



# Journal of the House of Representatives

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

**JOURNAL NO. 22  
Tuesday, November 5, 2019**

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

**JOURNAL NO. 22**  
**Tuesday, November 5, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Rose Marie “Baby” J. Arenas called the session to order.

**INVOCATION AND NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Deputy Speaker Evelina G. Escudero then delivered the invocation and thereafter, the Members sang the National Anthem.

**DEFERMENT OF ROLL CALL  
AND APPROVAL OF JOURNAL**

On successive motions of Rep. Ria Christina G. Fariñas, there being no objection, the Body deferred the calling of the Roll and the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

**REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Fariñas, 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. 5132, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE REGISTRATION, LICENSURE AND PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 5133, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING A TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) ACROSS-THE-BOARD

INCREASE IN THE BASIC MONTHLY SALARY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Hataman and Sangcopan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 5134, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN ISABELA CITY, PROVINCE OF BASILAN”

By Representatives Hataman and Sangcopan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5135, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF CENTENARIAN CASH GIFT IN THREE (3) TRANCHES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CENTENARIANS ACT OF 2016”

By Representative Cabochan  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 5136, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING MOTORCYCLE OWNERS/DRIVER TO REGISTER AT LEAST ONE HELMET PER MOTORCYCLE OWNED/DRIVEN AS PREREQUISITE FOR OBTAINING LICENSE TO DRIVE THE SAME”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5137, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING ABUSE TOWARDS SENIOR CITIZENS, PROVIDING FOR PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR VICTIMS, PROTECTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS FROM ELDERLY ABUSE AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFORE”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 5138, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS FREE ADMISSION TO ALL PUBLIC MUSEUMS AND NATIONAL HISTORICAL SHRINES AND LANDMARKS”

By Representative Noel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5139, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPROVING THE PUBLIC LAND TITLING THROUGH JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES”

By Representative Belmonte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5140, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SALARY ADJUSTMENT OF ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHING PERSONNEL, TO AUGMENT THEIR PERFORMANCE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 5141, entitled:

“AN ACT TO CREATE THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, IRRIGATION, SEWAGE AND SANITATION MANAGEMENT, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Suarez (David), Villaraza-Suarez and Suarez (Aleta)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5142, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lusotan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 5143, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING RURAL BANKS IN THE PHILIPPINES AMENDING FURTHER FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7353 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE RURAL BANKS ACT OF 1992, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Acosta-Alba  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 5144, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ABOT-ALAM PROJECT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Delos Santos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5145, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM IN THE BASIC EDUCATION FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND OTHER MARGINALIZED SECTORS OF SOCIETY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Fortun  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5146, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, RATIONALIZING THE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES RELATED TO MIGRATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 5147, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE URBAN POOR AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER 82 OF 1986, AS AMENDED, WHICH CREATED THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION FOR THE URBAN POOR, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Defensor (Michael)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 5148, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING TAX INCENTIVES TO LOT OWNERS WHO WILL CONVERT THEIR VACANT LOTS INTO USABLE PARKING SPACES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Crisologo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 5149, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO WITH SEATS AT THE COMPONENT CITY OF PASSI, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (G) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7154, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Biron  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5150, entitled:

“AN ACT INTEGRATING THE PINTUYAN NATIONAL VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL INTO THE SOUTHERN LEYTE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM”

By Representative Rodriguez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5151, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO RODERICK MCMICKING HALL”

By Representative Hernandez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5152, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SENIOR CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES' ”

By Representatives Zarate, Gaite and Cullamat  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 5153, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JAVIER, PROVINCE OF LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cari  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5154, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO CENTURY COMMUNICATIONS MARKETING CENTER, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8133, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING CENTURY COMMUNICATIONS, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS AND STATIONS FOR TELEVISION IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES' FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 5155, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 73 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990,' AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8551”

By Representative Yap (Eric)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5156, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE RIGHTS OF PASSENGER OF TAXIS, TOURIST CAR TRANSPORT SERVICES (TCTS) AND OTHER SIMILAR VEHICLES FOR HIRE (VFH)”

By Representative Yap (Eric)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5157, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING TEACHING SUPPLIES ALLOWANCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS”

