang pinakamaganda ditong gawin ay ipatawag ang mga ito. Hindi matapos-tapos ang IRR kasi hindi po ma-finalize dahil nga laging absent iyong iba.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. Siguro, may I just ask the support of the good Sponsor so that the IRR would be finished as soon as possible dahil alam po natin na dito po ay active naman po iyong mga advocacy groups natin on the Filipino sign language at ito na lang po iyong hinihiling nila. I would also like to manifest, Mr. Speaker, that we augment the budget of the Komisyon ng Wikang Filipino, dahil mayroon po silang request sa atin dito and they are proposing at least P2 million to augment their budget, so that ang IRR na ito ay ma-implement na po dahil ito iyong initial stage noong pag-i-implementa po natin ng RA 11106 o iyong Filipino sign language.

REP. SALCEDA. I will, in the proper time, accept, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Thank you very much po, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. So, iyon lang po, at sana ay tulungan nating lahat ang Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino.

REP. SALCEDA. Salamat din po sa tulong.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize from the KABATAAN Party-List, Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago, to interpellate the Sponsor of the proposed budget.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Sarah Jane Elago of the KABATAAN Party-List is recognized.

REP. ELAGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just two concerns from this Youth Representation. First, I would like to know, since the NHCP just reactivated its Local Historical Committees Network, how much of the NHCP's budget is allocated for the said network, the LHCN.

REP. SALCEDA. One million.

REP. ELAGO. So, P1 million. Does this include the creation of the digital database of all the archival collections of the NHCP on our local history, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. SALCEDA. On top of that, there is P10 million for enrichment of their collection.

REP. ELAGO. That is welcome news for this Representation, Mr. Speaker, since there is really a need for us to promote the local history and not only the chivalry but the contributions of our young revolutionary heroes, all the great Filipinos unknown in their localities.

Now, let me go to the budget of the quincentennial celebration. Magkano po ang kabuuan na pondo na nakalaan sa 2020 para sa quincentennial celebration?

REP. SALCEDA. Seventy-nine million.

REP. ELAGO. Seventy million.

REP. SALCEDA. Seventy-nine, 7-9.

REP. ELAGO. So, P79 million. Ito po ay iyong pondo na nasa ilalim lamang ng National Historical Commission of the Philippines?

REP. SALCEDA. Correct.

REP. ELAGO. Mayroon pa pong ibang pondo na nakalagak sa ibang mga ahensiya?

REP. SALCEDA. Tatlo pa po ang mayroong pondo—DPWH, PCOO, Department of Tourism.

REP. ELAGO. All right. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, manghihingi na lang po ang Representasyon na ito ng breakdown ng kabuuang pondo para sa quincentennial celebration, gayundin ang kabuuang timeline ng selebrasyon na ito o ang mga plano para sa selebrasyon na ito hanggang sa taong 2021.

Dagdag rin, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, nais din po nating malaman ang kabuuang plano ng NHCP pagdating sa pagre-review ng mga textbooks sa Philippine history. Sa kasalukuyan po ba ay mayroong mga efforts o mga inisyatiba ang NHCP, kung tayo ay sumusuporta ngayon sa quincentennial celebration, para sasabay din iyong mga textbooks natin sa Philippine history na magtatalakay, magpapalawig, magpapalalim ng ating pre-colonial history?

REP. SALCEDA. Mayroon po. Sa Biyernes, mag-uusap sila ng DepEd patungo po diyan. Ito po ay long overdue, nakaligtaan, at kailangan na po tayong maghabol para po maisa-Filipino, maisa-pang ordinaryong lengguwahe na ginagamit ng lahat para mas lalo silang matuto sa kung ano po ang ating kasaysayan at maisama ito sa atin pong mga textbooks.

