

Journal of the House of Representatives

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS FIRST REGULAR SESSION 2019 - 2020

JOURNAL NO. 44 Monday, February 17, 2020

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

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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Evelina G. Escudero called the session to order.

INVOCATION AND NATIONAL ANTHEM

Rep. Florida "Rida" P. Robes delivered an invocation. Thereafter, the Members sang the National Anthem

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

On motion of Rep. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, 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 a Committee Report, which were referred to the appropriate committees indicated hereunder:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6244, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NURSING HOME FOR HOMELESS AND ABANDONED ELDERLY FILIPINOS IN EVERY PROVINCE AND ANOTHER SEPARATE NURSING HOME FOR EVERY CITY IN THE PHILIPPINES APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Sy-Alvarado TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 6245, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL ROAD STRETCHING FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF SIOCON IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE TO THE BOUNDARY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROSELLER T. LIM IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD, TO BE KNOWN AS THE SIOCON-CANATUAN

NATIONAL ROAD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Amatong

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6246, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM THE BOUNDARY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUTALAC IN BARANGAY MAMAWAN TO BARANGAY KAUSWAGAN, ALL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALIGUIAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD, TO BE KNOWN AS THE GUTALAC-BALIGUIAN NATIONAL ROAD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Amatong

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6247, entitled:

"AN ACT REFORMING THE COUNTRY'S BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2013'"

By Representative Salceda

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6248, entitled:

"AN ACT PROFESSIONALIZING PARALEGAL PRACTICE IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE A PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF PARALEGALS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Silverio

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 6249, entitled:

"AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE

FRANCHISE GRANTED TO REAL RADIO NETWORK, INC. (FORMERLY ENRIQUE M. OROZCO & SONS, INC.) UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8717 ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE E.M. OROSCO & SONS, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES!"

By Representative Remulla TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 6250, entitled:

"ANACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO BLOCKBUSTER BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8726, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE BLOCKBUSTER BROADCASTING SYSTEM INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES'"

By Representative Remulla
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 6251, entitled:

"AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY (PCGA), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 11 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9993, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD LAW OF 2009, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Deloso-Montalla TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6253, entitled:

"AN ACT GRANTING MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS LEAVE TO ALL EMPLOYEES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR"

By Representative Delos Santos TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6257, entitled:

"ANACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO PROSECUTORS OF THE NATIONAL PROSECUTION SERVICE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10071, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'PROSECUTION SERVICE ACT OF 2010'"
By Representatives Bustos and De Jesus
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6258, 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 Defensor (Michael)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 6259, entitled:

"ANACTGRANTINGALLMUNICIPALMAYORS, CITY MAYORS AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS THE APPROPRIATE CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Palma

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 707, entitled:

"RESOLUTION COMMENDING JOSHUA PACIO, STEPHEN LOMAN, AND EDUARD FOLAYANG FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO BENGUET AND TO THE FIELD OF MIXED MARTIAL ARTS"

By Representative Yap (Eric)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 708, entitled:

"RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINO TENNIS JUNIOR CHAMPION ALEXANDRA 'ALEX' EALA FOR WINNING THE AUSTRALIAN OPEN JUNIORS' DOUBLES TITLE HELD IN MELBOURNE PARK, AUSTRALIA ON JANUARY 31, 2020"

By Representative Martinez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 709, entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION TO

THE PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE FOREIGN SERVICE, PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS LABOR OFFICES, BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION, BUREAU OF QUARANTINE, AND THOSE WORKERS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL SACRIFICES, DEVOTION TO DUTY AND PATRIOTISM SO AS TO PREVENT THE OUTBREAK OF THE NCOV-ARD IN OUR COUNTRY"

By Representative Mendoza TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated 22 January 2020 of Juanito Victor C. Remulla, Governor, Office of the Provincial Administrator, Trece Martires City, Province of Cavite, submitting the Quarterly Financial Report of Operations on the Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces for Road Repair, Rehabilitation and Improvement (FY 2017-2019 CMGP) for the Ending of 4th Quarter 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated January 23, 2020 of Edmund B. Kierulf, M.D., M.P.H., OIC-City Mayor, Ormoc City, transmitting the Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter Ended December 30, 2019 on the Local Government Support Fund – Financial Assistance to Local Government Units (LGSF-FA to LGUs) and on the Local Government Support Fund – Assistance to Cities (LGSF-AC). TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated January 27, 2020 of Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya (Ret), Administrator, National Irrigation Administration (NIA), submitting the CY 2019 4th Quarter Progress Report for Mindanao Sustainable Agrarian and Agriculture Development (MinSAAD) Project.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Letter dated 27 January 2020 of Secretary Ramon M. Lopez, Chairperson, Export Development Council (EDC), submitting the EDC Consolidated 3rd and 4th Quarter Report for 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Letter dated 28 January 2020 of Ernesto M. Pernia, Secretary, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), submitting the NEDA's List of Foreign Retailers Selling High-End or Luxury Goods as of 20 August 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Letter dated 29 January 2020 of Eduardo M. Año, Chairman, National Police Commission, furnishing the House of Representatives with a copy of the NAPOLCOM 2019 Year-End Report.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

