

Journal of the House of Representatives

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

**JOURNAL NO. 54
Wednesday, March 11, 2020**

Prepared by the
JOURNAL SERVICE
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JOURNAL NO. 54
Wednesday, March 11, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu called the session to order.

INVOCATION AND NATIONAL ANTHEM

Rep. Florida “Rida” P. Robes delivered the invocation. Thereafter, the Members sang the National Anthem.

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

On successive motions of Rep. Rowena Niña O. Taturan, 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

Thereupon, on motion of Rep. Anthony Peter “Onyx” D. Crisologo, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Reference of Business.

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6526, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROGRAM FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS, OFFICES, AND AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

House Bill No. 6527, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT, REHABILITATION, AND MODERNIZATION OF THE

SANGALI FISH PORT COMPLEX (SFPC) IN ZAMBOANGA CITY”

By Representative Dalipe
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6528, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL POLICY IN PREVENTING ADOLESCENT PREGNANCIES, INSTITUTIONALIZING SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR TEENAGE PARENTS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Acosta-Alba, Zubiri and Garin (Janette)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 6529, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING HAZARD PAY TO ALL COURT SHERIFFS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Garin (Janette)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6530, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ILI – GUINAMGAMMAN – RIZAL PROVINCIAL ROAD, CONNECTING THE PROVINCE OF APAYAO AND PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Bulut and Vargas Alfonso
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6531, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BULUAN – BANBAN – PAGUIN – SACPIL PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF APAYAO, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bulut
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6532, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE LIFETIME MONTHLY GRATUITY OF MEDAL OF

VALOR AWARDEES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9049, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'AN ACT GRANTING MONTHLY GRATUITY AND PRIVILEGES TO AN Awardee OF THE MEDAL OF VALOR, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES' ”

By Representative Palma
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 6533, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY DRUG TESTING OF PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICANTS”

By Representative Sarmiento
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6534, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELDERLY CARE AND NURSING COMPLEX IN EVERY CITY AND PROVINCE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Marquez
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 6535, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING BARANGAY STA. MARIA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRESENTACION, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR AS BARANGAY PARUBCAN”

By Representative Fuentebella
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6536, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE MANDATE AND SERVICE CAPABILITY OF THE DON JOSE S. MONFORT MEDICAL CENTER EXTENSION HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAROTAC NUEVO, ILOILO, RENAMING THE SAME AS DON JOSE S. MONFORT MEDICAL CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Biron
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6537, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO SATELLITE BROADCASTING INCORPORATED

UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7965 ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE SATELLITE BROADCASTING INCORPORATED A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS WITHIN REGIONS I, II, THE CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION AND THE WHOLE OF LUZON' ”

By Representative Ortega
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 6538, entitled:

“AN ACT PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN THE PHILIPPINES GUARANTEED UNDER SECTION 5, ARTICLE III OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Villanueva (Eduardo) and Rivera
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

House Bill No. 6539, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF GOV. FAUSTINO N. DY, SR. MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FROM ONE HUNDRED (100) TO THREE HUNDRED (300) BEDS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Albano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6540, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE LAST WEEK OF AUGUST AS NATIONAL YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH WEEK AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Robes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6541, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING ELECTRIC VEHICLES FROM BEING PARKED IN ENCLOSED PARKING SPACES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Robes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6542, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING A JUST AND HUMANE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF UNDERPRIVILEGED AND HOMELESS CITIZENS, PROVIDING

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representatives Nieto, Maceda, Malapitan,
Martinez and Valeriano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 6543, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING SUPPORT AND
WELFARE PROTECTION TO PARENTS,
AND OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Suarez (Aleta)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY
RELATIONS

House Bill No. 6544, entitled:

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

By Representative Suarez (Aleta)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 6545, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1869,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PAGCOR
FRANCHISE, PROVIDING AUTHORITY
FOR THE REGULATION OF OFF-
COCKPIT, ELECTRONIC, AND ONLINE
GAMES BASED ON COCKFIGHTING,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Alvarez (Franz), Gonzales
(Aurelio) and Padiernos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND
AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 6546, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF QUARANTINE FACILITIES IN
ALL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
(DOH) HOSPITALS IN THE COUNTRY,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Campos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6547, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING AND REPEALING
REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED NINE

THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETY-
SEVEN (R.A. NO. 9297), OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS 'THE CHEMICAL
ENGINEERING ACT OF 2004' ”

By Representative Nograles (Jericho)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 6548, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE FULL
TRANSPARENCY AND DISCLOSURE
OF RELEVANT FACTS AND ALL
REQUIREMENTS BY THE OWNERS AND/
OR DEVELOPERS OF CONDOMINIUM
PROJECTS TO THE BUYERS, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE PD 957 AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cuaresma
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 6549, entitled:

“AN ACT SETTING THE STANDARD
WORKING CONDITIONS AND
CREATING AN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY
AND HEALTH (OSH) STANDARDS
OF WORKERS IN FILM, TELEVISION,
THEATER AND SIMILAR INDUSTRIES
OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representatives Gaite, Zarate, Brosas, Castro
(France) and Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6550, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY
(NHA) HOUSING BENEFICIARIES
BY WAIVING AND CONDONING ALL
PENALTIES AND DELINQUENCY
CHARGES TO THE ACCOUNT OF EVERY
HOUSING BENEFICIARIES”

By Representatives Sy-Alvarado, Yap (Eric) and
Revilla
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 6551, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE
MARINDUQUE SPECIAL ECONOMIC
ZONE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA
CRUZ, PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE,
CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE
MARINDUQUE SPECIAL ECONOMIC
ZONE AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING

FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Velasco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND
THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 6552, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 21 OF EVERY YEAR AS 'ARAW NG MARINDUQUE,' A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE”

By Representative Velasco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6556, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY GABIHAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ILDEFONSO, PROVINCE OF BULACAN TO BE KNOWN AS THE GABIHAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Silverio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 774, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE OTHER RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EFFECT OF COVID-19 ON EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIES, AND ON THE MEASURES BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WITH THE END VIEW OF ENSURING A COMPREHENSIVE AND COHERENT MITIGATION AND PREVENTION NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO SAVE LIVES AND JOBS”

By Representative Mendoza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 775, entitled:

“RESOLUTION ORGANIZING THE PHILIPPINE-BRAZIL PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP GROUP”

By Representative Yu
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INTER-PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

House Resolution No. 777, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, OF THE GUIDELINES SET BY THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT IN ITS CONDUCT OF AUDIT ON THE UTILIZATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND (SEF) BY THE PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS (LSBs)”

By Representative Robes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 778, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VARIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND FORCED SURRENDER OF FARMERS AND MEMBERS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES GROUP KALINGA TRIBE PERPETRATED BY ELEMENTS OF THE 17TH INFANTRY BATTALION PHILIPPINE ARMY AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE-CAGAYAN IN SITIO LAGUM, BRGY. LIPATAN, STO. NIÑO, CAGAYAN VALLEY, CAGAYAN PROVINCE”

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

House Resolution No. 779, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ALLEGED HARASSMENT AGAINST RURAL MISSIONARIES OF THE PHILIPPINES (RMP) BY THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING COUNCIL (AMLC)”

By Representatives Gaite and Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 780, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE MAJOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES TO COME UP WITH A TASK FORCE WHICH WILL RECOMMEND A MECHANISM FOR A HOME BASED/VIRTUAL EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR

K-12 STUDENTS DURING THE STATE
OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY”

By Representative Bañas-Nograles
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND
CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER
AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 781, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE
COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES
DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 11364, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE 'COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY CHARTER OF 2019' ”

