



# Journal of the House of Representatives

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
2019 - 2020**

**JOURNAL NO. 43  
Wednesday, February 12, 2020**

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

**JOURNAL NO. 43**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Mujiv S. Hataman called the session to order.

**PRAYER AND NATIONAL ANTHEM**

The Members observed a minute of silent prayer and thereafter sang the National Anthem.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Rep. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II, the Chair suspended the session at 3:01 p.m.

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 3:35 p.m., the session resumed.

**ROLL CALL**

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Ria Christina G. Fariñas, there being no objection, the Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll and the following Members were present:

Abante	Babasa	Calixto	Ferrer (L.)
Abaya	Bagatsing	Caminero	Flores
Abu	Balindong	Campos	Fortun
Abunda	Bañas-Nogralles	Canama	Fortuno
Acop	Barba	Cari	Gaite
Acosta	Bascug	Castelo	Garbin
Acosta-Alba	Bautista	Castro (F.L.)	Garcia (J.E.)
Advincula	Belmonte	Castro (F.H.)	Garcia (P.J.)
Agabas	Benitez	Cayetano (A.P.)	Garcia (V.)
Agarao	Bernos	Cayetano (M.L.)	Garin (S.)
Aglipay	Biazon	Celeste	Gasataya
Aguinaldo	Billones	Chatto	Gatchalian
Almario	Bolilia	Chipeco	Geron
Alvarez (G.)	Bondoc	Chungalao	Go (E.C.)
Amante-Matba	Bordado	Co (A.N.)	Go (M.)
Amatong	Brosas	Collantes	Gonzales (A.)
Angara	Cabatbat	Crisologo	Gonzales (N.)
Aragones	Cabochan	Cua	Gorriceta
Arenas	Cabredo	Cuaresma	Guya
Arroyo	Cagas	Cueva	Hataman
Atienza	Calderon	Cullamat	Herrera-Dy
		Dagooc	Hofer
		Dalipe	Jalosjos
		Dalog	Kho (E.)
		Datol	Labadlabad
		Daza	Lacson-Noel
		De Jesus	Lagman
		de Venecia	Lagon
		Defensor (L.)	Lara
		Defensor (M.)	Leachon
		Del Mar	Legarda
		Delos Santos	Lim
		Dimaporo (A.)	Loyola
		Duterte	Lusotan
		Dy (F.)	Macapagal Arroyo
		Dy (F.M.C.)	Maceda
		Ebcas	Madrona
		Elago	Malapitan
		Enverga	Marcoleta
		Erice	Mariano-Hernandez
		Eriguel	Mariño
		Escudero	Marquez
		Espina	Martinez
		Fariñas (R.C.)	Matba
		Fernandez	Matugas
		Fernando	Mendoza
		Ferrer (J.M.)	Momo

Natividad-Nagaño	Santos-Recto
Nieto	Sarmiento
Noel	Savellano
Nogralas (J.F.F.)	Silverio
Nolasco	Singson-Meehan
Ong (J.)	Suansing (E.)
Ong (R.)	Suansing (H.)
Ortega	Suarez (A.)
Ouano-Dizon	Suarez (D.)
Pacquiao (A.)	Suntay
Paduano	Taduran
Palma	Tallado
Pancho	Tejada
Panotes	Teves (A.)
Peña	Teves (J.)
Pimentel	Tiangco
Puno	Tolentino
Quimbo	Tulfo
Radaza	Ty (D.)
Ramirez-Sato	Umali (A.)
Ramos	Umali (M.V.)
Remulla	Unabia
Revilla	Ungab
Reyes	Uy (R.)
Rivera	Valeriano
Robes	Veloso
Rodriguez	Vergara
Romero	Villafuerte
Romualdez (F.M.)	Villanueva (E.)
Romualdez (Y.M.)	Villanueva (N.)
Romualdo	Villaraza-Suarez
Romulo	Villarica
Sacdalan	Violago
Sagarbarria	Yap (E.)
Salimbangon	Yu
Salo	Zamora (R.)
Sanchez	Zubiri
Sangcopan	

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Hataman relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Pablo John F. Garcia.*

With 211 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See Appendix)

## **MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA**

Representative Jose L. Atienza Jr. called the attention of the Body about the 211 roll call count of the Secretariat which he claimed did not tally with his count of 127. He asked for the whereabouts of other Members, citing physical presence as important to constitute a quorum and conduct business.