By Representative Cabochan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5158, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FIELD OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) IN VIGAN CITY, ILOCOS SUR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Savellano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5159, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, PRESERVATION, PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE CRAFTSMANSHIP AND TRADITIONS OF THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Savellano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5160, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Savellano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 5161, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 493 TO INCLUDE IN THE COVERAGE OF PROHIBITION THE USE, WEARING, MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF UNIFORMS AND TEXTILE OF UNIFORMS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, PRESCRIBING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cabochan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY AND THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 5162, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING A GOVERNMENT AGENCY, BUREAU OR INSTRUMENTALITY FROM THE PAYMENT OF TAXES AND FEES ON THE PURCHASE OF FIRE SPRINKLERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, ESTABLISHMENT, REHABILITATION AND/OR IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND/OR

STRUCTURES BY AMENDING SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9514 OR OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE REVISED FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES' ”

By Representative Lacson-Noel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 5163, entitled:

“AN ACT REINSTATING THE BUREAU OF DENTAL SERVICES (BDS) UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND REVAMPING THE BUREAU OF DENTAL SERVICES BY INCREASING THE SALARY GRADE OF DENTAL PROFESSIONALS IN THE GOVERNMENT AND PROVIDING FOR STRINGENT PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL DENTAL PRACTITIONERS IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Lacson-Noel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5164, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 193 OR THE ‘NATIONAL GREENING PROGRAM AND THE FOREST PROTECTION PROGRAM’ BY MANDATING EVERY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT IN THE COUNTRY TO SET ASIDE ONE PERCENT (1%) OF ITS TOTAL REGISTERED LAND AREA OF JURISDICTION TO ESTABLISH FOREST PARKS AND PROVIDING FOR THE CONSERVATION, MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION THEREOF”

By Representative Lacson-Noel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5165, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING FREE POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS IN STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Castro (France)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5166, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM SALARIES OF PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS TO P30,000 PER MONTH”



By Representative Castro (France)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND  
CULTURE

House Bill No. 5167, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING 'OFW FAMILY HELP  
DESKS' IN ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
UNITS”

By Representative Bagatsing  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS  
AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 5168, entitled:

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

By Representative Bagatsing  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND  
CULTURE

House Bill No. 5169, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS  
IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10742 OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE SANGGUNIAN  
KABATAAN REFORM ACT OF 2015”

By Representative Bagatsing  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5170, entitled:

“AN ACT REPEALING ARTICLE 133 OF ACT  
NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE 'REVISED PENAL  
CODE', AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lagman  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 5171, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE POLICY FOR  
THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF  
THE WELFARE OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS  
AND CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE  
THE DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS  
FILIPINOS AND THE OVERSEAS LABOR  
RELATIONS COMMISSION, DEFINING  
THEIR POWERS AND FUNCTIONS,  
RATIONALIZING THE ORGANIZATION  
AND FUNCTIONS OF OTHER AGENCIES  
RELATED TO OVERSEAS FILIPINOS,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Nograles (Juan)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON  
OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 5172, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT  
NO. 8479, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
'THE DOWNSTREAM OIL INDUSTRY  
DEREGULATION ACT' ”

By Representative Go (Mark)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 5173, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE  
OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS PENSION  
PROGRAM AND INCREASING ITS  
AMOUNT, FURTHER AMENDING  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'AN ACT  
TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION  
OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION  
BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND  
SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES' ”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 5174, entitled:

“AN ACT DESIGNATING THE NATIONAL  
MUSIC COMPETITIONS FOR YOUNG  
ARTIST (NAMCYA) AS THE NATIONAL  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
FOR MUSIC, DEFINING ITS ROLE AND  
FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS  
DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 5175, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL  
PROGRAM TO SUPPORT AND CARE  
FOR ABANDONED, NEGLECTED  
AND VOLUNTARILY COMMITTED  
CHILDREN, CREATING A SPECIAL  
TRUST FUND THEREFORE, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Noel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 5176, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING AN AUTOMATIC  
PRICE CONTROL ON PRICES OF  
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS DURING  
CERTAIN SITUATIONS, AMENDING FOR  
THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'PRICE  
ACT,' AS AMENDED”

By Representative Noel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 5177, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE SKILLS CERTIFICATE EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM (SCEP) OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC) AND THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Noel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5178, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE CAPABILITIES OF FOREST RANGERS IN ENFORCING THE LAWS ON PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT BY PROVIDING THE NECESSARY FIREARMS, TRAININGS AND ASSISTANCE”

By Representative Noel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5179, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 95 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES BY REQUIRING A MANDATORY SICK LEAVE FOR REGULAR EMPLOYEES”

By Representative Noel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 5180, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A VOLUNTARY STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM BY PRIVATE BANKS, PROVIDING INCENTIVES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Noel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5181, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE SERVICE INCENTIVE FOR REGULAR EMPLOYEES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 95 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Noel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 5182, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING FEEDING CENTERS IN EVERY CITY OR MUNICIPALITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Noel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