By Representative Canama
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 782, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE
ON COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT,
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIL PALM
FINANCING PROGRAM OF THE LAND
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representatives Canama, Ong (Jose), Lacson,
Padiernos and Ebcas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated February 18, 2020 of Arnold P. Dinunon,
CE, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Ambaguio,
Province of Nueva Vizcaya, submitting to the
House of Representatives their Report on Fund
Utilization and Status of Programs Project
Implementation as of December 31, 2019.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated February 20, 2020 of Eleanor O. Mena,
State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Audit
Group CGS – Water District I, II and Other CGS
Stand Alone Agencies, Commission on Audit,
Regional Office No. VI, furnishing the House of
Representatives a copy of the Annual Report on
the Malinao Water District, Malinao, Aklan for
the year ended December 31, 2018.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Agency Action Plan and Status of Implementation
(AAPSI) for the FY 2018 and FY 2017 Annual
Audit Reports of the Presidential Communications
Operations Office.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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

1. Circular No. 1077 dated 26 February 2020;
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2020-010 dated 21
February 2020;
3. Circular Letter No. CL-2020-011 dated 26
February 2020; and
4. Circular Letter No. CL-2020-012 dated 27
February 2020.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL
INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated March 9, 2020 of Salvador C. Medialdea,
Executive Secretary, Office of the President,
Malacañang, to the Honorable Senate President
Vicente C. Sotto III, transmitting the letter of
President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, copy furnished
the Honorable Speaker Alan Peter S. Cayetano,
certifying to the necessity of the immediate
enactment of Senate Bill No. 1357, entitled:

“AN ACT REFORMING THE CORPORATE
INCOME TAX AND INCENTIVES
SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTIONS 4, 20, 27, 28, 34
AND 290 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL
REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED,
AND CREATING THEREIN NEW TITLE
XIII, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Revision of Laws
(Committee Report No. 280), re H.B. No. 6554,
entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 22 OF EVERY
YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN
THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO BE KNOWN
AS 'NATIONAL FARMER'S DAY' ”

recommending its approval in substitution of
House Bill No. 5244

Sponsors: Representatives Deloso-Montalla,
Cullamat and Zarate

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on People's Participation
(Committee Report No. 281), re H.B. No. 6555,
entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING
VOLUNTEERISM AS A STRATEGY
FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND

DECLARING DECEMBER AS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 12 AND 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9418, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'VOLUNTEER ACT OF 2007' ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 3134 and 3475

Sponsors: Representatives Robes, Acosta-Alba, Bustos and Vergara

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Youth and Sports Development (Committee Report No. 282), re H.R. No. 783, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING ALEXANDRA 'ALEX' M. EALA FOR WINNING THE AUSTRALIAN OPEN JUNIORS' TENNIS COMPETITION DOUBLES CATEGORY HELD IN MELBOURNE PARK, AUSTRALIA ON JANUARY 31, 2020”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolutions Numbered 701, 708 and 740

Sponsors: Representatives Martinez, Tiangco and Olivarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Youth and Sports Development (Committee Report No. 283), re H.R. No. 784, entitled:

“RESOLUTION COMMENDING FILIPINO SURFER ROGER CASUGAY FOR EXHIBITING AN ACT OF HEROISM IN RESCUING A FELLOW COMPETITOR DURING THE SURFING COMPETITION OF THE 2019 SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES (SEA GAMES) IN SAN JUAN, LA UNION, AND FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE MEN'S LONGBOARD SURFING COMPETITION”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolutions Numbered 585, 596, 601 and 605

Sponsors: Representatives Martinez, Ortega, Sy-Alvarado, Fariñas (Ria) and Albano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Agriculture and Food and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 284), re H.B. No. 6558, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE RICE SUBSIDY PROVIDED UNDER THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4PS) IN THE 2019 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR

THE PURCHASE OF PALAY FROM LOCAL FARMERS, MANDATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) AND THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA), TO BUY PALAY FROM LOCAL FARMERS AND DISTRIBUTE RICE INSTEAD OF CASH TO QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5583

Sponsors: Representatives Enverga, Villafuerte, Ungab and Yap (Eric)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources (Committee Report No. 285), re H.B. No. 6563, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING DAVAO ORIENTAL A MINING-FREE ZONE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1124

Sponsors: Representatives Barzaga and Almario

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 286), re H.B. No. 4786, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LILOAN, PROVINCE OF CEBU AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento, Yap (Eric) and Frasco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 287), re H.B. No. 6568, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALAMBA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of
House Bill No. 5314

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento and Yap
(Eric)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Transportation and
the Committee on Appropriations (Committee
Report No. 288), re H.B. No. 6569, entitled:

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

recommending its approval in substitution of
House Bill No. 4921

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento and Yap
(Eric)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Revision of Laws
(Committee Report No. 289), re H.B. No. 6570,
entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE CHINESE NEW
YEAR’S DAY A SPECIAL NONWORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE PHILIPPINES”

recommending its approval in substitution of
House Bill No. 2778

Sponsors: Representatives Deloso-Montalla and
Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Crisologo, the
Chair suspended the session at 3:15 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:18 p.m., the session resumed.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

With leave of the House, on motion of
Representative Taduran, there being no objection,
the Chair declared a Privilege Hour.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE ELAGO

On motion of Representative Taduran, there
being no objection, the Chair recognized Rep. Sarah
Jane I. Elago who spoke about policies stipulated

in student handbooks that might curtail the students
freedoms and human rights.

She then emphasized the importance of a human
rights education framework; explained that the
adoption of a whole-school approach would be a
holistic way to create a school where human rights
values are embedded, and said that the approach is
a cohesive, collective, and collaborative action by a
school community to strategically improve student
learning, behavior, and well-being, as well as the
conditions which support them.

She then manifested her intent to file a resolution
which details the four key areas in developing a plan
for a whole-school approach, and made a call to
combat discrimination and promote human rights and
media and information literacy in campuses through
various actions.

She also said that an online teleconference of
students and youth from the ASEAN on the topics
of inclusion and diversity will be held next week to
tackle how the different parliaments would be able
to help include schools in achieving the needs of a
free and democratic world; enjoined the Body to
look into legislative measures to guarantee learners’
rights and welfare, and to provide proper human
rights education and critical media and information
literacy in schools; asked the support of schools and
the youth to level up the sanitation drive in public
places and schools; and relayed the request of the deaf
community for a Filipino sign language interpreter
to be featured in the press conferences being held
by the Department of Health regarding the current
public health emergency.

REFERRAL OF PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE ELAGO

On motion of Representative Taduran, there
being no objection, the Body referred the privilege
speech of Representative Elago to the Committee on
Rules for its appropriate action.

TERMINATION OF PRIVILEGE HOUR

On further motion of Representative Taduran,
there being no objection, the Body terminated the
Privilege Hour.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Crisologo, the
Chair suspended the session at 3:34 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed with Deputy Speaker Neptali M. Gonzales II presiding.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Representative Taduran acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Deputy Speaker Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva, and Reps. Domingo C. Rivera and Princess Rihan M. Sakaluran.