On recognition by the Chair, Representative Palma cited Section 71, Rule XI of the Provisional House Rules which provides that Members are deemed present when they are (1) attending committee meetings as authorized by the Committee on Rules; (2) attending meetings of the Commission on Appointments, House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal, or a bicameral conference committee and (3) on official mission as approved by the Speaker. He then enumerated the number of Members who were attending the said meetings and were on official foreign and local travels.

Representative Atienza said that he was not satisfied with the response of Representative Palma because the figure was still short of 40. He then requested for a copy of the authorization letters of those deemed present and moved for the suspension of the session.

## **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Palma, the Chair suspended the session at 3:54 p.m.

## **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 3:57 p.m., the session resumed

## **MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA** (Continuation)

Upon resumption of session, Representative Atienza emphasized the need to be consistent in applying the same rule in determining the presence of a quorum, even as he mentioned the adjournment of the previous session for lack of quorum. He said that he had already read the authorization letters of Members who were not present in the Session Hall and reminded the Body that he would time and again verify the attendance of the Members in observance of the House Rules.

The Chair noted the withdrawal and remarks of Representative Atienza while Representative Palma thanked Representative Atienza for stressing adherence to the House Rules.

## **APPROVAL OF JOURNAL NOS. 41 AND 42**

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body approved Journal No. 41 dated February 10, 2020 and Journal No. 42 dated February 11, 2020.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Representative Palma acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Reps. Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Hector S. Sanchez, Rosanna “Ria” Vergara, Romeo S. Momo Sr., and Edgar M. Chatto.

## REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read on First Reading the titles of the following Bills and Resolutions, including the Communications, and Committee Reports, which were referred to the appropriate committees indicated hereunder:

### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6217, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE FULL AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME INSTRUMENTS OF WHICH THE PHILIPPINES IS A STATE PARTY”

By Representatives Gonzalez (Sandro), Lusotan and Duterte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6219, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH POWERS TO SET MAXIMUM PRICES FOR MEDICALLY NECESSARY ASSISTIVE EQUIPMENT AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9502, REQUIRING THE NEGOTIATION OF PRICES FOR MEDICINES, MEDICALLY NECESSARY ASSISTIVE EQUIPMENT, AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Salceda  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6220, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN BRGY. MALABOG, PAQUIBATO DISTRICT

LOCATED IN THE 2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT OF DAVAO CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Garcia (Vincent)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6221, entitled:

“AN ACT CODIFYING THE ALTERNATIVE CHILD CARE LAWS, REORGANIZING THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION BOARD INTO THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR CHILD CARE, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (Alyssa)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 6223, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS IN THE FORM OF SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO THE ORPHANED CHILDREN OF UNIFORMED GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lara  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6224, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR DORMITORIES OR HOUSING QUARTERS FOR TEACHERS TEACHING IN FAR FLUNG AREAS, LAST MILE SCHOOLS AND STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 6225, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF POTABLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS IN EVERY BARANGAY ALL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WITHIN THREE YEARS”

By Representative Delos Santos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6226, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN, FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES, PROVIDING FOR

ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cabatbat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON  
AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6229, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FIRST  
DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN  
THE CITY OF SAN CARLOS, PROVINCE  
OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Valmayor

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND  
HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6230, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY  
OF NAVAL IN THE PROVINCE OF  
BILIRAN INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO  
BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF NAVAL”

By Representative Espina

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6231, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING MECHANISMS  
TO AUGMENT AND SUPPORT THE  
TEACHING WORKFORCE AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Salceda

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND  
CULTURE

House Bill No. 6232, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING KAANGRIAN FALLS  
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BURGOS,  
PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE, AS A  
TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING  
FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Fariñas (Ria) and Fariñas  
(Rudys Caesar)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 6233, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MARUAYA FARM  
TOURISM AND AGRO-INDUSTRIAL SITE  
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PIDDIG,  
PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE, AS A  
TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING

FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Fariñas (Ria) and Fariñas  
(Rudys Caesar)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 6234, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE LAMMIN  
COFFEE PLANTATION LOCATED IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF PIDDIG, PROVINCE  
OF ILOCOS NORTE, AS A TOURIST  
DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS  
DEVELOPMENT, AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Fariñas (Ria) and Fariñas  
(Rudys Caesar)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 6235, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING A PORTION OF  
THE LAND, EMBRACED UNDER  
PROCLAMATION NO. 508 AND  
PROCLAMATION NO. 532 AS ALIENABLE  
AND DISPOSABLE TO THE ACTUAL  
BONA FIDE OCCUPANTS THEREOF”

By Representative Roman

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6236, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE  
BOXING AND COMBAT SPORTS  
COMMISSION AND PROVIDING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”

By Representative Olivarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON  
GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 6237, entitled:

“AN ACT REORGANIZING THE COUNCIL  
FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN  
INTO THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION  
ON CHILDREN, APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Olivarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 6238, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL DAM  
SAFETY PROGRAM, ESTABLISHING THE  
NATIONAL DAM SAFETY AUTHORITY,



PENALIZING VIOLATIONS THEREFOR  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Dalipe

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND  
THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND  
HIGHWAYS

NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10667, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE 'PHILIPPINE  
COMPETITION ACT' ”

By Representative Garin (Sharon)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 6239, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE PERSONNEL  
ECONOMIC RELIEF ALLOWANCE OF  
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS”

By Representative Delos Santos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6240, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ECONOMIC  
ZONE AND FREEPORT IN THE PROVINCE  
OF SOUTHERN LEYTE CREATING FOR  
THIS PURPOSE THE SOUTHERN LEYTE  
ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT  
AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Mercado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND  
THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 6241, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA)  
TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION  
CENTER IN MONTALBAN (RODRIGUEZ),  
PROVINCE OF RIZAL, TO BE KNOWN  
AS THE MONTALBAN TESDA TRAINING  
AND ACCREDITATION CENTER AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Nograles (Juan)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6242, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE  
KNOWN AS BARANGAY APAD IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF JOMALIG, PROVINCE  
OF QUEZON”

By Representative Enverga

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6243, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE POWERS  
OF THE PHILIPPINE COMPETITION  
COMMISSION AND LEGISLATING THE

## RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 703, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE  
NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA) TO  
IDENTIFY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
UNITS COMMITTED TO ATTAINING  
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS AND RECOMMEND TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PURPOSE  
OF GRANTING CONGRESSIONAL  
COMMENDATION”

By Representative Dimaporo (Khalid)

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

House Resolution No. 704, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INQUIRY  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO DETERMINE  
IF THERE WAS MALFEASANCE,  
MISFEASANCE, OR NONFEASANCE ON  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE METRO  
MANILA SKYWAY (MMS) STAGE 3”

By Representative Delos Santos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 705, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND  
FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF QUARANTINE  
PROCEDURES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE AND THE INSPECTION  
OF COLD STORAGE WAREHOUSES  
AND CONTAINER VANS WHICH ARE  
POSSIBLE SOURCES OF THE OUTBREAK  
OF THE AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN THE  
COUNTRY”

By Representative Unabia

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 706, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING ALL  
MAJOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

ESTABLISHMENTS TO INSTALL  
THERMAL SCANNERS IN ORDER TO  
DETECT ANY POTENTIAL CARRIER  
OF THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS  
(nCoV)”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

COMMUNICATIONS

2018 Annual Report of the Philippine National  
Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION

Letter dated 29 January 2020 of Benjamin E. Diokno,  
Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP),  
submitting their Report to Congress on Public  
Sector Foreign Loans approved by the BSP in  
the Fourth Quarter of 2019 and the entire year.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL  
INTERMEDIARIES

