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**JOURNAL NO. 34
Wednesday, January 22, 2020
Batangas City Convention Center**

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CALL TO ORDER

Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano called the session to order at 1:34 p.m. in Batangas City Convention Center.

INVOCATION AND NATIONAL ANTHEM

Rep. Ma. Theresa V. Collantes led the invocation and thereafter, the Members sang the National Anthem.

**REMARKS OF
MAJORITY LEADER ROMUALDEZ (F.M.)**

Majority Leader Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez initially stated that the Members were ready to listen to Speaker Cayetano’s (A.P.) opening remarks. He pointed out that the historic gathering of the House Members of the 18th Congress in Batangas City, which is a venue of evacuation and relief operations for the victims of the Taal Volcano eruption, is a demonstration of *malasakit* as initiated by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, as well as a proper venue to institute reform by creating a Department of Disaster Resilience, with the hope to prevent casualties during calamities, minimize and mitigate any damage, and establish a stronger republic pursuant to the President’s call for a safer and more comfortable life for every Filipino.

**OPENING REMARKS
OF SPEAKER CAYETANO (A.P.)**

Speaker Cayetano said that the holding of session in Batangas City was a manifestation of love, concern, and support of the House of Representatives for the people of Batangas, including Cavite and Laguna. He then thanked President Duterte, Cabinet Secretaries Eduardo M. Año and Delfin N. Lorenzana, Governor Hermilando “Dodo” I. Mandanas, Vice Governor Jose Antonio “Mark” Leviste II, and the nine mayors of Batangas province particularly Batangas City Mayor Beverly Rose A. Dimacuha-Mariño and all the first responders, for their immediate and quick response to the Taal Volcano eruption. He expressed hope that the first session of the House outside the Batasang Pambansa would result in a clear vision of what needs to be done for disaster response, relief, and rehabilitation.

After informing the Members that they will be listening that afternoon to representatives of the Taal evacuees, barangay chairpersons, and mayors, the Speaker then thanked the media for their coverage of the Taal Volcano eruption especially during the first day of the disaster. He stressed that the best way to show the gratitude of Congress is through concrete actions. Lastly, he thanked the deputy speakers and the Committee on Rules.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUEST SPEAKERS

Thereupon, Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.) acknowledged the presence of the following guest speakers: Barangay Chairperson Jocelyn T. Bayanay of Alas-as, San Nicolas, Batangas; Mayor Daniel D. Reyes of Agoncillo, Batangas; Mayor Lester D. De Sagun of San Nicolas Batangas; and local government officials under the district of Representative Collantes.

**MOTION OF
MAJORITY LEADER ROMUALDEZ (F.M.)**

In order to expedite the proceedings, with leave of the House, Majority Leader Romualdez moved that the guest speakers be allowed to address the Body directly in open session.

There being no objection, the Body approved the same.

DEFERMENT OF ROLL CALL

On motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.) and with his assurance of the Members’ overwhelming attendance, there being no objection, the Body deferred the calling of the Roll.

REMARKS OF SPEAKER CAYETANO (A.P.)

Thereupon, Speaker Cayetano expressed his gratitude to all Members of the House who went out of their way to attend the session in Batangas.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

Thereafter, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), 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 title of the following Resolution,

including a Committee Report, which were referred to the appropriate committee indicated hereunder:

RESOLUTION

House Resolution No. 662, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO WORK WITH ALL THE CONCERNED AGENCIES TO PASS THE PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET TO EXPEDITE EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIVE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY THE TAAL VOLCANO ERUPTION”

By Representatives Cayetano (Alan Peter), Romualdez (Ferdinand), Abante, Duterte, Mariño, Abu, Ermita-Buhain, Collantes, Bolilia, Santos-Recto, Tolentino, Ferrer (Luis), Barzaga and Fernandez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Government Reorganization, the Committee on Disaster Management, the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 200), re H.B. No. 5989, entitled:

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

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 04, 30, 164, 195, 338, 398, 563, 885, 1151, 2001, 2133, 2192, 2451, 3023, 3084, 3142, 3182, 3214, 3245, 3348, 3459, 3490, 3542, 3913, 3999, 4301, 4313, 4401, 4577, 4709, 4710, 4800, 4844, 5335 and 5803

Sponsors: Representatives Mariño, Torres-Gomez, Salceda and Ungab

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Subsequently, with leave of the House, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), the Chair recognized Barangay Chairperson Jocelyn T. Bayanay of Alas-as, San Nicolas, Batangas.