ROLL CALL

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

Abante	Barzaga	Chungalao	Gasataya
Abaya	Bascug	Co (A.N.)	Gatchalian
Abu	Bautista	Co (E.)	Gato
Abueg-Zaldivar	Belmonte	Cojuangco	Geron
Abunda	Benitez	Collantes	Go (M.)
Acop	Bernos	Crisologo	Gonzaga
Acosta	Biazon	Cua	Gonzales (A.)
Acosta-Alba	Billones	Cuaresma	Gonzales (N.)
Adiong	Biron	Cueva	Gonzalez
Advincula	Bolilia	Cullamat	Gullas
Agabas	Bondoc	Dagooc	Guya
Agarao	Bordado	Dalipe	Haresco
Aglipay	Bravo	Dalog	Hernandez
Aguinaldo	Brosas	Datol	Herrera-Dy
Albano	Bulut	Daza	Hofer
Almario	Bustos	De Jesus	Jalosjos
Alonte	Cabatbat	de Venecia	Javier
Alvarez (G.)	Cabochan	Defensor (L.)	Jimenez
Amante-Matba	Cabredo	Defensor (M.)	Kho (E.)
Amatong	Cagas	Del Mar	Kho (W.)
Andaya	Calderon	Delos Santos	Labadlabad
Angara	Calixto	Deloso-Montalla	Lacson-Noel
Aragones	Caminero	Dimaporo (A.)	Lagman
Arbison	Campos	Dimaporo (M.K.)	Lagon
Arenas	Canama	Duavit	Lara
Arroyo	Caoagdan	Dujali	Lazatin
Atienza	Cari	Duterte	Legarda
Aumentado	Castelo	Dy (F.)	Lim
Babasa	Castro (F.L.)	Dy (F.M.C.)	Limkaichong
Bagatsing	Castro (F.H.)	Dy (I.P.)	Lopez
Balindong	Cayetano (A.P.)	Ebcas	Lusotan
Baños-Nogralas	Cayetano (M.L.)	Elago	Macapagal Arroyo
Barba	Celeste	Enverga	Maceda
Barbers	Chatto	Erice	Madrona
Baronda	Chipeco	Eriguel	Malapitan
		Ermita-Buhain	Mangaoang
		Escudero	Mangudadatu
		Espina	Marcoleta
		Estrella	Mariano-Hernandez
		Fariñas (R.C.)	Mariño
		Fariñas I (R.C.)	Marquez
		Fernandez	Martinez
		Fernando	Matba
		Ferrer (J.M.)	Matugas
		Ferrer (L.)	Mendoza
		Flores	Mercado
		Fortuno	Momo
		Fuentebella	Natividad-Nagaño
		Gaite	Nava
		Garbin	Nieto
		Garcia (J.E.)	Noel
		Garcia (P.J.)	Nogralas (J.J.)
		Garcia (V.)	Nolasco
		Garin (J.)	Nuñez-Malanyaon
		Garin (S.)	Oaminal

Olivarez	Siao
Ong (J.)	Silverio
Ong (R.)	Singson
Ortega	Singson-Meehan
Ouano-Dizon	Sinsuat
Pacquiao (A.)	Suansing (E.)
Pacquiao (R.)	Suansing (H.)
Padiernos	Suarez (D.)
Paduano	Suntay
Palma	Sy-Alvarado
Pancho	Taduran
Panotes	Tallado
Peña	Tambunting
Pichay	Tan (A.S.)
Pimentel	Tan (A.)
Pineda	Tan (S.A.)
Plaza	Tejada
Puno	Teves (A.)
Quimbo	Teves (J.)
Radaza	Tiangco
Ramirez-Sato	Tolentino
Ramos	Tulfo
Remulla	Tutor
Revilla	Ty (D.)
Reyes	Umali (A.)
Rivera	Umali (M.V.)
Robes	Unabia
Rodriguez	Uy (R.)
Roman	Valeriano
Romero	Valmayor
Romualdez (F.M.)	Vargas
Romualdez (Y.M.)	Veloso
Romualdo	Vergara
Romulo	Villa
Roque	Villafuerte
Sacdalan	Villanueva (N.)
Sagarbarria	Villar
Sakaluran	Villaraza-Suarez
Salimbangon	Violago
Salo	Yap (V.)
Sanchez	Yu
Sangcopan	Zamora (R.)
Sarmiento	Zarate
Saulog	Zubiri
Savellano	

With 269 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See Appendix)

APPROVAL ON THIRD READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5832

On subsequent motion of Rep. Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo, there being no objection, the

Body proceeded to the approval on Third Reading of House Bill No. 5832, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on March 5, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the Provisional Rules of the House.

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

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF FILIPINOS OVERSEAS AND FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT, DEFINING ITS MANDATE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.”

The Chair then directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Provisional Rules of the House, a second Roll Call was made.

MANIFESTATIONS OF CERTAIN HOUSE MEMBERS

During the voting, Reps. Jose L. Atienza Jr., Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., Arlene D. Brosas, France L. Castro, Sarah Jane I. Elago, and Edcel C. Lagman reserved their right to explain their negative votes.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative:

Abante	Barba
Abu	Baronda
Abueg-Zaldivar	Barzaga
Abunda	Bascug
Acosta	Bautista
Acosta-Alba	Benitez
Adiong	Bernos
Advincula	Billones
Agabas	Biron
Agarao	Bolilia
Aglipay	Bondoc
Aguinaldo	Bravo
Almario	Bulut
Alvarez (G.)	Cabatbat
Amante-Matba	Cabredo
Amatong	Cagas
Andaya	Calderon
Arenas	Calixto
Aumentado	Caminero
Babasa	Caoagdan
Bagatsing	Cayetano (A.P.)

Cayetano (M.L.)	Jimenez	Singson-Meehan	Umali (A.)
Celeste	Kho (E.)	Sinsuat	Unabia
Chatto	Lacson-Noel	Suansing (E.)	Uy (R.)
Chipeco	Lagon	Suarez (D.)	Valeriano
Chungalao	Lara	Suntay	Vargas
Co (A.N.)	Lazatin	Tallado	Vergara
Co (E.)	Lim	Tambunting	Villa
Collantes	Limkaichong	Tan (A.)	Villanueva (N.)
Crisologo	Lopez	Teves (J.)	Villar
Cua	Lusotan	Tiangco	Zamora (R.)
Dalipe	Macapagal Arroyo	Tolentino	Zubiri
Dalog	Maceda	Torres-Gomez	
Datol	Madrona		
Defensor (L.)	Mangaoang	<i>Negative:</i>	
Delos Santos	Mariano-Hernandez	Atienza	Elago
Deloso-Montalla	Mariño	Belmonte	Gaite
Dimaporo (A.)	Marquez	Bordado	Lagman
Dimaporo (M.K.)	Mendoza	Brosas	Umali (M.V.)
Dujali	Mercado	Cabochan	Zarate
Dy (F.)	Momo	Castro (F.L.)	
Dy (F.M.C.)	Natividad-Nagaño		
Dy (I.P.)	Noel	<i>Abstention:</i>	
Ebcas	Nuñez-Malanyaon	None	
Eriguel	Oaminal		
Ermita-Buhain	Olivarez		
Escudero	Ong (J.)		
Estrella	Ortega		
Fariñas (R.C.)	Ouano-Dizon		
Fariñas I (R.C.)	Pacquiao (A.)		
Fernandez	Pacquiao (R.)		
Fernando	Pancho		
Ferrer (L.)	Panotes		
Flores	Pichay		
Fortun	Pimentel		
Fortuno	Puno		
Fuentebella	Quimbo		
Garbin	Radaza		
Garcia (P.J.)	Ramirez-Sato		
Garcia (V.)	Ramos		
Garin (J.)	Remulla		
Garin (S.)	Reyes		
Gasataya	Rivera		
Gatchalian	Robes		
Gato	Rodriguez		
Geron	Romero		
Go (M.)	Romualdez (Y.M.)		
Gonzaga	Romualdo		
Gonzalez	Roque		
Gullas	Sacdalan		
Hernandez	Sagarbarria		
Herrera-Dy	Salimbangon		
Hofer	Salo		
Jalosjos	Sanchez		
Javier	Siao		

With 173 affirmative votes, 11 negative votes, and zero abstentions, the Body approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 5832.