Letters dated 29 January 2020 and 4 February 2020 of  
Janice G. Ayson-Zales, Deputy Director, Office  
of the General Counsel and Legal Services,  
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), furnishing  
the House of Representatives with duly certified  
and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. Circular Letter No. CL-2020-007 dated 21  
January 2020; and
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2020-008 dated 29  
January 2020.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL  
INTERMEDIARIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral  
Reforms (Committee Report No. 227), re H.B.  
No. 6252, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ELECTION  
SPENDING LIMITS, DETERMINING  
ELECTION CONTRIBUTION LIMITS,  
AND ADJUSTING THEM PERIODICALLY  
BASED ON THE CURRENT INFLATION  
RATE AND THE CONSUMER PRICE  
INDEX”

recommending its approval in substitution of  
House Bill No. 3090

Sponsors: Representatives Ferrer (Juliet) and  
Garcia (Pablo John)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Legislative  
Franchises (Committee Report No. 228), re  
H.B. No. 6254, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER  
TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE  
FRANCHISE GRANTED TO FBS RADIO  
NETWORK, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 8114, ENTITLED 'AN ACT  
GRANTING FBS RADIO NETWORK,  
INC. A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH,  
CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, MAINTAIN  
AND OPERATE COMMERCIAL RADIO  
AND TELEVISION STATION IN THE  
PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES' ”

recommending its approval in substitution of  
House Bill No. 5361

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (Franz) and  
Benitez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Legislative Franchises  
(Committee Report No. 229), re H.B. No. 6255,  
entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER  
TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE  
FRANCHISE GRANTED TO ROMEO  
CABRESTANTE SERVANDO, PRESENTLY  
KNOWN AS ROLIN BROADCASTING  
ENTERPRISES, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 8202, ENTITLED 'AN ACT  
GRANTING ROMEO CABRESTANTE  
SERVANDO, A FRANCHISE TO  
CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH,  
OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO  
AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING  
STATIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF  
PALAWAN' ”

recommending its approval in substitution of  
House Bill No. 4162

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (Franz), Abueg-  
Zaldivar and Acosta

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Legislative Franchises  
(Committee Report No. 230), re H.B. No. 6256,  
entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER  
TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE  
FRANCHISE GRANTED TO CENTURY  
COMMUNICATIONS MARKETING  
CENTER, INC., DOING BUSINESS UNDER  
THE NAME AND STYLE OF CENTURY  
BROADCASTING NETWORK, UNDER

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8133, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING CENTURY COMMUNICATIONS MARKETING CENTER, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES' ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5154

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (Franz) and Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### **ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

##### **RESOLUTION**

House Resolution No. 711, entitled:

“RESOLUTION HONORING THE HEROISM, COURAGE AND GREAT COMPASSION OF THE 10-MEMBER PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TEAM THAT REPATRIATED THE DISTRESSED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN WUHAN CITY, EPICENTER OF THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19”

By Representatives Cayetano (Alan Peter), Romualdez (Ferdinand) and Abante

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 154 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 137**

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 137 contained in Committee Report No. 154 as reported out by the Committee on Welfare of Children.

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

“AN ACT IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, AS AMENDED.”

As he stated the parliamentary status of the Bill, Representative Palma then proceed to the period of amendments.

#### **TERMINATION OF PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS**

There being no committee or individual amendments, on motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of amendments.

#### **APPROVAL ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 137**

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body approved House Bill No. 137 on Second Reading through *viva voce* voting.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 5 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 78**

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 78 contained in Committee Report No. 5 as reported out by the Committee on Economic Affairs.

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

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEFINITION OF PUBLIC UTILITY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 146, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'PUBLIC SERVICE ACT', AS AMENDED.”

Representative Palma stated that the Bill was in the period of sponsorship and debate and on his motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Sharon S. Garin, chairperson of the sponsoring Committee, to defend the measure and Rep. Edcel C. Lagman to continue his interpellation.

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

Representatives Lagman and Garin (S.) discussed the present applicable constitutional provision on the ownership, operation, control, and management of public utilities as well as the similarities or difference in the same provision under the 1987, 1973, and 1935 Constitutions.

Representative Garin sought permission to check the exact provisions of the different constitutions.



Representative Lagman agreed thereto provided that his allotted time for interpellation would not be reduced.

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Palma, the Chair suspended the session at 4:17 p.m.

### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 4:18 p.m. with Deputy Speaker Hataman presiding.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN**

(Continuation)

Representative Garin (S.) stated the similarities in each of the version of the constitutions which includes foreign equity limitation, nonexclusive nature of the franchise, and the franchise is subject to amendment or alteration.

Thereafter, Representative Lagman asked about the principal reason for reserving 60 percent of ownership and operation of public utilities to Filipinos under the 1935, 1973, and 1987 Constitutions; cited Supreme Court rulings which mentioned, among others protectionism, national patrimony and economy, as reasons for the foreign equity limitation; and asked whether the *Garcia vs. Executive Secretary* case mentioned by the Sponsor pertained to public utility.

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Palma, the Chair suspended the session at 4:26 p.m.

### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 4:30 p.m.

### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN**

(Continuation)

Upon resumption of session, Representatives Lagman and Garin (S.) talked about the Public Service Act of 1936, which the former said was the first law on the ownership, operation, management and control of public utilities by Filipinos; its applicability at present; and the Bill's intent to update certain provisions of the said law.

With regard to Representative Lagman's previous query on the *Garcia vs. Executive Secretary* case, the Sponsor clarified that it dealt with the constitutionality of foreign investments and not specifically of public utilities.

Thereafter, the Members discussed the distinction between public utility and public service under the 1935, 1973, and 1987 Constitutions as well as the Public Service Act. Adverting to Supreme Court rulings, they debated on whether public utility can be equated with public service. Representative Lagman said that differentiating the two through the proposed measure could be a violation of the constitutional limitation on foreign ownership. Subsequently, they discussed the basis for determining certain industries as public utility; and the presence of natural monopoly and competition in industries such as transportation, water, electricity, and telecommunications.

They then argued on how the Bill would affect the current Constitutional limitation on both foreign ownership and foreign operation. Representative Lagman emphasized that the 1987 Constitution stipulates that public utilities should be owned and operated by Filipinos, the capital of which should be at least 60 percent Filipino-owned; and that there is no distinction between ownership and operation in this regard.

The Sponsor explained that the measure does not provide a distinction between ownership and operation, and said that Representative Lagman is welcome to propose his amendments on the matter at the proper time.

### **REMINDER FROM THE CHAIR**

At this point, the Chair requested Representative Lagman to wrap up his interpellation as the time provided to him had already elapsed.

### **REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN**

Representative Lagman stated however that he had several other Constitution-related queries that he would like to ask the Sponsor.

### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Thereupon, the session was suspended at 5:10 p.m. upon motion of Representative Palma.

### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 5:17 p.m.

**INTERPELLATION OF  
REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN**  
(Continuation)

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Hataman relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Johnny Ty Pimentel.*

Recognized anew by the Chair, Representative Lagman sought clarification on the factors that influence entry of foreign investments, which he stressed do not include the removal of the citizenship or nationality requirement for particular corporations. He then requested to be furnished with a copy of the study by the National Economic and Development Authority regarding the same.

Subsequently, Representative Lagman asked whether the Sponsor had coauthored resolutions in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Congresses seeking to amend the economic provisions of the Constitution, as he pointed out that such action was a clear confirmation that Section 11 of Article XII can only be changed or abandoned through a proper mode of amending the Constitution.

In closing, he said that he would reserve his other comments, most likely with his negative vote, on the Bill during its consideration on Third and final reading.

**TERMINATION OF PERIOD  
OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE**

There being no other interpellations, on motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate.

**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION  
ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 78**

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 78.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

At this point, Representative Palma acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Reps. Rufus B. Rodriguez and Christian S. Unabia.

**ADOPTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 711**

Thereupon, on successive motions of Rep. Tyrone D. Agabas, there being no objection, the Body considered House Resolution No. 711, entitled:

“RESOLUTION HONORING THE HEROISM, COURAGE AND GREAT COMPASSION OF THE 10-MEMBER PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TEAM THAT REPATRIATED THE DISTRESSED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN WUHAN CITY, EPICENTER OF THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19”; dispensed with the reading of the text of the measure without prejudice to its insertion into the records of the House, as copies thereof had been distributed to the Members; and unanimously adopted the same.