House Bill No. 5183, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 464 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE REAL PROPERTY TAX CODE' BY GRANTING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION TO QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL LANDS FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS”

By Representative Noel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5184, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF PRIVATE HEALTH WORKERS”

By Representatives Gaite and Zarate

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 5185, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE RIGHT OF REPLY AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Marcoleta

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 5186, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROTECT THE FILIPINO CONSUMER FROM ARBITRARY INCREASES IN THE PRICES OF LPG BEING CHARGED BY THE PLAYERS OF THE LPG INDUSTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 19 AND 14 OF R.A. 8479, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS DOWNSTREAM OIL INDUSTRY DEREGULATION LAW OF 1988”

By Representative Marcoleta

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 5187, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166”

By Representative Pimentel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 5188, entitled:

“AN ACT TO RECLASSIFY A DEVELOPED PORTION OF FOREST LAND UNDER

CONCESSION WITH PICOP, LOCATED IN THE CITY OF BISLIG AND THE MUNICIPALITIES OF HINATUAN, LINGIG, AND TAGBINA, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR, INTO ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISTRIBUTING THE SAME TO BONA FIDE AND LONG TERM FARMERS/OCCUPANTS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Pimentel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5189, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE NORTHERN ZAMBALES WATERSHEDS AND SUBWATERSHEDS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MASINLOC, CANDELARIA AND STA. CRUZ IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES AS PROTECTED AREAS UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPES TO BE KNOWN AS THE NORTHERN ZAMBALES PROTECTED LANDSCAPE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Deloso-Montalla  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5190, entitled:

“AN ACT REORGANIZING THE OFFICES OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS”

By Representative Deloso-Montalla  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 5191, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TERTIARY TRAINING AND GENERAL HOSPITAL OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MANDALUYONG CITY GENERAL HOSPITAL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Gonzales (Neptali)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5192, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) EXTENSION OFFICE IN SAN JOSE CITY, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA INTO A REGULAR DISTRICT

OFFICE TO BE KNOWN AS THE LTO DISTRICT OFFICE OF SAN JOSE CITY, NUEVA ECIJA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Violago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5193, entitled:

“AN ACT REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11203, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'AN ACT LIBERALIZING THE IMPORTATION, EXPORTATION AND TRADING OF RICE, LIFTING FOR THE PURPOSE THE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTION ON RICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES'”

By Representative Suansing (Estrellita)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated October 2, 2019 of Carmela S. Perez, Assistant Commissioner, Planning, Finance and Management Sector, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with a copy of the Consolidated Agency Action Plan and Status of Implementation (AAPSI) of Audit Observations and Recommendations for CY 2018 Consolidated Annual Audit Report (CAAR) of the Commission on Audit.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Regional Legislative Assembly, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Cotabato City for the year ended December 31, 2018.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 2, 2019 of Evelyn S. Marañon, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Office of the Supervising Auditor, Water Districts and Other CGS Stand Alone Agencies, Corporate Government Sector III, COA Regional Satellite Audit Office – Negros Island and Siquijor, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with a copy of the Annual Audit Report on the Bacolod City Water District, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental for the year ended December 31, 2018.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Agriculture and Food (Committee Report No. 71), re H.J.R. No. 22, entitled:



“JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE RICE SUBSIDY AS PROVIDED IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (GAA) FOR THE PURCHASE OF PALAY FROM LOCAL FARMERS, MANDATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND), DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTr), AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) AND THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA), TO DIRECTLY PURCHASE PALAY FROM LOCAL FARMERS AND DISTRIBUTE RICE SUBSIDY ALLOWANCE IN THE FORM OF ACTUAL RICE, INSTEAD OF CASH”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Joint Resolution No. 16 and House Resolution No. 322

Sponsors: Representatives Enverga and Estrella  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 72), re H.B. No. 5306, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE SITIO OF LADOL FROM BARANGAY POBLACION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALABEL, PROVINCE OF SARANGANI AND CONSTITUTING IT INTO A DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY LADOL”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1808

Sponsors: Representatives Villanueva (Noel) and Pacquiao (Rogelio)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUEST

Rep. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II subsequently acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of His Excellency Rafael Harpaz, Ambassador of Israel to the Philippines, who was the guest of Rep. Noel L. Villanueva.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

At 3: 19 p.m., the Chair declared a recess upon Representative Palma’s motion.