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat ho at umaasa ho ang Representasyon na ito na kami ay inyong babalitaan tungkol sa mga aksiyon ng NHCP hinggil dito. Gayundin ay nais kong ipahayag sa Kapulungan na ito ang pagsuporta ng KABATAAN Party-List sa Tanggol Wika at Tanggol Kasaysayan. Ito po ay mga grupo ng mga guro, mga estudyante, mga iba't ibang mga organizations at networks na sumusuporta sa pagpapalakas ng pag-aaral ng kasaysayan ng Pilipinas batay sa karanasan ng mamamayang Filipino, at gayundin ang pagpapalakas ng ating wikang pambansa na nakabatay sa ating wikang katutubo, wikang pambansa, ang wikang Filipino bilang wika ng pananaliksik at wika ng pagkamulat ng mga kabataan.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. SALCEDA. Salamat.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize Rep. France L. Castro of the ACT

TEACHERS Party-List to interpellate the honorable Sponsor.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Excuse me. Hon. France Castro of the ACT TEACHERS Party-List is recognized for her interpellation to the distinguished Sponsor. Go ahead.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ilan lang pong katanungan, Mr. Speaker, dahil, again, another law po was passed during the Seventeenth Congress at hanggang ngayon po ay hindi pa natin alam iyong update.

REP. ABU. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). What is the point of order, Deputy Speaker Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu?

REP. ABU. Is the interpellation being done by Hon. France Castro with leave of the House?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Majority Leader, what is your pleasure?

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, there are two departments being taken up in an omnibus motion. So, the Lady is, actually, not in violation of House Rule XII, Section 91 where a speaker can only speak once on a subject. She is, actually, interpellating on two different departments, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABU. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SALCEDA. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Okay. The distinguished Lady of the ACT TEACHERS Party-List is recognized. You may proceed with your interpellation.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, ipinasa po kamakailan ang RA 11304 o iyong tinatawag nating Filipino-American War Memorial Day setting February 4 to commemorate the day. Ang tanong po, Mr. Speaker, mayroon na po bang IRR itong RA 11304? Anong mga aktibidad at programa na isinagawa para sa Fil-Am War commemoration? Kung mayroon po, Mr. Speaker, magkano ang proposed budget ng National Historical Commission during the budget call for this first year implementation at magkano po ang approved for inclusion sa NEP o GAA?

REP. SALCEDA. Hindi ho sila imbitado. Hindi ho sila sinama. Iba po iyong may primary o iyong nagsasagawa. Iyong nag-e-execute po ng batas ay hindi ho sila sinama.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Sino po iyong nag-i-implement noong batas, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SALCEDA. Can I check on that? But my guess is—not my guess, but I think it is reasonable to assume that it is the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, PVAO.

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

REP. SALCEDA. PVAO.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay, iyong PVAO. So, hindi po included ang National Historical Commission sa paggagawa ng IRR. Ang ACT TEACHERS Party-List po, Mr. Speaker, ang primary author ng batas na ito, at iyong National Historical Commission po ay mayroon din pong awtoridad dito para makapag-participate at makapag-implement ng batas na ito.

REP. SALCEDA. Sa tingin ko, Mr. Speaker, may kaunting omisyon dito ang dinidepensahan ko, and I am giving them a direct instruction to—because the law specifically mandates, essentially the DepEd and the CHED, but it also requires the National Historical Commission to provide the public with the necessary information to ensure a meaningful observance of the holiday.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, Mr. Speaker, malinaw po na mayroong ding role.

REP. SALCEDA. I think we will insure that this is expeditiously and properly corrected, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, malinaw po, Mr. Speaker, na mayroong role din po iyong National Historical Commission.

REP. SALCEDA. Correct. I am amending ...

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Together with the Department of Education and CHED.

REP. SALCEDA. CHED.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, as of now, Mr. Speaker, wala pa pong nagagawang hakbang para magawa iyong IRR. Iyon po ba, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. SALCEDA. Apparently, Mr. Speaker,

because they are totally in the dark. We have abrogated too many laws, actually, in the Seventeenth Congress, but that is not an excuse. Iyong supervising department, I think we will definitely exercise the power of Congress on oversight to ensure the proper execution of that particular law.