EXPLANATION OF VOTES

The following Members explained their votes:

1. Voting in the negative, Representative Atienza emphasized that the creation of a new bureaucracy will not solve the problems besetting overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) but will worsen the same and create more corruption and red tape. He cited several offices that the government had established which proved to be ineffective in the long run. As he expressed his support for the OFWs, he suggested that the government focus on helping pertinent agencies handling the concerns of the sector.
2. Representative Bordado pointed out that the proposed Department of Filipinos Overseas and Foreign Employment replicates some of the functions and programs of existing agencies mandated to uphold the welfare and rights of OFWs. He said that it was pertinent to recognize the importance of the contributions of OFWs to the country, but opined that focusing on creating local

employment opportunities will be more beneficial. He voted against the Bill.

3. Representative Brosas said that under the intention of supposedly protecting OFWs, the Bill will actually institutionalize the export of Filipino workers, especially women workers, and make them prone to violence and abuse. She added that the Bill pushes for the delegation of the government's accountability over OFWs to private recruitment agencies. Voting in the negative, she stressed that the government must instead create decent jobs in the country.
4. In casting a "No" vote, Representative Castro (F.L.) pointed out that the measure does not address the reasons behind the need for Filipinos to work abroad but instead supports the government's labor export policy. She said that the measure will only add another layer in the bureaucracy instead of addressing the pressing issues in the country's labor and employment problem.
5. Representative Elago disagreed that creating a new department will necessarily address the concerns and needs of OFWs, and said that adding another layer in the bureaucracy could only impede the delivery of services to them and send signals on the country's dependence on labor export. Voting against the measure, she also advocated the creation of long-term livelihood opportunities for Filipinos overseas to dissuade them from working abroad again.
6. Representative Lagman presented the following reasons why he opposed House Bill No. 5832: a) the Bill does not address the well-documented social costs of labor; b) with the creation of the proposed department, the stop-gap strategy of promoting the export of Filipino manpower becomes a permanent policy, with the "sunset" provision merely included to mitigate opposition to the measure; c) a performance audit of agencies dealing with OFWs like the DOLE and the POEA, among others, should have been conducted to assess the extent to which they serve the needs of the OFWs; and d) the issue on why Filipinos work overseas was not clearly tackled in the Bill. He emphasized that the overriding objective in legislation is

to promote the general welfare of the people and creating a new department for the OFWs to fulfill the President's campaign promise is a false intent, as the OFWs' protection could still be achieved even without this new bureaucratic layer.

7. Rep. Ferdinand R. Gaite expressed his disagreement to the intent of the Bill as it would institutionalize a labor export policy. He recommended the crafting of a program that would create opportunities in the country by promoting sustainable agriculture for local needs, building local industries that respond to national development, and supporting policies that advance economic freedom for the country. He said that the proposed agency only shows that the Philippines continues to produce OFWs which is in contrast to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's pronouncement on the creation of adequate local jobs so Filipinos do not have to go abroad to work.
8. Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate voted "No" to the Bill on the belief that the proposed department is not the answer to the issues besetting the OFWs who would rather that the government end its export labor policy and create job opportunities so that they could stay with their families in the country.

At this point, Deputy Speaker Gonzales (N.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Abu.

APPROVAL ON THIRD READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 59

On motion of Rep. Christopher V.P. de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the approval on Third Reading of House Bill No. 59, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on March 5, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the Provisional Rules of the House.

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

"AN ACT SETTING THE MINIMUM PAID-UP CAPITAL AND LOCALLY PRODUCED STOCK INVENTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN RETAIL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8762,

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'RETAIL
TRADE LIBERALIZATION ACT OF 2000'."

The Chair then directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Provisional Rules of the House, a second Roll Call was made.

**MANIFESTATIONS OF
CERTAIN MEMBERS**

During the voting, Representatives Atienza, Bordado, Brosas, Castro (F.L.), Elago, Gaite, Lagman, and Jesus "Bong" C. Suntay reserved their rights to explain their negative votes.

Representative Bordado also requested that his name be deleted as coauthor of House Bill No. 59.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative:

Abaya	Billones
Abellanosa	Bolilia
Abueg-Zaldivar	Bondoc
Abunda	Bravo
Acop	Bulut
Acosta	Cabredo
Acosta-Alba	Cagas
Adiong	Calderon
Advincula	Calixto
Agarao	Caminero
Aguinaldo	Campos
Albano	Castelo
Almario	Celeste
Alvarez (F.)	Chipeco
Alvarez (G.)	Co (E.)
Amante-Matba	Collantes
Amatong	Crisologo
Andaya	Cua
Angara	Cueva
Arenas	Dalipe
Aumentado	Defensor (L.)
Babasa	Delos Santos
Bagatsing	Deloso-Montalla
Balindong	Dy (F.)
Barzaga	Ebcas
Bascug	Enverga
Bautista	Eriguel
Benitez	Ermita-Buhain
Biazon	Escudero

Espina	Quimbo
Estrella	Radaza
Fariñas (R.C.)	Ramirez-Sato
Fariñas I (R.C.)	Ramos
Ferrer (J.M.)	Reyes
Ferrer (L.)	Robes
Fortun	Rodriguez
Garcia (P.J.)	Roman
Garcia (V.)	Romero
Garin (J.)	Romualdez (Y.M.)
Garin (S.)	Romualdo
Gatchalian	Roque
Geron	Sacdalan
Go (M.)	Sakaluran
Gonzales (A.)	Salimbangon
Gonzales (N.)	Salo
Gonzalez	Sarmiento
Gullas	Savellano
Haresco	Siao
Hernandez	Silverio
Herrera-Dy	Singson-Meehan
Hofer	Suansing (E.)
Jalosjos	Taduran
Javier	Tallado
Lacson-Noel	Tambunting
Lagon	Tan (A.S.)
Lara	Tan (A.)
Lazatin	Tejada
Lim	Teves (J.)
Lusotan	Tiangco
Macapagal Arroyo	Tolentino
Marcoleta	Torres-Gomez
Mariano-Hernandez	Tutor
Mariño	Ty (A.)
Matba	Ty (D.)
Natividad-Nagaño	Umali (A.)
Nava	Umali (M.V.)
Nieto	Unabia
Noel	Uy (J.)
Nogralas (J.J.)	Uy (R.)
Oaminal	Valeriano
Olivarez	Vargas
Ong (J.)	Vergara
Ouano-Dizon	Villa
Padiernos	Villanueva (N.)
Palma	Villar
Panotes	Violago
Plaza	Yu
Puno	Zamora (R.)

Negative:

Abante	Atienza
Agabas	Bañas-Nogralas

Barba	Gaite
Belmonte	Lagman
Bordado	Lopez
Brosas	Ortega
Cabatbat	Pancho
Cabochan	Pichay
Castro (F.L.)	Pimentel
Chungalao	Rivera
Cuaresma	Suarez (D.)
Dalog	Suntay
Del Mar	Tan (S.A.)
Elago	Villaraza-Suarez
Fernando	Zarate

Abstention:

Co (A.N.)
Remulla
Zubiri

With 156 affirmative votes, 30 negative votes, and three abstentions, the Body approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 59.

QUERY OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA

To the query of Representative Atienza as to the actual number of votes obtained in favor of House Bill No. 59, the Chair reiterated the preceding result of the nominal voting on the measure.