REMARKS OF BARANGAY CHAIRPERSON BAYANAY

Barangay Chairperson Bayanay expressed her grief that she and her constituents lost their properties and means of livelihood as well as displaced from

their homes due to the eruption of Taal Volcano. She however expressed appreciation that no lives were lost during the disaster because of the timely evacuation of the people. As she related the misery of the people of Batangas, she called on the Members for livelihood and financial assistance, and for President Duterte to hear their plea for help.

Thereafter, with leave of the House, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), the Chair recognized Mayor Reyes of Agoncillo, Batangas.

REMARKS OF MAYOR REYES

At the outset, Mayor Reyes stated that the town of Agoncillo is a fourth class municipality belonging to the Third District of the Province of Batangas where the primary sources of livelihood are fishing and agriculture. As he related the events that transpired during the eruption of Taal Volcano, he lamented that in just a few hours, Agoncillo had been deserted and devastated resulting in loss of livelihood, destruction of properties, and displacement of the townspeople. In spite thereof, he expressed gratitude that no lives were lost, and that the *bayanihan* spirit prevailed among the Batangueños.

As the local government of Agoncillo has been trying to improve the governance of the municipality until the disaster happened, Mayor Reyes relayed his trust that the national government and Congress have ears that listen, a heart that cares, and the capacity to make things happen especially after the eruption. He then requested for assistance for livelihood, housing, medical and psychological intervention, and new facilities, as well as for the government to address the people's worries about the animals they have left in the affected areas. He then enjoined the Members to help them rebuild a more resilient and fortified Agoncillo community.

Thereafter, with leave of the House, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), the Chair recognized Mayor De Sagun of San Nicolas, Batangas.

REMARKS OF MAYOR DE SAGUN

Mayor De Sagun first stated that the town of San Nicolas is a fifth class municipality from the Third District of Batangas, and that two of its 18 barangays are located on the volcano island. He said that San Nicolas was put on lockdown, but some of his constituents were forced to go back to feed their animals which are the sources of their livelihood.

As such, he suggested that, through Congress, the government consider purchasing their livestock which can eventually be used to start their livelihood, and to provide assistance to local government units (LGUs) which are hosting the evacuees and conducting relief operations.

Mayor De Sagun then appealed for assistance through Representative Collantes for the rehabilitation of the damaged houses in the two barangays which housed 2,000 individuals. He urged the 18th Congress for their immediate and utmost assistance, as well as the public and private sectors to help rebuild the Municipality of San Nicolas.

Thereafter, with leave of the House, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), the Chair next recognized Ms. Edwina S. Bilog, a tour guide and evacuee from Alas-as, San Nicolas, Batangas for her remarks.

REMARKS OF MS. BILOG

Ms. Bilog appealed for livelihood assistance and help to rebuild the tourism industry in the volcano island, which is their primary source of income. She urged President Duterte, Speaker Cayetano (A.P.), and the Members of the 18th Congress to hear their plea for help and support for the sake of their children's future.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

At this point, Speaker Cayetano (A.P.) gave his assurance to the resource persons present that the national government has already coordinated with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and other government agencies concerned as well as all Members of the House, including the Congressional Spouses Foundation Incorporated and the Association of Women Legislators Foundation, Inc. who all have wholeheartedly committed to extend their assistance to ensure that the needs of the evacuees are properly addressed. He however sought the cooperation of the resource persons and evacuees in providing accurate data and statistics to be able to identify the actual needs of the people and facilitate the release of said assistance.