**CHANGE OF REFERRAL  
OF HOUSE MEASURES**

On motion of Representative Agabas, there being no objection, the Body changed the referral of the following measures to the committees specified hereunder:


1. House Bill No. 370 – from the Committee on Social Services to the Committee on Disaster Management;
2. House Bill Nos. 868, 2297, and 5516 and House Resolution No. 612 – from the Committee on Population and Family Relations to the Committee on Welfare of Children;
3. House Bill Nos. 3071 and 3239– from the Committees on Trade and Industry and Economic Affairs to the Committees on Economic Affairs and Trade and Industry;
4. House Bill Nos. 451, 1543, and 3104 – from the Committee on Ways and Means to the Committee on Appropriations;
5. House Bill No. 5456 – from the Committee on Public Works and Highways to the Special Committee on Flagship Programs and Projects;
6. House Bill No. 5466 – from the Committee on Agriculture and Food to the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources;
7. House Bill No. 6157 – from the Committee on Basic Education and Culture to the Committee on Labor and Employment; and
8. House Bill No. 6162 – from the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization to the Committee on Economic Affairs.

**ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

Subsequently, on motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, February 17, 2020.

It was 5:28 p.m.

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I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

  
**JOSE LUIS G. MONTALES**  
Secretary General

Approved on February 17, 2020.

Congress of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Philippines

**MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE**

*Journal No. 43*

**Wednesday, February 12, 2020**

ABANTE	** BORDADO	DUTERTE
ABAYA	*** BRAVO	DY (F.)
**** ABELLANOSA	BROSAS	DY (F.M.C.)
** ABU	**** BULUT	**** DY (I.P.)
*** ABUEG-ZALDIVAR	*** BUSTOS	EBCAS
ABUNDA	CABATBAT	*** ECLEO
ACOP	** CABOCHAN	ELAGO
ACOSTA	CABREDO	ENVERGA
ACOSTA-ALBA	** CAGAS	ERICE
**** ADIONG	CALDERON	ERIGUEL
** ADVINCULA	CALIXTO	**** ERMITA-BUHAIN
AGABAS	CAMINERO	ESCUDERO
** AGARAO	CAMPOS	ESPINA
AGLIPAY	CANAMA	*** ESPINO
AGUINALDO	**** CAOAGDAN	**** ESTRELLA
* ALBANO	CARI	FARIÑAS (R.C.)
** ALMARIO	CASTELO	**** FARIÑAS I (R.C.)
**** ALONTE	CASTRO (F.L.)	FERNANDEZ
**** ALVAREZ (F.)	CASTRO (F.H.)	FERNANDO
** ALVAREZ (G.)	CAYETANO (A.P.)	FERRER (J.M.)
**** ALVAREZ (P.)	CAYETANO (M.L.)	** FERRER (L.)
AMANTE-MATBA	CELESTE	FLORES
AMATONG	CHATTO	FORTUN
*** ANDAYA	** CHIPECO	FORTUNO
ANGARA	CHUNGALAO	*** FRASCO
ARAGONES	** CO (A.N.)	**** FUENTEBELLA
*** ARBISON	**** CO (E.)	** GAITE
ARENAS	**** COJUANGCO	GARBIN
** ARROYO	** COLLANTES	GARCIA (J.E.)
ATIENZA	CRISOLOGO	GARCIA (P.J.)
**** AUMENTADO	CUA	GARCIA (V.)
BABASA	CUARESMA	* GARIN (J.)
BAGATSING	CUEVA	GARIN (S.)
BALINDONG	CULLAMAT	GASATAYA
BAÑAS-NOGRALES	DAGOOC	GATCHALIAN
BARBA	DALIPE	**** GATO
**** BARBERS	DALOG	** GERON
**** BARONDA	DATOL	GO (E.C.)
**** BARZAGA	DAZA	GO (M.)
BASCUG	DE JESUS	*** GONZAGA
BAUTISTA	DE VENECIA	GONZALES (A.)
*** BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN	** DEFENSOR (L.)	** GONZALES (N.)
BELMONTE	** DEFENSOR (M.)	* GONZALEZ
BENITEZ	DEL MAR	GORRICETA
BERNOS	DELOS SANTOS	**** GUICO
BIAZON	* DELOSO-MONTALLA	**** GULLAS
BILLONES	DIMAPORO (A.)	GUYA
* BIRON	*** DIMAPORO (M.K.)	* HARESCO
** BOLILIA	* DUAVIT	HATAMAN
BONDOC	**** DUJALI	**** HERNANDEZ