So, ang naisip ko lang, sinabihan ko ang mga ito na may role sila kaya gawin nila kahit wala pang IRR. Hanapin nila kung saan niluluto iyong IRR at humingi po sila ng budget para mas masiguro na iyong kanilang kontribusyon ay sinabi para maging meaningful, and because this is a historical event that is being commemorated, obviously, it will involve the National Historical Commission.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Ang hiling na lang po ng Kinatawan na ito na, sa tulong po ng ating Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, ay magawa po natin na magkaroon tayo ng miting ng oversight para sa pagpapatupad ng measure. Siyempre po, iyong involved na mga ahensiya like iyong CHED at DepEd, dapat ay makatuwang natin doon sa pagpapagawa ng IRR at maisakatuparan na po ito. Napakahalagang, ano po, bahagi ito ng ating kasaysayan, at naka dalawang termino po ang ACT TEACHERS Party-List na ipaglaban ito para ma-commemorate ang araw na ito.

REP. SALCEDA. Opo.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Pangalawang point po, second to the last, ay iyon pong restoration ng Philippine history on basic education. Alam po ba, Mr. Speaker, ng ating butihing Sponsor na iyong Philippine history na dati po ay itinuturo sa high school ay itinuturo na lamang po sa elementary, Grades 1 to 6. Alam po ba ito ng ating National Historical Commission?

REP. SALCEDA. Alam po nila.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Isa sa mandato po ng National Historical Commission is to initiate, in cooperation with the appropriate government or private entity, and promote programs for the popularization of Philippine history such as, but not limited to, the integration of the subject of history into the school curriculum, among others. Nawala po sa kasaysayan sa curriculum ng basic education, na dati ay nasa first year po ito o iyong Grade 7. Noong ipinatupad po iyong DepEd Order No. 20, series of 2014, sa Grade 5, may ilang oras nalang ito, o 4 hours a day, at nakasingit sa Araling Panlipunan; sa Grade 7, Asian History instead an in-depth study about Philippine history; iyong sa Grade 8, naging World History; iyong sa Grade 9, naging Economics; at iyong sa Grade 10, ito ay naging Contemporary Issues.

Sumulat noong February 7, 2019, ang Philippine

Historical Association sa DepEd, at ganoon din po iyong Tanggol Kasaysayan na isa rin pong organisasyon, na sana po ay madagdagan iyong oras kung saan dini-devote natin iyong pag-aaral ng Philippine history, lalong-lalo na po sa high school, para hindi makalimutan iyong ating history. Siguro, ang puwede natin itanong—ano po ba iyong commitment ng ating National Historical Commission kaugnay sa issue na ito. Alam po ninyo, sa mga bansa sa ASEAN, sa iba't ibang bansa, hindi lang po sa elementary dini-discuss ang kanilang history at kung puwede, ay sa iba't ibang level pa.

REP. SALCEDA. Iyong totoong o tunay na kuwento po ay palagi nilang sinusubukan na magbigay po ng input sa DepEd pero parang ayaw ng DepEd na makialam sila.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Maaari po ba, Mr. Speaker, na in writing ay maka-request tayo sa NHC ng...

REP. SALCEDA. Proposal?

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). ... sulat para po ma-review iyong curriculum natin at malagay po doon iyong mga recommendations ng National Historical Commission sa DepEd.

REP. SALCEDA. All right.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Iri-raise ko rin po ito sa DepEd.

REP. SALCEDA. Sa Biyernes po, sabi sa akin ni Chairman, ay mag-uusap sila ni Liling upang mapag-usapan po ang mga ilang bagay—andito pa siya—at iri-raise niya po iyang intergration ng history sa ating mga textbooks.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Marami pong salamat. Sa ganoong assurance po ng ating Sponsor ay tinatapos ko na po ang interpelasyon sa NHC budget.

REP. SALCEDA. Salamat.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize from the First District of Agusan del Norte, Hon. Lawrence "Law" H. Fortun.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Hon. Lawrence Fortun of the First District of Agusan del Norte is recognized.

REP. FORTUN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Will the Gentleman yield to some questions or interpellation?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, definitely, Your Honor.

REP. FORTUN. Your Honor, I have a few questions sa Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino. Iyong mandato niya ay “to undertake, coordinate and promote researches for the development, propagation and preservation of Filipino and other Philippine languages.” Ang mahalagang vision ng Komisyon na ito ay para maging instrument ng national development ang ating Filipino language. Its mission is to promote the continued development and use of Filipino as a national language while preserving the indigenous languages of the Philippines towards a greater understanding, unity and prosperity of the Filipino people.