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 3:32 p.m. with Deputy Speaker Rodante D. Marcoleta presiding.

#### ROLL CALL

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll and the following Members were present:

Abante	Bondoc
Abaya	Bordado
Abellanosa	Bravo
Abu	Brosas
Abueg-Zaldivar	Cabatbat
Abunda	Cabochan
Acosta	Cagas
Adiong	Calderon
Advincula	Calixto
Agabas	Caminero
Agarao	Campos
Aglipay	Canama
Albano (A.)	Cari
Almario	Castelo
Alvarez (F.)	Castro (F.L.)
Alvarez (P.)	Castro (F.H.)
Amatong	Cayetano (A.P.)
Andaya	Cayetano (M.L.)
Angara	Celeste
Aragones	Chatto
Arenas	Chipeco
Arroyo	Chungalao
Atienza	Co (A.N.)
Aumentado	Collantes
Bagatsing	Cuaresma
Balindong	Cueva
Bañas-Nogralles	Cullamat
Barba	Dagooc
Baronda	Dalipe
Barzaga	Dalog
Bascug	Daza
Bautista	De Jesus
Bautista-Bandigan	Defensor (L.)
Belmonte	Defensor (M.)
Bernos	Del Mar
Biazon	Delos Santos
Billones	Deloso-Montalla

Dimaporo (A.)	Leachon	Salo	Tiangco
Dimaporo (M.K.)	Legarda	Sanchez	Tolentino
Dujali	Lim	Sangcopan	Tulfo
Duterte	Lopez	Santos-Recto	Tupas
Dy (F.)	Lusotan	Sarmiento	Tutor
Dy (F.M.C.)	Macapagal Arroyo	Saulog	Umali (A.)
Ebcas	Malapitan	Savellano	Umali (M.V.)
Elago	Mangaoang	Siao	Unabia
Enverga	Marcoleta	Silverio	Ungab
Eriguel	Mariño	Singson-Meehan	Uy (R.)
Escudero	Marquez	Suansing (E.)	Valeriano
Espina	Martinez	Suansing (H.)	Veloso
Espino	Matugas	Suarez (A.)	Villa
Estrella	Mendoza	Suarez (D.)	Villafuerte
Fariñas (R.C.)	Momo	Suntay	Villanueva (N.)
Fariñas I (R.C.)	Natividad-Nagaño	Sy-Alvarado	Villarica
Fernandez	Nava	Taduran	Yap (E.)
Fernando	Nieto	Tallado	Yu
Ferrer (J.M.)	Noel	Tambunting	Zamora (R.)
Ferrer (L.)	Nogralles (J.F.F.)	Tan (A.S.)	Zarate
Flores	Nuñez-Malanyaon	Tejada	Zubiri
Fortun	Oaminal	Teves (J.)	
Fortuno	Ong (J.)		
Frasco	Ong (R.)		
Fuentebella	Ortega		
Gaite	Ouano-Dizon		
Garbin	Pacquiao (A.)		
Garcia (J.E.)	Pacquiao (R.)		
Garcia (P.J.)	Padiernos		
Garcia (V.)	Paduano		
Garin (S.)	Palma		
Gasataya	Pancho		
Gatchalian	Panotes		
Gato	Peña		
Geron	Pichay		
Go (M.)	Pimentel		
Gonzaga	Plaza		
Gonzales (A.)	Puno		
Gonzales (N.)	Quimbo		
Gorriceta	Radaza		
Gullas	Ramirez-Sato		
Hataman	Ramos		
Hernandez	Remulla		
Herrera-Dy	Revilla		
Javier	Rivera		
Kho (E.)	Robes		
Khonghun	Rodriguez		
Labadlabad	Roman		
Lacson	Romero		
Lacson-Noel	Romualdez (F.M.)		
Lagman	Romualdo		
Lagon	Romulo		
Lara	Roque		
Lazatin	Sagarbarria		

With 225 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See Appendix)

#### QUERY OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA

Recognized by the Chair upon motion of Representative Palma, Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr. questioned the accuracy of the Roll Call as he clarified that his tally showed only 152 Members present and not 225.

#### REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE PALMA

With the permission of the Chair, Representative Palma responded that about 58 Members were attending ongoing meetings of several committees and that those Members were deemed present and automatically included in the Roll Call count.

The Chair noted the response of Representative Palma.

#### MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA

Representative Atienza however remarked that based on his personal information, there were only 28 Members attending the committee meetings cited by Representative Palma. He thereby asked to put on record that the actual Roll Call count was

160, including the 28 Members who were in the committee meetings.

#### REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

The Chair said that Representative Atienza's request could not be accepted.

#### OBJECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA

Representative Atienza objected to the statement of the Chair, stating that the latter cannot deny his request to put on record his manifestation unless the Body says so. He said that a presiding officer merely presides over the session.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

At 3:49 p.m., the Chair suspended the session upon Representative Palma's motion.

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 3:51 p.m.

#### REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

Upon resumption of session, the Chair noted the manifestation of Representative Atienza.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Rep. Ma. Theresa V. Collantes acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 21 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4664

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body resumed the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 4664 contained in Committee Report No. 21 as submitted by the Committees on Government Reorganization, Ways and Means, and Appropriations.

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

“AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN REAL PROPERTY VALUATION AND ASSESSMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, REORGANIZING THE BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.”

Representative Palma stated 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 defend the measure.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The Chair suspended the session at 3:53 p.m., on motion of Representative Palma.

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 3:58 p.m.

Upon resumption of session, on motion of Representative Palma, the Chair recognized Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate for his interpellation.

#### INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ZARATE

At the outset, Representative Zarate inquired into the objectives of the instant Bill in terms of changing the present system of valuation of real property. He also discussed with Representative Mariño the process of determining real property valuation in terms of the functions of the proposed central and regional consultative committees; the role of the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) in the new valuation and assessment scheme; the authority of the secretary of the Department of Finance to approve the schedule of market values; the implication of using a simplified real property valuation system in case of a dispute on the market value; and the new type of valuation under the Bill.

The Members then talked about the effect of simplified valuation in the determination of real property market values across the various local government units (LGUs). Representative Mariño explained that LGUs would still have the power to determine the assessed market value rates and tax rates of properties. However, Representative Zarate opined that the Bill might jeopardize the autonomy of the LGUs since they would be part of the consultative body to be created under the law.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Marcoleta relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Henry S. Oaminal.*

Representative Zarate then sought clarification on the difference between the terms “prevailing market value” and “fair market value” in the determination of taxes and valuation of properties. The Sponsor said that both terms were essentially the same but Representative Zarate opined that the subject terms have different meanings and feared that the use of the term “prevailing” might be abused by certain profiteering and profit-seeking entities.

After the Sponsor stated that the BLGF will be the lead agency to implement the plans, policies and programs embodied in the instant Bill, Representative Zarate stressed that the measure is part of the trend towards neoliberalization. He pointed out that like other tax reform measures, it will benefit big businesses but work against the poor and marginalized.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4664**

Upon Representative Palma’s motion, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 4664.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS**

At this point, Representative Palma acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Minority Leader Bienvenido M. Abante Jr.; and upon his subsequent motion, the Chair recognized the latter for a question of privilege.

#### **QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF MINORITY LEADER ABANTE**

Speaking as the head of international religious communities of which numerous overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) were members, Minority Leader Abante initially acknowledged the millions of pesos that OFWs had remitted to the national economy. He informed the Body of his recent meetings with OFWs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through the help of Department of Foreign Affairs officials but without the participation of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

Thereupon, Minority Leader Abante relayed the complaints of said OFWs about the OWWA’s measly rebates and insufficient use of its funds especially for livelihood programs. He also stated their concern about the proposed Department of Overseas Filipino Workers as regards its employment and reintegration

plans for returning OFWs and the capability and integrity of officials that will be assigned to it.

Minority Leader Abante said that he would share his thoughts on the matter with Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, who is the head of the technical working group tasked with the fine-tuning of the provisions of various bills on the creation of the Department of OFW. He encouraged his colleagues to heed the sentiments of OFWs as they tackle the proposed measure. He also appealed to the OWWA to be accountable and responsible to the needs of the OFWs.

#### **REFERRAL OF SPEECH OF MINORITY LEADER ABANTE**

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body referred Minority Leader Abante’s speech to the Committee on Rules.

#### **RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4664**

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body resumed the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 4664 contained in Committee Report No. 21 as reported out by the Committees on Government Reorganization, Ways and Means, and Appropriations, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN  
REAL PROPERTY VALUATION AND  
ASSESSMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES,  
REORGANIZING THE BUREAU OF  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.”

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Palma, the Chair recognized Representative Mariño to sponsor the Bill and Rep. Edcel C. Lagman for his interpellation.

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

Representative Lagman initially manifested that he would not be able to finish his interpellation on House Bill No. 4664 because he did not bring his materials due to the impression that House Bill No. 78 would instead be taken up during the session. He then proceeded to ask whether the instant Bill is a tax

measure considering that it is the third package of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program.