EXPLANATION OF VOTES

Thereafter, the following Members explained their votes:

1. Minority Leader Bienvenido M. Abante Jr. voted against House Bill No. 59 for the following reasons: a) the measure will remove the barriers to foreign investments in the local retail sector and open the Philippine retail industry by lowering paid-up capital from \$2 million to \$200,000 and reducing the required local manufactured products to be carried by foreign retailers from 30 percent to 10 percent; b) it was a drastic approach with unintended consequences especially with the removal of certain requirements for foreign investments; and c) it favors foreign investors that will eventually kill the local retail industry. Further, he expressed apprehension that the Bill violates the Constitution which provides for a "Filipino First" policy and would make

the participation of Filipino retailers in the trade sector most likely marginalized and unprotected.

REMINDER FROM THE CHAIR

At this point, the Chair reminded the Members to observe the "three-minute rule" for explanation of votes as specifically prescribed in Section 118 of the Provisional House Rules.

EXPLANATION OF VOTES (Continuation)

2. Senior Deputy Majority Leader Jesus Crispin C. Remulla explained that he abstained from voting on House Bill No. 59 because he doubted its significance and whether it would really benefit the local retail industry. He argued that the essence of having a strong economy is the protection of local businesses and products, and not the opening of the economy to foreign investors.
3. Representative Atienza voted against the Bill as he believed that enacting the measure into a law would give Filipinos permanent poverty and provide opportunities for foreigners to benefit from law and the country's resources. Saying that the Bill is worse than martial law because Filipinos would be deprived of opportunities to make a living, he criticized the Members of the 18th Congress for passing a measure that is unmindful of the Filipino people's welfare; urged his colleagues to call on their counterparts in the Senate to disapprove the Bill; and said that if necessary, he would personally talk and explain to President Duterte the possible negative effects of the measure to the ordinary citizens.
4. Rep. Manuel F. Zubiri explained that his abstention and not a direct "No" vote to the measure at hand was because he was not against liberalization and free trade per se. He said that the Filipinos have a fighting chance to compete in the market under a free trade only if it is fair, equal, and protective of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). He then expressed hope for a more thorough discussion on the Bill's paid-up capital requirement during the bicameral conference committee.

5. Voting against House Bill No. 59, Representative Bordado initially cited the 1987 Constitution, which provides for the development of a self-reliant and independent economy. He stressed that while foreign participation was authorized under previous retail trade policies which paved the way for a more competitive retail industry, several stringent conditions that were relaxed under the Bill might open the floodgates for foreign participation that would drown local businesses. Lastly, he pointed out that a sound economic policy must be considered on how the entry of foreign retailers would impact the local retail industry, and must be attuned with present business and socioeconomic demands.
6. Representative Brosas expressed Gabriela Women Party's resounding rejection of the further relaxation of the limits to foreign ownership in the local retail industry and the possible take-over by foreign MSMEs of small, local retailers under House Bill No. 59.

She stressed that along with the amendments to the Foreign Investments Act and the Public Service Act, the proposed measure forms part of the new wave of neoliberal and pro-market reforms of the government that seek to further open up the country's economy to foreign profiteering and plunder that would put the country's national patrimony for sale.

7. Voting "No" on behalf of ACT Teachers Party-List, Representative Castro (F.L.) stated that House Bill No. 59 is anti-Pinoy entrepreneur and anti-Filipino consumer, and is another neoliberal attack to the local economy that would prejudice local MSMEs as she maintained that small and medium retailing should be reserved exclusively for Filipinos.

She pointed out that the enactment of the proposed measure would enable the government to lay the country wide open for big foreign corporations to exploit Filipino workers and Philippine resources; lead to an influx of small and medium foreign entrepreneurs to the detriment of local MSMEs who have long cried out for

government support; jeopardize the jobs and livelihood of over two million workers who rely on local retail businesses; flood the Philippine market with expensive foreign products; and cut off the Filipino manufacturers from the supply chain and discourage local MSMEs which would hinder the creation and growth of existing local retailers. Along with the amendments to the Public Service Act and Foreign Investments Act, she stated that House Bill No. 59 would kill the lives and livelihood of the Filipino people.

8. In opposing the Bill, Representative Elago maintained that Kabataan Party-List supports the protection of local workers and local products. She stated however that House Bill No. 59 is grossly unfair and unjust as it would put the interest of foreign retailers over and above those of local MSMEs and would hinder their business opportunities.
9. Casting a negative vote, Representative Gaite stressed that the Bill would kill the local economy as it would weaken the competitiveness of local MSMEs due to the influx of imported products and the neoliberal policies of the government; jeopardize the jobs of millions of Filipino workers as local retail entrepreneurs could close their businesses due to the entry of foreign corporations; and create unsure job opportunities. He stated that all these could be avoided if only the government would not be dependent on foreign investments and would instead protect the workers and support the growth of Filipino retailers.
10. Representative Lagman stressed that he was voting against the proposed measure because it would allow foreigners to own and operate retail stores in the country. He pointed out that abandoning the nationality barrier that would lead to the entry of foreign capital is purely theoretical and that the liberalization of the citizenship requirement is not a major factor in attracting foreign investments.

As the objectives of Republic Act No. 8762 or the Retail Trade Liberalization Act were never realized, he stated that the amendment to lower the capitalization requirement would not entail income

generation from foreign investments and would further warrant the marginalization of Filipino retailers; the reduction of stock inventory of foreign retailers of locally made products would be counterproductive and would discourage the production of local products; and that the alienization of vital public utilities as well as local MSMEs is anti-Filipino and a violation of the Constitution. He said that the Bill is an empty braggadocio destitute of empirical basis.

11. As the Bill does not only do away with the protection of Filipino retailers but even reduces the capitalization requirement for foreign ownership of retail business, Rep. Jesus “Bong” C. Suntay stated that the proposed measure would undermine the competitive advantage of MSMEs as it would adversely affect their limited capital capacity; increase the proliferation of fly-by-night foreign investors given the small amount of paid-up capital requirement; give less opportunities to local retailers thereby further pulling down local employment; and violate the protection of the economic interest of Filipinos under the Constitution.

As it is imperative for Congress to abide by the spirit of the Constitution and legislate measures which will safeguard the interest of the Filipino people, he voted “No” to the Bill as it contradicts said principle.

12. In voting against the proposed measure, Representative Zarate contended that local retailers, who have long been asking for government support, would be put in jeopardy against big foreign capitalists. He stated that the government has been delinquent in providing support to all types of local industries to the detriment of the county’s economy. After explaining how the entry of foreign retailers will kill the local retail sector, he added that the Bill violates the constitutional provisions on an independent national economy and the prioritization of the welfare of Filipinos over that of foreigners. He then concluded by stating that like House Bill No. 5832, which the Body passed the previous day, House Bill No. 59 was an act of treachery against the nation.

TRANSMITTAL TO THE SENATE OF HOUSE BILL NOS. 5832 AND 59

On subsequent motion of Rep. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, there being no objection, the Body directed the Secretary General to immediately transmit to the Senate copies of House Bill Nos. 5832 and 59 that had just been approved on Third Reading.

BUSINESS FOR THE DAY: COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 220 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6194

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Romualdo, there being no objection, the Body considered on Second Reading House Bill No. 6194 contained in Committee Report No. 220 as reported out by the Committees on Natural Resources, and Appropriations.

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

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE
DELINEATION OF THE SPECIFIC FOREST
LIMITS OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

As copies of the Bill had been distributed to the Members, on motion of Representative Romualdo, 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.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE BARZAGA

On further motion of Representative Romualdo, the Chair recognized Rep. Pidi Barzaga, chairperson of the Committee on Natural Resources, who said that the instant Bill was a substitute measure which adhered to the constitutional mandate on the delineation of specific forest limits. He pointed out that if the measure is enacted, lands outside of the delineated forest limits will be alienable and disposable and those inside them will not be subject to alienation or disposition. He then moved for the approval of the measure.