HERRERA-DY		OUANO-DIZON	SUAREZ (D.)
HOFER		PACQUIAO (A.)	SUNTAY
JALOSJOS	****	PACQUIAO (R.)	* SY-ALVARADO
*** JAVIER	****	PADIERNOS	TADURAN
*** JIMENEZ	**	PADUANO	TALLADO
KHO (E.)		PALMA	* TAMBUNTING
***** KHO (W.)		PANCHO	**** TAN (A.S.)
***** KHONGHUN		PANOTES	**** TAN (A.)
LABADLABAD		PEÑA	**** TAN (SAMIER)
*** LACSON	*	PICHAY	* TAN (S.A.)
LACSON-NOEL		PIMENTEL	**** TAN (SHERNEE)
LAGMAN	***	PINEDA	TEJADA
LAGON	****	PLAZA	** TEVES (A.)
LARA		PUNO	TEVES (J.)
*** LAZATIN		QUIMBO	TIANGCO
LEACHON		RADAZA	TOLENTINO
** LEGARDA	**	RAMIREZ-SATO	*** TORRES-GOMEZ
LIM		RAMOS	TULFO
*** LIMKAICHONG		REMULLA	*** TUPAS
***** LOPEZ		REVILLA	**** TUTOR
LOYOLA		REYES	*** TY (A.)
LUSOTAN		RIVERA	TY (D.)
MACAPAGAL ARROYO		ROBES	UMALI (A.)
MACEDA	**	RODRIGUEZ	UMALI (M.V.)
MADRONA	*	ROMAN	UNABIA
MALAPITAN	**	ROMERO	UNGAB
*** MANGAOANG		ROMUALDEZ (F.M.)	* UY (J.)
* MANGUDADATU	**	ROMUALDEZ (Y.M.)	UY (R.)
** MARCOLETA		ROMUALDO	VALERIANO
MARIANO-HERNANDEZ		ROMULO	**** VALMAYOR
MARIÑO	****	ROQUE	* VARGAS
MARQUEZ		SACDALAN	**** VARGAS ALFONSO
MARTINEZ	**	SAGARBARRIA	**** VELASCO
MATBA	***	SAKALURAN	** VELOSO
MATUGAS	***	SALCEDA	VERGARA
MENDOZA		SALIMBANGON	* VILLA
***** MERCADO		SALO	** VILLAFUERTE
MOMO		SANCHEZ	** VILLANUEVA (E.)
NATIVIDAD-NAGAÑO	**	SANGCOPAN	VILLANUEVA (N.)
* NAVA	**	SANTOS-RECTO	**** VILLAR
NIETO		SARMIENTO	VILLARAZA-SUAREZ
** NOEL	*	SAULOG	VILLARICA
***** NOGRALES (J.J.)		SAVELLANO	VIOLAGO
NOGRALES (J.F.F.)	****	SIAO	YAP (E.)
NOLASCO		SILVERIO	**** YAP (V.)
*** NUÑEZ-MALANYAON	****	SINGSON	YU
***** OAMINAL		SINGSON-MEEHAN	** ZAMORA (R.)
*** OLIVAREZ	*	SINSUAT	*** ZAMORA (W.K.)
ONG (J.)		SUANSING (E.)	**** ZARATE
ONG (R.)		SUANSING (H.)	ZUBIRI
ORTEGA		SUAREZ (A.)	

\* Appeared after the Roll Call

\*\* Section 71, Rule XI of the Rules of the House

(Attended committee meetings as authorized by the Committee on Rules/Attended meetings of the CA, HRET, or bicameral conference committees/

On official mission as approved by the Speaker)

\*\*\* Officially notified the House, through the Secretariat, of their absence

\*\*\*\* Absent without notice

(Subject to correction/s that may appear in the Annual Journal)