Ang tanong ko lang po, in the case of preservation of Filipino languages, how does the Commission categorize the different Filipino languages in terms of the state of these languages?

REP. SALCEDA. Mayroon pong safe, may endangered at mayroon pong institutionalized—institutionalized, safe, endangered.

REP. FORTUN. Institutional?

REP. SALCEDA. Institutionalized, it is in the Constitution, like English and Filipino.

REP. FORTUN. What else?

REP. SALCEDA. Those are the official languages under our Constitution.

REP. FORTUN. So, how many categories do we have?

REP. SALCEDA. Three.

REP. FORTUN. Three?

REP. SALCEDA. Institutionalized, safe and endangered.

REP. FORTUN. Can we please define “endangered”—how do we define “endangered languages”?

REP. SALCEDA. Kung ang isang lengguwahe po ay ginagamit lang ng mga matatanda at hindi na po naipapasa sa susunod na henerasyon. In technical terms, it is spoken by people above 60 years old only. That is their definition.

REP. FORTUN. How many endangered languages do we have right now?

REP. SALCEDA. Thirty-two.

REP. FORTUN. So, this is 32 out of how many, Your Honor, local languages do we have, all in all?

REP. SALCEDA. One hundred thirty.

REP. FORTUN. One hundred thirty and 32 of which are endangered...

REP. SALCEDA. Yes, endangered.

REP. FORTUN. Your 2020 NEP mentions 23 endangered languages instead of 32.

REP. SALCEDA. They have P20 million for the Language Revitalization Program. Ang pilosopiya po ay nasa lengguwahe po nakapaloob ang kultura at ang kasaysayan natin, so, hindi ho basta-basta natin pababayaan ito pong mga lengguwahe na nakukupas o nawawala na sa panahon na masi-sweep lang po ng bilis ng atin pong digital revolution. Importante po na gamitin iyong digital revolution mismo upang mapanatili ito kasi nandoon po ang kultura at kasaysayan natin, kaya mayroon po silang inilaan na P20 million—ang hinihingi nila P40 million, kaso, ang ibinigay lang po ng DBM ay P20 million—para po mabigyan po ng pansin ang revitalization ng 32 endangered languages.

REP. FORTUN. Ano pong mga interventions ang ginagawa ng Komisyon para maiwasan ang eventual extinction ng mga languages na ito? We are saying that, while these languages are still being used but are no longer passed on to the younger generations, but if we do not have concrete interventions in the next 10 years, these languages might become extinct. What concrete interventions are being done by the Commission, Your Honor?

REP. SALCEDA. Yes. Parang pagmamahal po, kailangan ay may love letter, at importante po na maisulat o ma-archive po digitally para po forever na po na available ang mga ito sa future generation. Pangalawa, iyong mga gawa po nila ay maisalin sa ibang wika katulad ng Ingles o Filipino para po mapasiguro natin kung ano po ang kahulugan noong mga salitang iyon. It is, in effect, a perpetuation of the meaning of those words based po doon sa lengguwahe nila at mayroon pa silang Bahay-Wika kung saan po ito ay inaalagaan—kumbaga naka-ICU. So, sinusubukan po na kung may isang grupo o ethnicity, so to speak, ay tinuturuan po iyong mga susunod na henerasyon habang iyong mga 60-year-olds ay nandidiyan pa. Inaagapan po natin na ang mga lengguwaheng ito ay maisalin sa bagong henerasyon.

REP. FORTUN. Maraming salamat po, Mr.

Speaker, Your Honor. Puwede ko pa po bang malaman, ilan po doon sa 32 endangered languages natin ang na-document na at naisalin sa ibang lengguwahe? How many have been documented and translated already as we speak, Your Honor?