TERMINATION OF PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

There being no Member who wished to interpellate the Sponsor, on motion of Representative

Romualdo, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of sponsorship and debate and proceeded to the period of amendments.

PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

There being no committee amendments, on motion of Representative Crisologo, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to consider individual amendments.

AMENDMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVE ROMUALDO

As proposed by Representative Romualdo and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the amendments on page 5 of the Bill.

TERMINATION OF PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

There being no further amendments, on motion of Representative Romualdo, there being no objection, the Body terminated the period of amendments.

APPROVAL ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6194, AS AMENDED

On motion of Representative Romualdo, there being no objection, the Body then approved on Second Reading through *viva voce* voting House Bill No. 6194, as amended.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

Subsequently, on motion of Representative Crisologo, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Additional Reference of Business.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the following House Resolution on First Reading, Messages from the Senate, and Committee Reports which were referred to the appropriate committees indicated hereunder:

RESOLUTION

House Resolution No. 787, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE

FAMILY OF THE LATE ADORACION J. VILLANUEVA, WIFE OF DEPUTY SPEAKER EDUARDO 'BRO. EDDIE' C. VILLANUEVA, REPRESENTATIVE OF CIBAC PARTY-LIST”

By Representatives Cayetano (Alan Peter), Romualdez (Ferdinand) and Abante
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated March 9, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed without amendment House Bill No. 4961, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY H-2 IN THE CITY OF DASMARIÑAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Message dated March 9, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed without amendment House Bill No. 2998, entitled:

“AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE CAPITAL AND SEAT OF GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF RIZAL FROM THE CITY OF PASIG, METRO MANILA TO THE CITY OF ANTIPOLLO, PROVINCE OF RIZAL”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Message dated March 9, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 640, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE BICOL MEDICAL CENTER FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS TO ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL WORKFORCE COMPLEMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8053, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Message dated March 9, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 1477, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE CARAGA REGIONAL HOSPITAL IN BARANGAY WASHINGTON, SURIGAO CITY, SURIGAO DEL NORTE INTO A TERTIARY LEVEL HOSPITAL, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (150) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Message dated March 9, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 1799, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE TALISAY DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN TALISAY CITY, PROVINCE OF CEBU, INTO CEBU SOUTH MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7799, ENTITLED 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TALISAY, PROVINCE OF CEBU, TO BE KNOWN AS THE TALISAY DISTRICT HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR' ”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Message dated March 9, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 4463, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO FIRST UNITED BROADCASTING CORPORATION, PRESENTLY KNOWN AS GLOBAL SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, INC., AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8079, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE FIRST UNITED BROADCASTING CORPORATION (FUBC) A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS ANYWHERE

IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES' ”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Message dated March 9, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 4581, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO GOLDEN BROADCAST PROFESSIONAL, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8025, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE GOLDEN BROADCAST PROFESSIONAL INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE A STATION FOR FM RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING IN THE ISLAND OF MINDANAO', AND EXPANDING ITS COVERAGE TO THE ENTIRE PHILIPPINES”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Message dated March 9, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 4582, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO GOLD LABEL BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8087, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING TO THE GOLD LABEL BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN DUMAGUETE CITY AND OTHER AREAS IN THE VISAYAS AND MINDANAO WHERE FREQUENCIES AND/OR CHANNELS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING' ”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Message dated March 9, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 4583, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO BROADCAST ENTERPRISES AND AFFILIATED MEDIA,

INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8098 TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Message dated March 9, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 4584, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO CRUSADERS BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8091, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE CRUSADERS BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES' ”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Message dated March 9, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 5490, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO BICOL BROADCASTING SYSTEMS, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8092, ENTITLED: 'AN ACT GRANTING THE BICOL BROADCASTING SYSTEMS, INC. (BBSI), A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN REGION V' ”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message dated March 9, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 5871, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE MARIA L. ELEAZAR DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAGKAWAYAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON INTO A LEVEL

III GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE MARIA L. ELEAZAR GENERAL HOSPITAL, UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 290), re H.B. No. 6585, entitled:

“AN ACT CLASSIFYING THE SAN FERNANDO BYPASS ROAD AND SAN FERNANDO BYPASS EXTENSION ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF LA UNION, INTO NATIONAL ROADS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4291

Sponsors: Representatives Madrona, Yap (Eric) and Ortega

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice (Committee Report No. 291), re H.B. No. 6589, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, AND MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AS AMENDED”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 5527, 5584 and 5867

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Villafuerte, Leachon and Nograles (Jericho)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice (Committee Report No. 292), re H.B. No. 6590, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO STANLEY LEE”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5006

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Aragonés and Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice (Committee Report No. 293), re H.B. No. 6591, entitled: “AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO CHEN TIAN MAN” recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5063
Sponsors: Representatives Veloso and Paduano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

CONCURRENCE WITH SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILLS

With the consent of the respective committees and authors of the measures indicated hereunder, on successive motions of Representative Taduran, there being no objection, the Body concurred with the Senate amendments to the following House Bills:

1. House Bill No. 1477, upgrading the CARAGA Regional Hospital in Washington, Surigao City, Surigao del Norte into a tertiary level hospital;
2. House Bill No. 1799, renaming the Talisay District Hospital in Talisay City, Cebu, into the Cebu South Medical Center; and
3. House Bill No. 5871, upgrading the Maria L. Eleazar District Hospital in Tagkawayan, Quezon into a level 3 general hospital to be known as the Maria L. Eleazar General Hospital under the direct supervision and control of the Department of Health.

ADOPTION OF SENATE BILL NO. 640 AS AN AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL NO. 831

With the concurrence of the Committee on Health and the main author of the measure, on further motion of Representative Taduran, there being no objection, the Body adopted Senate Bill No. 640 as an amendment to House Bill No. 831.

ELECTION OF MAJORITY MEMBERS TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES

On successive motions of Reps. Precious Hipolito Castelo and Claudine Diana D. Bautista, there being no objection, the Body elected the following Members of the Majority to the committees specified hereunder:

Special Committee on Strategic Intelligence

(as senior vice chairperson)

Rep. Alfred Vargas

(as vice chairpersons)

Rep. “Kuya” Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado

Rep. Michael T. Defensor

(as members)

Rep. Narciso R. Bravo Jr.

Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos

Rep. Raul “Boboy” C. Tupas

Rep. Jose “Pingping” I. Tejada

Rep. Presley C. De Jesus

Rep. Jorge “Patrol” Bustos

Rep. Lorenz R. Defensor

Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability

(as member)

Rep. Vicente “Ching” S.E. Veloso III

Committee on Public Accounts

(as member)

Rep. Vicente “Ching” S.E. Veloso III

Committee on Rules

(as assistant majority leader)

Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto

ADOPTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 787

On motion of Rep. Romualdo, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the consideration of House Resolution No. 787, entitled: “RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE ADORACION J. VILLANUEVA, WIFE OF DEPUTY SPEAKER EDUARDO ‘BRO. EDDIE’ C. VILLANUEVA, REPRESENTATIVE OF CIBAC PARTY-LIST”; 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.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

Subsequently, on motion of Representative Romualdo, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Additional Reference of Business.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the following Bill on First Reading which was referred to the appropriate committee indicated hereunder:

BILL ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6567, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE KEEPING OF ANY ANIMAL FOR HEALTH AND GENERAL ORDER IN HIGH DENSITY SETTLEMENT AREAS”

By Representative Fernando
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Romualdo, the Chair suspended the session at 7:00 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:02 p.m., the session was resumed with Speaker Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano presiding.