BUSINESS FOR THE DAY: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 200 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 5989

Thereupon, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill

No. 5989 contained in Committee Report No. 200 as submitted by the Committees on Government Reorganization, Disaster Management, Ways and Means, and Appropriations.

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

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

As copies of the Bill had been distributed to the Members, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the text of the measure without prejudice to its insertion into the records of the House.

Majority Leader Romualdez noted that the parliamentary status was that the Bill was in the period of sponsorship and debate; and on his further motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño, chairperson of the primary sponsoring Committee, to sponsor the same.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE MARIÑO

Representative Mariño initially thanked Speaker Cayetano (A.P.) for holding the session in their province and expressed gladness and hope for his constituents that they will rise again from the tragedy. He pointed out that the measure is a joint effort of the Committees on Government Reorganization and Disaster Management chaired by Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez as well as the authors of the 35 bills consolidated into House Bill No. 5989.

He then highlighted that the proposed Department of Disaster Resilience (DRR) aims, among others, to: (1) serve as the primary government agency responsible for leading, organizing and managing the national effort to reduce disaster risk, prepare for, and respond to disasters, recover and rehabilitate and build forward better after the occurrence of disasters; (2) oversee and coordinate the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the disaster and climate resilience plans, programs, projects and activities; (3) enable the government to quickly respond, prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate disaster and climate resilience plans and programs; and (4) ensure that the government upholds the welfare of the people, particularly, the vulnerable sectors of society. He explained that they have carefully considered the importance of

designing the organizational structure for the DDR so it can function effectively and realize the legislative intent of the Bill.

He then expressed his appreciation to his colleagues for attending the session in their province to listen to the pleas and personal accounts of their constituents who were greatly affected by the Taal Volcano eruption. He said that the DDR is a long-term solution that would not only help the people of Batangas but the whole country as well. He urged the Speaker and his colleagues for its immediate passage.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

Speaker Cayetano (A.P.) likewise thanked Representative Mariño for sponsoring the Bill at hand and for hosting the session, and acknowledged some Members who helped in crafting the measure and who in their own right are experienced in handling disasters and calamities.

Thereafter, Speaker Cayetano assured the local officials of Batangas that rehabilitation will be institutionalized so that it will continue even if the Members were no longer incumbent.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5989

On motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 5989.

With leave of the House, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez, the Chair recognized the next set of resource persons to speak about their concerns, starting with Ms. Karen Olvina of Agoncillo, Batangas.

At this juncture, Speaker Cayetano relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu.

REMARKS OF MS. OLVINA

Ms. Olvina related how the sudden eruption of Taal Volcano resulted in the loss of homes, work, and livelihood in her town of Agoncillo. She said she pitied her townmates who continue to risk their lives by returning to their homes to feed their animals and save what little was left of their properties; as well as all evacuees inside the Batangas Sports Complex. But even as she asked when and how their hardship will end and how they will start anew, she believed that

something good will come out of the tragedy, which the Batangueños will overcome, and that God will not forsake them.

Ms. Olvina also acknowledged the outpouring of goodness and assistance to the evacuees including herself; and asked the House to facilitate all possible assistance for Agoncillo and neighboring towns like San Nicolas.

With leave of the House, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), the Chair next recognized Barangay Chairman Ramon D. Gamo of Pulang Bato, San Nicolas, Batangas.

REMARKS OF BARANGAY CHAIRPERSON GAMO

Barangay Chairperson Gamo appealed for help for his barangay, stressing that volcanic ash had buried their homes and killed their livestock. He asked that they should not be stopped from breeding *tilapia* in fish cages and fishing for *tawilis* in the lake, because this was their only means of livelihood and will help them rise from the tragedy that befell them. He also requested that the people who had been displaced in his barangay be given a place to stay even if this was far from their town of San Nicolas.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

At this point, Deputy Speaker Abu informed the Body that Barangays Pulang Bato and Alas-as were located on the volcano island itself.