REP. SALCEDA. May manuscript na po iyong 29, may isa pong active research called Bahay-Wika for one—well, I have done this myself when I was governor—ethnography, so basically, it captures from the community. I have spent a lot of time on ethnography because that is the basis for making a particular place or people unique. So, parang there is like a cultural mapping, essentially, utilizing ethnography. So, iyong 29 po ay may maliliit na studies para po ma-cover natin o magkaroon na ng ethnographic survey kung ano po iyong content ng 29 na mga wikang ito.

REP. FORTUN. So, when these 29 languages have already been documented and translated, we are talking of three more na hindi pa nagagawa.

REP. SALCEDA. Ongoing po siya.

REP. FORTUN. Kailan po kaya matatapos natin iyong tatlo pong natitira?

REP. SALCEDA. Binawasan lang po kasi kaya nga po 40. Halos tig-1 million sanang lahat ng wikang iyon para po magawa nga iyong tatlong bagay na iyon, iyong pagsasalin ng mga gawa nila; pangalawa, iyong etnograpiya, kung ano po iyong kanilang related customs po sa mga ginagamit nilang salita; at pangatlo, ang pagsasalin o pagte-train doon po, halimbawa, sa isang grupo ng komunidad kung saan nakapaloob iyong 60-year-old na, baka biglang atakihin sa puso ay doon na mamatay ang lengguwaheng iyon. So, definitely, doon sa isa na lengguwahe, isinasagawa na po sa Bahay-Wika iyong resuscitation ng isang wika, Ayta Magbukun, in Abucay, Bataan. May specificity naman po ang trabaho ng Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino.

REP. FORTUN. Gusto ko lang maging parochial nang kaunti po. Galing po ako sa Butuan City. Mayroon kaming sariling language doon, iyong Butuanon, na sa ngayon ay 5 percent na lang po ng population ang gumagamit at mukhang endangered ito, base doon sa definition ninyo dahil while this is being utilized by about 5 percent of the population, the same is no longer being passed on to the younger generation. Is the Butuanon part of the 32 endangered, Your Honor?

REP. SALCEDA. Hindi po.

REP. FORTUN. Why is this not part of the 32?

REP. SALCEDA. Ang ibig sabihin po, mayroon pang nagsasalita niyan na hindi 60 anyos but definitely po, para sa pagpapalaganap, wala naman pong pumipigil sa Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino, at bilang pag-pursue nga sa mga binigay natin sa kanila na trabaho para mas ma-achieve o mas mapayaman po ang ating kultura, ay hindi po sila aayaw kung bibigyan natin sila ng mas malaking resources para hindi lang 32, kundi pati po iyong mga tinatawag nating mga ibang wika na baka mag-dagdag tayo sa kanila ng isa pang category, na kung 5 percent lang, para makasiguro na hindi tayo maghahabol ng 60 anyos, puwede naman po nating habulin ang 40 anyos.

Samakatuwid, Your Honor, this Sponsor will definitely accept an instruction from any Member of the House who truly believes that it is in the best interest of the people to preserve as well as to popularize it or at least, for the sake of the distinctive ethnicity which is the basis for their unity, which is necessary po for the development and even for economic progress. So, Your Honor, I take that as a direct instruction on this floor. I am telling them to look at Butuanon as essentially considered not necessarily as a dying language, but probably to introduce a new category or basis for extinct language or endangered language—hindi lang po iyong 60 kundi when only 5 percent of the population speaks the language. I think that would be a basis for categorizing a language and therefore, deserving the intervention of the KWF.

REP. FORTUN. Yes, Your Honor. In fact, in our case, kung 5 percent na lang ang nagsasalita noon, mahaba na iyong 15 years, at magiging extinct na rin siya, and if you wait for that language to be endangered, based on your definition of what an endangered language is, baka too late na iyon. So, while still early, you might have to make the necessary interventions already.

I tried to browse the Internet, iyong Ethnologue: Languages of the World sa website. They said that there are actually not 130 but 185 languages in the Philippines and of these 185 languages, 183 are living and two are already extinct, and their categories are quite numerous compared to our three. Ang sabi nila, sa categories dito, they also have the institutionalized; they have the developing; they have what they call vigorous; they have what they call in trouble; at iyong dying. Siguro, kailangan tingnan natin iyong categories para mag-iba naman iyong approach natin sa preservation. What they are saying is that in the Philippines, of the 185, 39 are the institutionalized languages, 67 are developing, 38 are vigorous, 28 are in trouble, and 11 are dying and so, it appears that, based on the definition of the KWF, iyong falling under “in trouble” and “dying,” iyon ang mga endangered natin. They practically divided the endangered into two categories—“in trouble” and “dying.”