Letter dated January 30, 2020 of Ernesto M. Pernia, Secretary, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), submitting the NEDA's Physical Report of Operations (PRO) as of December 31, 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Letter dated 31 January 2020 of Alan V. Bornas, Officer-in-Charge, Land Bank of the Philippines, submitting their Report on the Utilization of Funds for the Unconditional Cash Transfer Program (4th qtr-CY 2019).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated February 3, 2020 of Mario G. Lipana, Director III, Officer-in-Charge, Regional Office No. IV-A, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the CYs 2015 to 2018 Annual Audit Reports on the following Water Districts:

- 1. Mauban Water District, Mauban, Quezon; and
- 2. Pagsanjan Water District, Pagsanjan, Laguna.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated February 5, 2020 of Roderick A. Ongcarranceja, President, Calapan Waterworks Corporation (CWWC), submitting their Operational Report for year 2019.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

2018 Annual Report of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BASES CONVERSION

Full Speed Ahead: 17th National Health Research Forum for Action held on September 19-20, 2018

at EDSA, Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City of the Department of Health.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Youth and Sports Development (Committee Report No. 231), re H.R. No. 716, entitled:

"RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING CARLOS EDRIEL YULO FOR WINNING THE FIRST-EVER GOLD MEDAL IN THE 49TH FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE (FIG) WORLD ARTISTIC MEN'S FINALS GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN HANNS-MARTIN-SCHLEYER-HALLE, STUTTGART, GERMANY ON OCTOBER 4 TO 13, 2019"

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolutions Numbered 427, 429, 432, 435, 437, 445, 451, 461, 466, 478, 498 and 515 Sponsors: Representatives Martinez, Elago, Romero, Estrella, Tolentino, Velasco, Cabochan, Bagatsing, Albano, Nieto, Bautista, Castelo and Delos Santos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

On motion of Rep. Rowena Niña O. Taduran, the Chair then acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Rep. Jeffrey D. Khonghun.

DEFERMENT OF APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

On motion of Rep. Christopher V.P. de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body deferred the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

On further motion of Representative Taduran, the Chair also acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Reps. Presley C. De Jesus, Sergio C. Dagooc, Adriano A. Ebcas, and Godofredo N. Guya.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

The day being a Monday, on motion of Representative Taduran, there being no objection, the Chair declared a Privilege Hour.

On further motion of Representative Taduran, the Chair recognized Representative De Jesus for his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE DE JESUS

Representative De Jesus first stressed that he will always be a champion of electricity line workers. He then talked about the Power Rapid Restoration Deployment Task Force, a volunteer service initiated by the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association for the immediate rehabilitation of distribution lines during calamities such as typhoons.

Thereafter, Representative De Jesus likewise recognized the support given by the National Electrification Administration through its administrator, Mr. Edgardo Rama Masongsong; thanked and praised the line workers for their unwavering assistance at all times to the electric cooperatives and member-consumer-owners; acknowledged the presence of these linemen in the Session Hall; and said that they will continue showing the *bayahihan* spirit among cooperatives and fellow Filipinos.

On motion of Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo, the Chair recognized Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr. for his manifestation.

MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE GARBIN

Representative Garbin affirmed the help given by the Union of Lineman Association of the Philippines in the six provinces of Bicol Region during the aftermath of Typhoon Tisoy. He encouraged them to continue with their work and assistance because fast and efficient restoration of electricity supply brings back to normal the lives of the calamity victims; and thanked the group for their help.

REFERRAL OF PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE DE JESUS

On motion of Representative Taduran, there being no objection, the Body referred Representative De Jesus' privilege speech as well as Representative Garbin's manifestation to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

On another motion of Representative Taduran, the Chair recognized Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda for her privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF DEPUTY SPEAKER LEGARDA

Deputy Speaker Legarda initially relayed to the Body the updates on the coronavirus disease or COVID-19, the possible causes of the outbreak, and the ways to overcome such threats in the future. She then mentioned about the possibility, according to World Health Organization experts, that the new coronavirus came from the illegal wildlife trade in China and people eating various kinds of wildlife.

Prescribing a whole-of-government approach. Deputy Speaker Legarda said that the Philippines needs to recognize that overcoming threats such as COVID-19 require functioning local ecosystems, local sufficiency of prime commodities, avoidance of mass hysteria, and ability to survive lockdowns. She then called on the United Nations, the WHO, and other international instrumentalities to: 1) reinforce the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on transformative change in wildlife conservation and management and in combatting wildlife trafficking; 2) ensure an ambitious, meaningful, and inclusive post-2020 global biodiversity framework; and 3) develop improved science-based standards, guidelines, and recommendations on disease prevention, detection, and control.