Thereafter, with leave of the House, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), the Chair next recognized Association of Barangay Councils (ABC) President Aileen R. Ocampo of San Luis, Batangas.

REMARKS OF ABC PRESIDENT OCAMPO

San Luis ABC President Ocampo informed the Body of the relief efforts extended by all barangays in the town of San Luis to at least 15,000 evacuees from adjacent towns although it is only a fourth class municipality with a land area of 3,000 hectares and a population of 35,000. She acknowledged relief goods contributed by private groups and individuals but pointed out that the evacuees needed more food rather than clothes and water. She also stressed that her town is taking good care of the evacuees; and discredited negative social media posts that deterred some evacuees from going to their evacuation centers and asked the media to help bring out the truth.

Ms. Ocampo subsequently pointed out that San Luis was also affected by the volcanic eruption

because the source of livelihood of its residents were the neighboring towns under lockdown. She asked that those who were assisting evacuees be acknowledged and assisted as well.

Thereafter, with leave of the House, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), the Chair recognized Batangas School Division Superintendent Merthel Evardome, CESO V.

REMARKS OF MS. EVARDOME

Ms. Evardome informed the House that the number of students in municipalities under lockdown and in neighboring towns numbered 50,000; and that these students and their parents were being cared for in 219 schools in 21 towns.

The school division superintendent emphasized the need to comply with Republic Act No. 10821 or the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act, which mandates the use of sports complex and gymnasiums first as evacuation sites before utilizing any school in a local government unit. She said that the conversion of schools into evacuation sites albeit temporary, resulted in disruption of classes so she appealed to local government executives to abide by the provisions of the law. She assured them that the central and regional offices of the Department of Education (DepEd) are in coordination to come up with actions to be taken on the conduct of classes in evacuation sites. Finally, she called on Governor Mandanas, the legislators, and the government executives to provide assistance in terms of school supplies and safe relocation sites for the evacuees.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

Subsequently, Deputy Speaker Abu informed the Body that the legislative proposal to construct permanent evacuation centers all over the country as well as the creation of a Department of Disaster Resilience is now being considered.

REMARKS OF MAJORITY LEADER ROMUALDEZ (F.M.)

Majority Leader Romualdez also said that it was Speaker Cayetano (A.P.) who insisted that the Members travel to Batangas to witness firsthand the situation there and to express their concern for the victims of the Taal Volcano eruption. He also relayed that several measures had been filed which sought to provide relief, resettlement, and livelihood assistance to affected communities.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM BATANGAS

At this point, Deputy Speaker Abu acknowledged the presence of his fellow Representatives from the Province of Batangas: Reps. Elenita Milagros "Eileen" Ermita-Buhain, Lianda B. Bolilia, Collantes, and Mariño, and Deputy Speaker Vilma Santos-Recto.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

With the permission of the Speaker and the unanimous consent of the Members, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), there being no objection, the Chair declared a Privilege Hour.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE TORRES-GOMEZ

On motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), the Chair recognized Rep. Lucy Torres-Gomez who outlined her speech on three points: 1) why the House of Representatives held their session in Batangas; 2) what had been accomplished so far about the disaster problem; and 3) what course of action is being contemplated to address the problem.

First, she stressed that public service requires open dialogue among public servants and their personal presence—fueled by compassion and empathy—comes from their sense of duty and responsibility as public servants and their *pakikiramay* as fellow Filipinos.

Second, she relayed the efforts of the Members to contribute to the relief operations, and stressed the immediate need for a resettlement plan for the families living in the permanent danger zone, as well as the creation of a Department of Disaster Resilience. However, she admitted that the department's creation could not be rushed, and the system now in place would be the better option to deliver fast and effective solutions.