Upon introduction of Representative Macapagal Arroyo, the Speaker delivered the following speech before the Members of the House.

SPEECH OF SPEAKER CAYETANO (A.P.)

Thank you very much, dear colleagues.

There is a biblical principle wherein we are asked to be the salt and light. And regardless of our religion, sa mga kapatid nating Muslim na nandito, those who are very spiritual, not spiritual, I think the symbolism of salt and light is very clear to all of us.

If we were to turn off all the lights in this august Hall, the smallest piece of light or the smallest inkling of light, whether it be a ballpen, your cellphone, a lighter, will light up the whole session hall. Doon tayo mapapatingin sa light. So, the light shows the

way. In the same manner that salt is used to season but also to preserve. So, when we say “be the salt and light,” I think now is the best time to absorb that.

During the SEA Games in late November, early December, the athletes, the family of the athletes, the coaches, they all inspired us. They gave us hope. They gave us faith. They gave us pride.

Now, that we are facing many challenges, it is now the House of the People who should give us hope; who should inspire us; who should show the people that we have faith and not fear. Yes, if you spell House of the People, it will go to the word HOPE. So, I hope that during these next few weeks, we will actually be giving hope and faith to our kababayans.

I’d like to thank from the bottom of my heart, all Members of Congress, Opposition, Administration, Minority, Majority, Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, those of you who provided the quorum; those of you who questioned the quorum; maraming-maraming salamat sa inyo. Without you, we wouldn’t have been able to achieve what we’ve achieved in the past few months.

In any matrix that you look at, and while you look at the screens, approved on Third Reading, 417 percent more or better performance than at the same period of the 17th Congress; 300 percent on Second Reading; total measures, 178 percent; and 120 percent sa measures processed.

And siguro po, kung mayroon din tayong puwedeng palakpakan aside from ourselves, Majority Leader Martin Romualdez, the teams of the Rules Committee, and of course, our Deputy Speakers. We’d also like to thank the Minority sapagkat hindi naman namin ito magagawa kapag wala kayo and, to be fair, minsan mahaba lang pero you make legislation better. The interpellations, the suggestions, you know, forced us to think and forced us to come up with better legislation.

And this is reflected and acknowledged by our people. The 63 percent public satisfaction rating by the Social Weather Station and the 66 percent Pulse Asia Survey, which is the highest the Congress ever got is an acknowledgment of the hard work that all of you have been doing.

So now, may I ask you in the coming weeks as you visit your districts, as the party-list

Representatives go to the sectors that they serve, let us articulate together the vision. We are lost kapag walang vision, hindi ba? Kapag walang direksyon, mahirap magplano or almost imposible magplano kapag walang vision. And to simplify the vision, on whether or not we are for this Administration, President Duterte has simplified it by saying, "A safe and comfortable life for all Filipinos."

This is quite difficult to ponder on in the next few days when on our minds is the problem of COVID-19. So, hindi ka na safe, hindi ka pa comfortable. Iyan po ang mindset ng marami right now. Not only in the Philippines, but in the whole world.

If you look at the various news outlets, traditional media--radio, listen to radio, watch TV, read the papers, napakaraming issues. At sa mga taga-Marawi dito, you're still waiting for the rehabilitation. Sa mga lugar na tinamaan ng Yolanda, sa lugar ni Martin; sa mga taga-Samar dito kay Lucy, head natin noong committee that deals with disaster, marami pa ring kulang. Sa mga taga-Mindanao dito na tinamaan noong earthquake and of course, the most recent sa Batangas. There's so much to do.

What are we going to do to be able to solve these problems? In the last few months, we have showed that we cared, we have called the different secretaries, undersecretaries, the private sectors, we have passed resolutions, we have had round table discussions. Many of us went to Batangas, went to different places. Deputy Speaker Pulong, for example, spent a lot of time in Mindanao to help those hit by the earthquake. But, I think, it was really special that for the first time in history, we did not have our sessions here but we went to Batangas to tell them, "Not only that we are with you but we are with you. Not only to tell them we are with you, again, but to tell them, we are you." Because, ang sakit ng kalingkan ay sakit ng buong katawan. And whether you're in Metro Manila, you are in Ilocos, you are in BaSulTa, you are a Filipino. So, I hope we will be given a chance to visit, as a Congress, other regions in the country, whether or not there are calamities in the area. Let's not wait for them to go to Congress. Let's allow Congress to go to the different regions of our country.

The COVID-19 gives us two choices: fear or hope. Siguro iyong fear po mahirap i-control iyan, pumapasok na lang iyan, but we can fight it. But, hope—we have to work on it.

Bakit po tayo nagse-session ngayon? Kasi gusto nating ipakita na may pag-asa. Bakit po kanina nag-cut tayo ng ribbon sa bridge way? Because, yes, we didn't have a thousand people or 10,000 people, many events are canceled, but I think, if we take the right precautions and listen to the health professionals, we can see, we can show people na kailangan may level of normalcy. Hindi ba? Kasi, hindi naman puwedeng, because of fear, lahat tayo nasa bahay na lang, wala nang magtatrabaho, walang magpo-provide ng pagkain, mas maraming Pilipino ang magsa-suffer.

Kagabi, si Congressman Lopez, ipinakita sa akin ang isang meme ng mga bata na panay mga dumi ang nasa katawan tapos nakalagay: "Kami sa Tondo, hindi kami tinatamaan ng COVID." And it was, you know, just such a powerful way of communicating that the rich and poor deal with COVID-19 in so different ways:

Ang mayaman umaangal dahil wala nang mabili na alcohol sa grocery. Ang mahirap walang pambiling pagkain.

Ang mayaman nagdi-disinfect ng bawat portion ng kaniyang bahay, pero ang mahirap walang bahay.

Ang mga taga-Taal na hindi na puwedeng bumalik, nandoon pa rin sa evacuation centers. Hindi ba?

So, the problem is quite complex. That is why I urge my colleagues, together as an institution, in the next seven weeks, let's continue working, let's have committee hearings, let's have round tables, let's take the precautions, let's include the Executive Department, let's come up with Executive-Legislative solutions, let's meet with the private sectors and businesses, how we can help, and let's meet with our constituents, and let's ask the government to release the funds that are needed ngayon na ang problema ay kaya pa. Huwag na nating hintayin na sabihin ng mga tourist guides na namamatay na sila. Alam naman natin ngayon na matumal na ang kanilang negosyo. Sa transportation, kapag walang pasok, ang tricycle driver na isang kahig-isang tuka, alam na natin na kulang ang kikitain nila.

So, why wait? Let's be proactive and let's work with the Executive to get to the people what they need immediately. So, I would like to address the Office of the President and the Senate—the House of Representatives is willing to work. So if you want

to change the Legislative Calendar, and in the next few weeks gusto ninyo magkaroon tayo ng sesyon at ibahin natin iyong calendar, payag po.

And let me ask you today, my dear colleagues, payag po ba kayong mag-session kung kinakailangan?

Lastly, I would like to speak for the more than 10 million OFWs—and I know many of you here, Cong. Eric Pineda, Cong. Raymond, iyong mga nasa labor, OFW, iyong mga party-list natin that have OFW constituents, maybe you can speak better than I for the OFWs. But, just because I'm here, allow me to thank everyone of you for passing the law that will give our OFWs and those seeking foreign employment, their voice in the Cabinet by having their own department. I was in the DFA, I believe that I was one of the more progressive Secretaries that really spent time with the OFWs, but still kulang pa rin.