The Members talked about the estimated rate of increase in real estate or property tax, and in the national and local revenues. Representative Lagman likewise asked about the potential increase in capital gains tax (CGT) under the new measure.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Palma, the Chair suspended the session at 5:11 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 5:13 p.m.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN (Continuation)**

In response to Representative Lagman's query, Representative Mariño cited a 2016 study provided by the BLGF regarding the estimated increase in CGT collections under the proposed schedule of market values (SMV) and said that the agency is currently updating the pertinent figures.

Thereafter, Representative Lagman asked about the specific definition of international standards in property valuation, as mentioned in House Bill No. 4664. He said that the sponsoring Committees should craft the necessary language to capture the exact intent of the measure; otherwise, he would propose the necessary amendments at the proper time.

Subsequently, Representative Lagman asked about the possible commonalities and variances in the SMVs based on the location, type of land, and the income class of the LGU where the property is located.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

On motion of Representative Palma, the Chair suspended the session at 5:25 p.m.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 5:27 p.m., the session resumed.

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

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN (Continuation)**

Upon resumption of session, Representative Lagman also inquired into the standards that would guide the secretary of finance in the approval of valuation, and whether there are other countries where the finance secretary is given the same mandate.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

At 5:30 p.m., session was suspended upon Representative Palma's motion.

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

The session resumed at 5:31 p.m.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN (Continuation)**

Expressing concern that ownership of residential lands is deemed as a dead investment, Representative Lagman then asked if the Bill provides a consideration and protection for small residential property owners who derive income from their property but are subject to tax increment. Representative Mariño said that the sponsoring Committees would be open to suggestions from his colleague.

To Representatives Lagman's queries, the Sponsor said that the SMVs would be the basis for other related government activities, such as the determination of compensation under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, the right-of-way acquisition of the Department of Public Works and Highways, and government payment for expropriation activities.

Representative Lagman then said that the Bill should provide for the protection of landowners and the government from exorbitant rates due to the increase in the SMVs. Finally, he inquired into the source and availability of funds for the creation of a real property market database in each LGU.

#### **RESERVATION OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN**

As moved by Representative Palma, the Chair noted the previous reservation of Representative



Lagman on the continuation of his interpellation on the Bill in the next session.

**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION ON  
SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4664**

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 4664.

**DESIGNATION OF HOUSE CONFEREES  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4933  
AND SENATE BILL NO. 1043**

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body designated the following Members as conferees to reconcile the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 4933 and Senate Bill No. 1043, postponing the May 2020 barangay and *Sangguniang Kabataan* elections: Reps. Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer, Pidi Barzaga, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Pablo C. Ortega, Lawrence “Law” H. Fortun, and Stella Luz A. Quimbo.

**BUSINESS FOR THE DAY:  
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 31  
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4851**

On successive motions of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 4851 contained in Committee Report No. 31 as submitted by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, declaring May 18 of every year as National Higher Education Day; 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 previously distributed to the Members; adopted the Explanatory Note of the Bill as the sponsorship remarks on the measure, upon motion of Rep. Mark O. Go, chairperson of the sponsoring Committee; terminated the period of sponsorship and debate in the absence of interpellations; terminated the period of amendments in the absence of committee and individual amendments; and approved the same on Second Reading through *viva voce* voting.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Palma, the Chair recognized Rep. Arlene D. Brosas on a question of personal and collective privilege.

**QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE  
OF REPRESENTATIVE BROSAS**

Representative Brosas condemned the red-tagging and baseless accusations of Armed Forces

of Philippines (AFP) Major General Reuben Basiao against Gabriela Women’s Party (GWP) and other progressive groups during the briefing on the AFP Modernization Plan of the Committee on National Defense. She stated that their lives were put in danger by such baseless accusations considering the current political climate for human rights defenders.

She then informed the Body that GWP is a duly-elected party-list organization and not a front for a communist-terrorist group as claimed by the AFP; and stressed that Congress should not allow such harassment of its Members. She averred that the GWP wants to be part of social change, enact laws for the benefit of the poor people especially the vulnerable sectors such as women and children, and participate in and promote good governance.

She further stressed that under the Constitution, it is not a crime to organize and to be an activist; and reiterated that the action of the AFP was a clear attempt to criminalize dissent and weaponize the law.

**REFERRAL OF SPEECH  
OF REPRESENTATIVE BROSAS**

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body referred Representative Brosas’ speech to the Committee on Rules.