Lastly, she disclosed the planning guide initiated by the National Economic and Development Authority with the support of the World Bank in creating a recovery and rehabilitation plan which was adopted by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), and which would be utilized to create a rehabilitation plan for Taal. She also cited the information on damages that has to be gathered in order to come up with reliable baseline data.

She ended her speech by reminding the people to overprepare than to assume that the actual eruption

will not happen. She then thanked Speaker Cayetano (A.P.) for his solid and consistent commitment to rally the Members in seeing through this gargantuan task and looked forward for their solidarity in working together.

TERMINATION OF PRIVILEGE HOUR

On motion of Representative Romualdez (F.M.), there being no objection, the Body terminated the Privilege Hour.

With leave of the House, on motion of the Majority Leader, the Chair recognized Pastor Caesar Hernandez of Good Shepherd Baptist Church in Batangas City.

REMARKS OF PASTOR HERNANDEZ

Pastor Hernandez said that he was thankful that Congress was able to conduct its session in Batangas so that the Members would fully be informed of the situation of the evacuees displaced by the Taal Volcano eruption. He said that he has been monitoring the situation, bringing the necessary aid in areas where members of his congregation were affected, and meeting and conducting dialogue with the entire ministry of Batangas on how they would be able to help those who were severely affected by the calamity. He expressed his gratitude to the government and the Members for coming over, and hoped and prayed that the people will truly feel their presence by helping them carry their burden.

With leave of the House, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), the Chair recognized Ms. Julie Ann S. Betita from the Magallanes Square Hotel in Tagaytay City.

REMARKS OF MS. BETITA

Speaking as a representative of the Tagaytay Tourism Council, Ms. Betita thanked (1) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año and Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Undersecretary and Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum for their clarification that Tagaytay City is safe from the possible destruction that would be caused by the Taal Volcano eruption; and (2) the Tagaytay City local government for allowing business establishments in the city to reopen considering that tourism is the main source of income in Tagaytay. She expressed hope that the DILG, Phivolcs, and the local government would issue unified information regarding the situation of Taal Volcano to prevent panic and apprehension among the people.

REMARKS OF PASTOR DE TORRES

With leave of the House, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), the Body next recognized Pastor Adiel De Torres of Carpenter's House Baptist Church who thanked Speaker Cayetano (A.P.) and the Members of the 18th Congress especially Minority Leader Bienvenido M. Abante Jr. for inviting him to inform them of the situation on the ground.

As a pastor and vice chairman of the Regional Advisory Council of Region IV-A, he said that about 5,000 evacuees, who are not recorded in the list of evacuees, are hosted in Baptist and Evangelical churches under the Bible Mode Organization throughout the affected cities and municipalities. He also said that these churches are not registered with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and hence, have not received relief goods. He expressed fear that supplies will not be sufficient when the situation worsens.

He asked how the evacuees in said churches could access relief goods. He also urged Congress to look into the situation of one pastor in Cuenca, Batangas who was helping evacuees but was forced to evacuate to Taysan, Batangas together with all the evacuees; and the conditions of the first responders of the regions who were also victims themselves.

Finally, Pastor De Torres informed the Body that the Members of his church are providing counselling to the evacuees especially the children who have been traumatized by the situation.

With leave of the House, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez, the Body next recognized Mr. Ramil Alcazar, an evacuee and barangay kagawad from Molinete, Laurel, Batangas.

REMARKS OF MR. ALCAZAR

Mr. Alcazar thanked the mayor and barangay captain in the evacuation center in Tagaytay City for providing the evacuees from Laurel with medicines, water, and food. He said that they are not leaving the evacuation center but people there are asking when they could leave although they do not have a place to transfer. He appealed to Congress to help them.

He also said that the people in the evacuation center expressed concern about their sources of livelihood and asked for support in the form of food and financial assistance. He lamented their situation and appealed to Congress to also help the

evacuees from Barangays Gulod and Buso-Buso, Laurel, Batangas.