REP. SALCEDA. The Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino is in cognizance of the metrics used by UNESCO, but given the scarce resources that we entrusted to them, they only use three metrics instead of the nine that are essentially being utilized by UNESCO. If you use the nine, I think of the 1-3-2, virtually I would say 115—that is my estimate—would be endangered and therefore, would require much larger resources. So, it is a question really or it is a judgment call by this government, by us in Congress—it is a national goal, and I think it is properly a national goal to preserve our culture and history by essentially preserving the dynamic and robust languages of our people.

So, makikisama po ako sa inyo na, kung nagbibigay tayo ng P1 trillion sa DPWH, sa DOTr, pagkatapos, iyong P20 million ay pagtitikisan pa natin, siguro nasa tamang prayoridad po natin, at national priority natin, kung bibigyan natin sila. Kung hindi tayo nakaka-attract ng turista ay dahil po hindi natin mapagyaman ang ating uniqueness, distinctiveness and so, kasama po iyan sa pagiging distinctiveness po, iyong amazing array of languages that this country has.

REP. FORTUN. Thank you, Your Honor. Now, in the light of the alarming state of our Filipino languages, hindi po ba nakakabahala na ang dating budget nila na P144 million ay bumababa ng hindi kaunti kundi kalahati—from P144.799 million in the current year, they only have P72.81 million in 2020. That is a reduction of 50 percent.

REP. SALCEDA. This hall of Congress is honored by the presence of one Congresswoman, a former Senator, that essentially used institutional amendments in the Senate to increase it, so, actually, there is no decrease in the NEP but there is a decrease in the GAA. At the appropriate time, I believe the good Senator, now a Congresswoman, would make the necessary amendment to ensure that the level of operation of the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino will be retained, if not enhanced, Your Honor. So, that is the explanation.

REP. FORTUN. Your Honor, there is also a significant decrease in the regular MOOE of the Commission. From P38.113 million in 2019, P5.633 million na lang ito in 2020.

Why the very substantial decrease in the regular MOOE?

REP. SALCEDA. Congressional initiative is the answer. Before, it was NEP plus Congress plus amendment, and the current one is NEP with no amendment yet. So, there is a decrease. The DBM merely adjusted it to its original condition.

REP. FORTUN. May I know, Your Honor, how much the Commission originally proposed to the DBM for 2020?

REP. SALCEDA. It was P570 million. Okay naman, pero may budget po iyon na building so, iyon po, P570 million. Hindi naman ho nagkulang kasi nga iyong P547...

REP. FORTUN. So, Your Honor, the proposed P570 million—from the P144 million in 2019, you proposed an increase to P570 million?

REP. SALCEDA. Kasi nga po iyong P140 million last year, mayroon pong institutional amendment by the Senate, so, iyong actual budget nila was P70 million without insertion, without amendment. Dinagdagan lang po nila ng P500 million. Kung iisipin po, maganda po ang ginawa natin dito dahil isa lang po sila sa mga katangi-tanging ahensiya na binigyan ng bagong building sa buong bukrasya ng Pilipinas.

REP. FORTUN. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I believe that the Sponsor has committed to push for the retention, at least, of the current budget for 2020. I hope that the Senate will recognize the need for the Commission to have a sufficient budget because the effect of losing our local languages is vast, and the impact on our communities is enormous. We will lose not only our identity and culture, we will lose indigenous knowledge, we will lose our history.

REP. SALCEDA. Yes.

REP. FORTUN. It is important that our government does not lose sight of the importance of the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. It appears that there is no more Member from the Minority who wishes to interpellate on the budgets of the National Historical Commission and the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino. I respectfully move that we terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the two agencies.

REP. SALCEDA. Thank you.