Let me assure my kababayans here, including my colleagues, including in the Makabayan Bloc: this will not set a precedent to have a policy of exporting our kababayans. This is simply a mechanism where, at the highest level, mayroong nag-aasikaso sa OFW na walang ibang trabaho. Hindi katulad ng DOLE na trabaho din niya ang employment dito. Hindi katulad ng DFA na diplomacy is also their job.

So, let me thank you for that, and I am looking forward to the Senate passing this department, and I am looking forward to a great team being appointed: a team that will not look at making money from the OFWs and not abusing them, but for protecting them.

Sa lahat po ng pinag-uusapan po natin may gastos. So, you've heard the President talk about closing a cigarette company that wasn't paying the right taxes. You heard about airlines that paid. You heard about water companies that have won an arbitration award, yet waived it, and now you're hearing about power producers and the PSALM. Tingin ko 'pag naghalungkat tayo marami pang may utang sa gobyerno.

I know some of these are complex issues and we will give everyone due process. But, may the Congress of the Philippines make an appeal, lalo po doon sa mga malalaking korporasyon: kung may utang kayo, magbayad naman kayo. Kasi 'pag

nagbayad kayo, dito niyo matutulungan talaga ang ating bayan.

Kung titingnan niyo po, parang pinapasan na natin, pinapasan na ng Kongreso. It's like we are being crushed by all the problems: natural disasters including the virus, poverty, unemployment, underemployment, 'di ba, disease.

So, it's time to lift Filipinos out of the darkness. It's time to lift Filipinos from hunger and poverty. It's time to lift Filipinos from hopelessness.

You know, the more I think about all of the problems we've gone through in the last few months, and in my 28 years in public service, magaling na tayong mag-react at madaling sabihin: 'hindi, dapat proactive tayo.' Pero, madaling maging proactive 'pag tapos na iyong problema eh, 'di ba? Like ngayon sa COVID 19, ang dami nang expert talaga eh. At iyong iba mean well, but iyong iba nakaka-cause pa ng problema rather than nakaka-solve.

So, may I propose that during the break, aside from working for Congress to go paperless, aside from working that Congress will be the model pagdating sa zero waste, aside from making it gender-sensitive, sa mga lahat ng kailangan nating ayusin sa Kongreso, I would like to propose that we open a new center, and the proposal is to name it Life Innovation and Future Thinking Center or the LIFT Center ng Kongreso. Because it is only to have future thinking that we can look at all of these problems and find solutions even before the problem hit us.

So, hindi po ako magpapakahaba, alam ko pong hinihintay kayo ng inyong pamilya. Iyong iba't ibang mga bloke, alam ko may pagpupulong pa. Iyong ilang mga grupo dito, some are thinking whether they'd stay and talk to the secretaries. Some will take you to go home, but let me tell you that same schedule, as if may sessions tayo. The staff of Congress will be here; we'll be ready to assist and we'll be working to try to solve many of these problems.

So again, nagawa natin itong lahat, hindi dahil sa isang tao, hindi sa dalawang tao, hindi sa isang team, kung hindi dahil sa lahat ng Kongresista ay nanampalataya sa Diyos at nagtrabaho para sa tao. Magandang gabi at maraming, maraming salamat.

God bless you and your constituents.

CONDUCT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND HEARINGS DURING THE RECESS

In accordance with the Provisional Rules of the House, on motion of Representative Remulla, there being no objection, the Body approved to authorize all committees to conduct meetings or public hearings, if deemed necessary, during the House recess from March 12, 2020 to May 3, 2020.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR


At this point, the Chair reminded all chairpersons and committee secretaries to give advance notice of their committee meetings so that if some of the Members will be in their constituencies but would want to attend the meetings, they would have enough time to come back.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Whereupon, on motion of Representative Remulla, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, May 4, 2020.

It was 7:21 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


JOSE LUIS G. MONTALES
Secretary General

Approved on May 4, 2020.

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED

Printed copies of the following measures were distributed to the Members during the session:

1. House Bill No. 159, entitled: "AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE RIGHT OF GOVERNMENT TO EXPROPRIATE LANDS FOR SOCIALIZED HOUSING, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 9, 10, AND 11 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992' "
2. House Bill No. 6456, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 12 OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL YOUTH DAY"
3. House Bill No. 6522, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 16 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS 'NATIONAL BAPTIST DAY' "
4. House Bill No. 6553, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 23 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO BE KNOWN AS THE 'NATIONAL ROTARY DAY' "
5. House Bill No. 2397, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING MAY 19 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF BUTUAN, IN CELEBRATION OF THE BALANGAY FESTIVAL"
6. House Bill No. 4939, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FISH PORT IN BARANGAY MACUYON, MUNICIPALITY OF SIRAWAI, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
7. House Bill No. 5027, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FISH PORT IN BARANGAY MALINTUBUAN, MUNICIPALITY OF LABASON, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"
8. House Bill No. 6441, entitled: "AN ACT INCLUDING AREVALO PLAZA IN THE ILOILO CITY CULTURAL HERITAGE TOURISM ZONE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10555, ENTITLED: 'AN ACT DECLARING THE JARO CATHEDRAL, MOLO CHURCH, THE ILOILO CITY CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, FORTSANPEDRO, JARO PLAZA COMPLEX, MOLO PLAZA COMPLEX AND PLAZA LIBERTAD COMPLEX, ALL LOCATED IN THE CITY OF ILOILO, AS CULTURAL HERITAGE TOURISM ZONE' "
9. House Bill No. 6442, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING MOUNT ARAYAT, BORDERING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ARAYAT AND MAGALANG, PROVINCE

OF PAMPANGA A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

10. House Bill No. 6443, entitled: “AN ACT DECLARING GANGUB CAVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATARAZA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AN ECOTOURISM SITE, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

11. House Bill No. 6445, entitled: “AN ACT DECLARING PILIS FALLS IN BARANGAY PALILI, MUNICIPALITY OF SAMAL, PROVINCE OF BATAAN AN ECOTOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

12. House Bill No. 6446, entitled: “AN ACT DECLARING THE PALANI BEACH LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALUD, PROVINCE OF MASBATE AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

13. House Bill No. 6447, entitled: “AN ACT DECLARING THE BAT-ONGAN PEAK, CAVE AND UNDERGROUND RIVER LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANDAON, PROVINCE OF MASBATE AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

14. House Bill No. 6448, entitled: “AN ACT DECLARING KAPANGYAN FALLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATARAZA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AN ECOTOURISM SITE, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

15. House Bill No. 6467, entitled: “AN ACT RENAMING THE PORTION OF THE

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE BOUNDARY-CALANAN-ENRILE ROAD, STRETCHING FROM THE ANTONIO CANAO BRIDGE IN BARANGAY CALANAN, TRAVERSING THROUGH BARANGAYS BULANAO AND IPIL, UP TO THE ALLIOG BRIDGE IN BARANGAY NAMBARAN, ALL IN THE CITY OF TABUK IN THE PROVINCE OF KALINGA, AS MANUEL S. AGYAO BOULEVARD”

16. House Bill No. 6491, entitled: “AN ACT MANDATING THE FULL REHABILITATION AND MAINTENANCE OF KENNON ROAD UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS”

17. House Bill No. 6492, entitled: “AN ACT CONVERTING THE SAGADA – BESAO – QUIRINO, ILOCOS SUR ROAD INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

18. House Bill No. 6498, entitled: “AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE NAGUILIAN DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAGUILIAN, PROVINCE OF LA UNION FROM TWENTY-FIVE (25) BEDS TO FIFTY (50) BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

19. House Bill No. 6499, entitled: “AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE QUIRINO MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER IN QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS TO ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL COMPLEMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Philippines

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE*Journal No. 54***Wednesday, March 11, 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)