REMARKS OF MAJORITY LEADER ROMUALDEZ (F.M.)

At this point, Majority Leader Romualdez thanked the resource speakers for sharing their requests and experiences and acknowledged all of their hosts and honored guests: Batangas Governor Mandanas; Usec. Cesar B. Yano, Department of National Defense; Asec. Casiano C. Monilla, Office of Civil Defense; Brigadier General Marceliano V. Teofilo, Task Force Taal; and Usec. Felicisimo Budiongan, Asec. Anton Hernandez and Asec. Rodolfo Mejila Encabo, DSWD.

He also thanked the hosts and local stakeholders, particularly all the mayors of the Province of Batangas, and the island barangay chairpersons of Sitios Tabla Pulo and San Isidro Pulo in Talisay; Sitio Calawit in Balete; and Sitios Pulang Bato and Alas-as in San Nicolas, all in Batangas Province.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

Deputy Speaker Abu thanked their hosts, guests, and the people who attended the session and expressed the collective empathy and sympathy of the House Members with the situation in the Province of Batangas.

VIDEO MESSAGE OF MAYOR DIMACUHA-MARIÑO

Thereupon, Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.) said that the Body would proceed with the messages of some local executives of Batangas through video presentations. Upon his motion, the Chair directed the Secretariat to play the video message of Mayor Dimacuha-Mariño of Batangas City.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

After the video presentation, the Chair acknowledged the presence of the presidents of the Liga ng mga Barangay of Batangas Province, several members of the Vice Mayors' League, members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Batangas City headed by Vice Mayor Emilio Francisco Berberabe Jr., barangay chairpersons of the Municipality of San Luis, and various officials of the provincial government of Batangas.

Likewise, Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.) acknowledged the presence of Taal Mayor Fulgencio I. Mercado.

VIDEO MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR MANDANAS

At this point, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), there being no objection, the Chair directed the Secretariat to play the video message of Batangas Governor Mandanas.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Deputy Speaker Abu thereafter acknowledged the presence of Provincial League of Barangays of Batangas President Wilfredo M. Maliksi, as well as Provincial Board Member Maria Claudette U. Ambida.

VIDEO MESSAGE OF DEPUTY SPEAKER ABU

On motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), there being no objection, the Chair directed the Secretariat to play the video message of Deputy Speaker Abu.

REMARKS OF MAJORITY LEADER ROMUALDEZ (F.M.)

Whereupon, Majority Leader Romualdez took note that the resource speakers from various sectors who had firsthand information on the total damages caused by the Taal Volcano eruption had appealed for assistance for the restoration and reconstruction of residential houses, school buildings, and government infrastructures; medical or psychological intervention for the victims; permission for residents to return to their homes and to continue fishing and operating fish cages; and the use of sports complex and gymnasiums first before using classrooms as evacuation centers in order not to disrupt classes. He added that the locals were grateful for the outpouring of help from fellow Filipinos especially those who accommodated evacuees despite being victims themselves.

Thereafter, he pointed out that based on the feedback from the local stakeholders, the Body would be able to pass appropriate resolutions on the matter.

REFERRAL OF SPEECHES AND MESSAGES

On motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), there being no objection, the Body referred

the various speeches and video messages delivered to the Committee on Rules.

ROLL CALL

Thereupon, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), there being no objection, the Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll and the following Members were present:

Abante	Canama	Garbin	Pancho
Abaya	Castelo	Garcia (J.E.)	Pichay
Abellanos	Cayetano (A.P.)	Garcia (P.J.)	Pimentel
Abu	Cayetano (M.L.)	Garin (J.)	Pineda
Abueg-Zaldivar	Chatto	Gasataya	Quimbo
Abunda	Chipeco	Gatchalian	Radaza
Acop	Co (A.N.)	Geron	Ramirez-Sato
Acosta	Co (E.)	Go (E.C.)	Ramos
Advincula	Collantes	Go (M.)	Remulla
Agabas	Crisologo	Gonzales (A.)	Revilla
Agarao	Cua	Gonzalez	Reyes
Aguinaldo	Dagooc	Guico	Rivera
Albano	Dalipe	Guya	Robes
Almario	Dalog	Hernandez	Rodriguez
Alonte	Datol	Herrera-Dy	Romero
Alvarez (F.)	Daza	Hofer	Romualdez (F.M.)
Alvarez (G.)	de Venecia	Jalosjos	Romualdez (Y.M.)
Amante-Matba	Defensor (L.)	Javier	Romualdo
Amatong	Defensor (M.)	Jimenez	Sacalan
Andaya	Del Mar	Kho (E.)	Salceda
Aragones	Delos Santos	Kho (W.)	Salimbangon
Arenas	Deloso-Montalla	Labadlabad	Salo
Aumentado	Dimaporo (A.)	Lacson	Sanchez
Bagatsing	Duavit	Lacson-Noel	Santos-Recto
Balindong	Duterte	Lagon	Sarmiento
Barbers	Dy (F.)	Lara	Savellano
Baronda	Dy (F.M.C.)	Legarda	Singson-Meehan
Bascug	Dy (I.P.)	Lim	Sinsuat
Bautista	Ebcas	Limkaichong	Suansing (E.)
Belmonte	Elago	Lopez	Suarez (D.)
Benitez	Enverga	Loyola	Suntay
Biazon	Eriguel	Lusotan	Sy-Alvarado
Billones	Ermita-Buhain	Macapagal Arroyo	Taduran
Bolilia	Escudero	Maceda	Tallado
Bordado	Espina	Malapitan	Tambunting
Bravo	Estrella	Mangudadatu	Tan (A.)
Bustos	Fariñas (R.C.)	Marcoleta	Tejada
Cabatbat	Fariñas I (R.C.)	Mariano-Hernandez	Teves (A.)
Cabochan	Fernando	Mariño	Teves (J.)
Cabredo	Ferrer (L.)	Marquez	Tiangco
Cagas	Flores	Martinez	Tolentino
Calderon	Fortuno	Matba	Torres-Gomez
Calixto	Frasco	Momo	Tulfo
Caminero	Fuentebella	Natividad-Nagaño	Tupas
Campos	Gaite	Nieto	Umali (A.)
		Noel	Umali (M.V.)
		Nogralles (J.J.)	Ungab
		Nolasco	Valeriano
		Oaminal	Vergara
		Olivarez	Villa
		Ong (J.)	Villafuerte
		Ortega	Villanueva (E.)
		Ouano-Dizon	Villanueva (N.)
		Palma	Villar

Villarica	Zamora (W.K.)
Violago	Zarate
Zamora (R.)	Zubiri

With 204 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See Appendix)

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Abu relinquished the Chair to Speaker Cayetano (A.P.).

Thereafter, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez, the Chair recognized Batangas Governor Mandanas to whom he expressed the sympathy of the Members of the 18th Congress, and whom he assured of the commitment and support of the House in rebuilding the Province of Batangas.

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR MANDANAS

On behalf of the people of the Province of Batangas and as chairperson of the Regional Development Council of CALABARZON, Governor Mandanas expressed gratitude to the leadership of the House and to each of its Members, particularly the Representatives of the six legislative districts of Batangas. He expressed hope that Congress would immediately approve the supplemental budget allocation submitted by the President to address the livestock, housing, food, and livelihood concerns of the displaced residents as part of the quick response action of the government. He related that Batangas Province would realign its budget for food allocation, livelihood, and building of evacuation centers for the Taal victims.