REP. FORTUN. Thank you, and good evening.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize from the Second District of Cagayan de Oro, Hon. Rufus B. Rodriguez.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). Excuse me. The Chair would like to recognize Hon. Rufus Rodriguez of the Second District of Cagayan de Oro City for his manifestation.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you very much to the distinguished Speaker who comes from the paradise island of Mindanao, and also the distinguished Sponsor, my good friend, Congressman Salceda.

I wish first to acknowledge and thank the NCCA, our Director and head, Dr. Almario, who is still here with us tonight as the Chairperson of the Commission on the Filipino Language. I would like also to acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, the very distinguished and very workaholic Commissioner, the Chairman of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, Dr. Rene Escalante, for the record, and also Deputy Executive Director III Carmina Arevalo. Together with Chairman Almario of NCCA, I would like to acknowledge also for the record, Marichu Tellano, Deputy Director of the NCCA.

Mr. Speaker, during the hearing on House Bill No. 2797, a House bill to establish a museum and a cultural center in Cagayan de Oro City, the NCCA was present, the National Historical Commission was present, and the National Museum through Jeremy Barns was likewise present. In that hearing, I saw and I heard the support of these agencies to establish, in Cagayan de Oro City, the Cagayan de Oro Cultural Center and Museum. In view of that, may I express, therefore, the gratitude of the people of Cagayan de Oro to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, headed by Dr. Almario with Deputy Director Marichu Tellano. We would also like to thank the National Historical Commission, headed by Dr. Rene Escalante as Chairman, and Carmina Arevalo, Deputy Executive Director. They have supported that Bill and that Bill has been approved. Therefore, it is my duty on behalf of the City of Cagayan de Oro to express tonight, not only the full support of the people of Cagayan de Oro and the Second District of Cagayan de Oro, but to also be able, in this particular plenary deliberation, to manifest that the budgets of these very important bodies for our country, namely, the NCCA, the National Historical Commission, and the National Museum, be increased threefold, Mr. Speaker.

Therefore, with that manifestation, I would like to end this manifestation because I promised our Majority Leader Martin Romualdez that I will not take more than one minute, and I only took 59 seconds.

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

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we join the Minority in the motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budgets of the Commission on the Filipino Language and of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines.

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

The Chair would, therefore, commend the distinguished Gentleman from Albay, Hon. Joey Salceda, for sponsoring and ably defending eight executive offices.

Thank you very much. Congratulations.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4228

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 4228.

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

Before proceeding, the Chair takes note that it is now 11:28 p.m. In behalf of our dynamic Speaker, the Chair would like to thank all the Members present, the staff and the officers of the different government agencies for staying until this time of the night. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider local bills under the Calendar of Business for Thursday and Friday. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to our rules, allow me to put forth an omnibus motion for the consideration of the following measures:

1. House Bill No. 4599, contained in Committee Report No. 15;
2. House Bill No. 4600, contained in Committee Report No. 16;
3. House Bill No. 4601, contained in Committee Report No. 17;
4. House Bill No. 4602, contained in Committee Report No. 18; and
5. House Bill No. 4603, contained in Committee Report No. 19.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider the respective Explanatory Notes of the bills as the sponsorship speeches on the said measures.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate on or speak against the said local bills, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate thereon.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments and approve the Committee amendments, if any, as contained in the respective committee reports of the aforementioned bills.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, there being no individual amendments, I move that we terminate the period of amendments.

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

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading the following:

1. House Bill No. 4599, contained in Committee Report No. 15;
2. House Bill No. 4600, contained in Committee Report No. 16;

3. House Bill No. 4601, contained in Committee Report No. 17;

4. House Bill No. 4602, contained in Committee Report No. 18; and

5. House Bill No. 4603, contained in Committee Report No. 19.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). As many as are in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). As many as are against, please say *Nay*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The ayes have it; the motion is approved.*

The aforementioned local bills are, therefore, approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session until one o'clock in the afternoon tomorrow.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Oaminal). The session is suspended until one o'clock, in the afternoon tomorrow, September 17, 2019.

Thank you.

It was 11:31 p.m.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)