**BUSINESS FOR THE DAY:  
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 71  
ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22**

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Joint Resolution No. 22 contained in Committee Report No. 71 as reported out by the Committee on Agriculture and Food.

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

“JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE RICE SUBSIDY AS PROVIDED IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (GAA) FOR THE PURCHASE OF PALAY FROM LOCAL FARMERS, MANDATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(DILG), DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND), DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTr), AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) AND THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA), TO DIRECTLY PURCHASE PALAY FROM LOCAL FARMERS AND DISTRIBUTE RICE SUBSIDY ALLOWANCE IN THE FORM OF ACTUAL RICE, INSTEAD OF CASH.”

As copies of the House Joint Resolution had been distributed to the Members, on motion of Representative Palma, 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.

On motion of Representative Palma, the Chair recognized Rep. Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga, chairperson of the sponsoring Committee, and Rep. Florencio G. Noel, a principal author of the Bill, to sponsor the measure one after the other.

#### **SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE ENVERGA**

At the outset, Representative Enverga explained that under the recently enacted Republic Act No. 11203 or the Rice Liberalization and Tariffication Law, the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) or the Rice Fund would be created to help the local rice industry through the provision of seeds, machinery, credit assistance, and training to rice-producing provinces all over the country.

Recognizing the interventions of the government and that it would take time to fully realize the benefits from RCEF, Representative Enverga said that the sponsoring Committee believes that the Joint Resolution would provide the additional funds for the DA and the NFA to be able to purchase the palay of local farmers. Thereupon, Representative Enverga urged the Body to support the approval of House Joint Resolution No. 22.

#### **SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE NOEL**

Upon recognition of the Chair, Representative Noel first explained the rationale in providing rice

instead of cash to the beneficiaries of the government’s *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program or 4Ps. He then pointed out that House Joint Resolution No. 22 seeks to provide 4Ps beneficiaries with regular access to their staple food and allot more resources for other family expenses.

He also emphasized that the additional *palay* requirements needed for this program will increase the buying price of local *palay*. He urged the DSWD and the DA to strengthen and improve the implementation of 4Ps and RCEF Program, respectively.

Lastly, he said that the initiative would help rice farmers to have a steadier source of income and more opportunities for employment, which is consistent with Party-List An Waray’s commitment towards a sense of community or “katilingban” and collective grassroots progress or “kauswagan” in local communities.

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Palma, the Chair recognized Representative Brosas to interpellate Representative Enverga.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BROSAS**

Representatives Brosas and Enverga discussed the differences between the House and Senate versions of the measure. The Sponsor explained that the Senate has limited the implementing agencies involved to the DSWD, while the House version taps other agencies that could help the farmers. In addition, the Senate has limited its target beneficiaries to 11 provinces, which it considered as the most disadvantaged in terms of rice harvesting and selling price of rice.

Representative Brosas then sought clarification on the process of rice distribution, particularly on the access of beneficiaries to transportation, to ensure that they would benefit from the program. Thereafter, she reiterated the call of the Makabayan bloc to repeal the Rice Liberalization and Tariffication Law which she claimed does not provide safeguards to the farmers.

In concluding her interpellation, Representative Brosas also asked the Body to consider the proposed Rice Industry Development Act as an alternative solution to the rice crisis.

## **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 and thereafter proceeded 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 JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22**

On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body approved on Second Reading House Joint Resolution No. 22 through *viva voce* voting.

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

Subsequently, on motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body resumed the 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 interpellations.

Upon Representative Palma's motion, the Chair then recognized Rep. Sharon S. Garin, chairperson of the sponsoring Committee, to defend the measure; and Minority Leader Abante to interpellate thereon.

## **INTERPELLATION OF MINORITY LEADER ABANTE**

Minority Leader Abante debated with Representative Garin (S.) on whether the Bill intended (1) to overturn the Supreme Court decision on the definition of a public utility as well as its interpretation of the constitutional provision on Filipino ownership of public utilities; and (2) to allow foreigners to enter businesses whose 60-percent ownership was limited by the Constitution to Filipinos.

They debated on the meaning of the term “public utility” and on delegating unto the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) the power to define public utilities. Further, while Minority Leader Abante opined that the Bill would relax the constitutional restriction of foreign ownership, Representative Garin stressed that opening up the economy to more foreign investors, through the Bill, would even protect Filipinos by providing them better services at lower costs.

Lastly, Minority Leader Abante raised his concern that the new definition of public utility would possibly allow the hiring of foreigners to managerial and executive positions, which is also restricted by the Constitution. Representative Garin said that at the proper time, the Committee would consider any proposal or amendment from the Minority Leader regarding the matter.