He then expressed appreciation to the efforts and initiatives of Congress and the national government, as well as the LGUs of the CALABARZON and other provinces for providing financial assistance and addressing the needs of his constituents.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

On behalf of the 18th Congress, Speaker Cayetano (A.P.) assured Governor Mandanas of the continued cooperation of the House and informed the Body that Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda and Representative Torres-Gomez of the Committee on Disaster Management, together with Reps. Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga, Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, MD, and Sandra Y. Eriguel, MD, chairpersons of the Committees on Agriculture and Food, Health, and Social Services, would consolidate all the suggestions coming from the Representatives of the CALABARZON in order to effectively address the matter. He also tasked

Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.) to be the chief implementer of the collective efforts of the House in helping the Province of Batangas as well as the Provinces of Cavite, Laguna and Quezon where thousands of evacuees have relocated.

REMARKS OF MAJORITY LEADER ROMUALDEZ (F.M.)

With the permission of the Chair, Majority Leader Romualdez stated that at the behest of Speaker Cayetano (A.P.), the Members of the House have come to Batangas to personally hear the grievances of the victims, evacuees, and the different stakeholders of the tragic Taal Volcano event. He expressed hope that the spirit of the Batangueños and those in the affected areas would not diminish but rather rise through the show of support of the House of Representatives. He stressed that the appeal and request for livelihood assistance, medical and psychological support, and other concerns have been heard by the Members and told the Taal victims not to lose hope as Congress under the leadership of Speaker Cayetano would provide them all the necessary support.

ADOPTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 655

On successive motions of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), there being no objection, the Body considered House Resolution No. 655, entitled: “RESOLUTION URGING THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR THE AID, RELIEF, RESETTLEMENT, REHABILITATION, LIVELIHOOD, DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO COMMUNITIES ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE TAAL VOLCANO ERUPTION, AND DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE TO IMMEDIATELY CALL THE NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NDRRMC) FOR A HOUSE COMMITTEE BRIEFING TO ASSESS THE SITUATION AND DETERMINE THE NEEDS OF THE AFFECTED LOCALITIES AND THE TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENTS TO ADDRESS THE CALAMITY”; 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.

ADOPTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 662

On successive motions of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), there being no objection, the

Body considered House Resolution No. 662, entitled: “RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO WORK WITH ALL THE CONCERNED AGENCIES TO PASS THE PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET TO EXPEDITE EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIVE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY THE TAAL VOLCANO ERUPTION”; 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.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

Aside from the ₱30-billion supplemental budget for the year, Speaker Cayetano (A.P.) requested Rep. Isidro T. Ungab, chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations, to make representations with the Department of Budget and Management to include all rehabilitation funds in the 2021 national budget not only for the victims of the Taal Volcano eruption but also for the areas devastated by the earthquakes in Mindanao, by Typhoon Ursula and other typhoons, and all other calamity-stricken areas still waiting for rehabilitation funds.

INVOCATION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER VILLANUEVA (E.)

On motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), there being no objection, the Chair recognized Deputy Speaker Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva who delivered an invocation to end the historic plenary session in Batangas City.

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS NO. 655 AND 662

On motion of Deputy Speaker Conrado M. Estrella III, duly seconded by Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), there being no objection, the Body approved to include as additional coauthors of House Resolutions No. 655 and 662, all the Members present in the day’s session.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

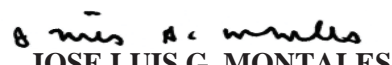
At this juncture, Speaker Cayetano (A.P.) acknowledged the assistance provided by the NDRRMC represented by Defense Usec. Cesar B. Yano and NDRRMC Executive Director Ricardo B. Jalad for briefing the Members of the actual situation in the area, and the Members of the 18th Congress who, regardless of religion, party affiliation, and political stand, showed their unity in the midst of natural calamities. He said that the slogan of the recently concluded Southeast Asian Games, “We Win As One” is truly alive that day in Batangas City.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Thereafter, on motion of Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o’clock in the afternoon of Monday, January 27, 2020 at Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City.

It was 4:18 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


JOSE LUIS G. MONTALES
Secretary General

Approved on January 27, 2020.

Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Philippines

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

Journal No. 34

Wednesday, January 22, 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)