At this juncture, on motion of Representative Palma, the Chair recognized Rep. Jesus “Bong” C. Suntay for his interpellation.

## **INTERPELLATION OF REPRESENTATIVE SUNTAY**

Representatives Suntay and Garin tackled “public utility” as defined in various sources, and debated on how its new definition would limit or qualify industries as public utility.

Representative Suntay expressed concern that opening up certain sectors of the Philippine economy to foreigners through the redefinition of public utilities would disrupt certain constitutional objectives, especially that the Bill only qualifies the distribution of electricity, transmission of electricity, and waterworks and sewerage systems as public utilities. The Sponsor explained that said industries fully meet the definition and that telecommunications

was not considered in the Bill's definition because it is not a natural monopoly.

Representative Suntay then stressed that based on the definitions he provided, the definition for public utility does not require that industries should be a monopoly. Representative Garin maintained however that the proposed definition of public utility, which includes being a natural monopoly as one of the criteria proposed in the measure, was based on legal research and consistent with Supreme Court rulings as well as the discussions of the 1986 Constitutional Commission. She added that Congress could include other industries such as transportation and telecommunications for as long as they meet the four criteria specified in House Bill No. 78.

On Representative Suntay's apprehension that the opening of the economy could be a disadvantage to local industries, Representative Garin maintained that the proposed measure will not threaten but instead augment the limitations of local investments. She assured Representative Suntay that existing protectionist laws are still in place despite the amendment of the Public Service Act.

Representative Suntay however argued that the best protection that can be provided by law is the protection given by the Constitution; and said that in all jurisdiction, there has never been such a restrictive definition of a public utility. The Sponsor reiterated that the definition of a public utility is not limited to the four systems cited in the Bill but is based on the criteria that are embodied therein.

In closing, Representative Suntay stated that he is not against the Bill but he cautioned on the consequences of limiting the definition of a public utility.

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

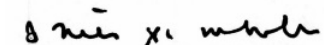
On motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Body suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 78.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Palma, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday, November 6, 2019.

It was 7:54 p.m.

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I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

  
**JOSE LUIS G. MONTALES**  
Secretary General

Approved on November 11, 2019

Congress of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Philippines

**MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE**

*Journal No. 22*

**Tuesday, November 05, 2019**

ABANTE	BONDOC	DUTERTE
ABAYA	BORDADO	DY (F.)
ABELLANOSA	BRAVO	DY (F.M.C.)
ABU	** BROSAS	* DY (I.P.)
ABUEG-ZALDIVAR	**** BULUT	** EBCAS
ABUNDA	*** BUSTOS	**** ECLEO
**** ACOP	CABATBAT	ELAGO
ACOSTA	CABOCHAN	** ENVERGA
*** ACOSTA-ALBA	**** CABREDO	*** ERICE
ADIONG	** CAGAS	ERIGUEL
** ADVINCULA	CALDERON	**** ERMITA-BUHAIN
AGABAS	CALIXTO	ESCUDERO
** AGARAO	CAMINERO	ESPINA
AGLIPAY	CAMPOS	ESPINO
**** AGUINALDO	CANAMA	ESTRELLA
ALBANO (A.)	*** CAOAGDAN	FARIÑAS (R.C.)
*** ALBANO (R.)	CARI	FARIÑAS I (R.C.)
** ALMARIO	CASTELO	FERNANDEZ
**** ALONTE	** CASTRO (F.L.)	FERNANDO
ALVAREZ (F.)	CASTRO (F.H.)	FERRER (J.M.)
*** ALVAREZ (G.)	CAYETANO (A.P.)	** FERRER (L.)
ALVAREZ (P.)	CAYETANO (M.L.)	** FLORES
**** AMANTE-MATBA	CELESTE	**** FONGWAN
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	DAZA	**** GO (E.C.)
BARZAGA	DE JESUS	GO (M.)
BASCUG	**** DE VENECIA	GONZAGA
BAUTISTA	DEFENSOR (L.)	GONZALES (A.)
BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN	DEFENSOR (M.)	GONZALES (N.)
BELMONTE	DEL MAR	*** GONZALEZ
**** BENITEZ	DELOS SANTOS	GORRICETA
BERNOS	DELOSO-MONTALLA	**** GUICO
** BIAZON	DIMAPORO (A.)	GULLAS
BILLONES	DIMAPORO (M.K.)	*** GUYA
**** BIRON	**** DUAVIT	* HARESCO
* BOLILIA	** DUJALI	** HATAMAN



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