In closing, she warned about neglecting laws of nature to the people's detriment, and urged the Body to formulate new policies that will support changes on how people should interact with the environment.

REFERRAL OF PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF DEPUTY SPEAKER LEGARDA

On motion of Representative Romualdo, there being no objection, the Body referred Deputy Speaker Legarda's privilege speech to the Committee on Rules.

SUSPENSION OF PRIVILEGE HOUR

On motion of Representative Romualdo, there being no objection, the Body suspended the Privilege Hour.

ROLL CALL

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

Abante Celeste Abaya Chatto Chipeco Abu Abunda Chungalao Acop Co (E.) Agabas Cojuangco Crisologo Agarao Aglipay Cua Aguinaldo Cuaresma Albano Cullamat Almario Dagooc Dalipe Alvarez (F.) Alvarez (G.) Dalog Datol Amante-Matba Amatong Daza De Jesus Andaya Angara de Venecia Aragones Defensor (L.) Arenas Del Mar **Delos Santos** Arrovo Atienza Deloso-Montalla Babasa Dimaporo (M.K.)

Bagatsing Dujali Balindong Duterte Barba Dy (F.) Baronda Dy (F.M.C.) Barzaga Dy (I.P.) Bascug **Ebcas Bautista** Elago Belmonte Enverga Bernos Erice Biazon Eriguel

Ermita-Buhain **Billones** Bolilia Escudero Bondoc Espina Espino Bordado Brosas Estrella Bulut Fariñas (R.C.) Cabatbat Fernandez Cabochan Fernando Cabredo Ferrer (J.M.) Cagas Ferrer (L.) Calderon **Flores** Calixto Fortun Fortuno Caminero Campos Frasco Fuentebella Canama Caoagdan Gaite Cari Garbin Castelo Garcia (J.E.) Castro (F.L.) Garcia (P.J.) Castro (F.H.) Garcia (V.)

Cayetano (A.P.) Cayetano (M.L.) Garin (J.)

Garin (S.)

Zubiri

Gasataya Pichay Pimentel Gato Geron Pineda Go (E.C.) Plaza Go (M.) Puno Gonzaga Ouimbo Gonzales (A.) Radaza Gonzales (N.) Ramirez-Sato Gullas Ramos Guya Remulla Hataman Revilla Hernandez Rivera Hofer Robes **Jalosjos** Rodriguez

Jimenez Romualdez (F.M.) Romualdez (Y.M.) Kho (E.) Kho (W.) Romualdo Khonghun Romulo Lacson Sacdalan Lagman Sagarbarria Lagon Salceda Lara Salimbangon

Lazatin Salo Sanchez Leachon Legarda Sangcopan Lim Santos-Recto Limkaichong Sarmiento Lusotan Saulog Savellano Madrona Malapitan Siao Mangaoang Silverio Marcoleta Singson

Mariano-Hernandez Singson-Meehan

Marquez Sinsuat Matugas Suansing (E.) Momo Suansing (H.) Nieto Suarez (A.) Noel Suntay Nograles (J.J.) Taduran Nograles (J.F.F.) Tallado Nolasco **Tambunting Oaminal** Tan (A.) Olivarez Teves (A.) Teves (J.) Ong (J.) Ong (R.) Tiangco Tolentino Ortega

Ouano-Dizon Torres-Gomez Pacquiao (A.) Tulfo Pacquiao (R.) Tutor Paduano Ty (D.) Palma Umali (A.) Umali (M.V.) Pancho **Panotes** Unabia Peña Ungab

Uy (R.)Villanueva (N.)ValerianoVillarValmayorVillaricaVargasViolagoVargas AlfonsoYap (E.)VergaraZamora (R.)VillaZarate

Villanueva (E.)

Villafuerte

With 233 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum. (See Appendix)

MOTION OF REPRESENTATIVE DE VENECIA

Representative de Venecia moved for the consideration of House Bill No. 137 on Third Reading.

QUERY OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA

Recognized by the Chair, Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr. said he was surprised by the roll call count of the Secretariat considering that his count only totaled 127 Members. He then asked for the whereabouts of the 106 Members who were not physically present at the moment.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Romualdo, the Chair suspended the session at 3:53 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 3:55 p.m.

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE ROMUALDO

In response to Representative Atienza's query, Representative Romualdo pointed out that of the number counted by the Secretary General, 43 Members were not physically present but were considered present as provided for by the Provisional Rules of the House. He gave the following breakdown:

- 1) 11 Members were attending the meeting of the Commission on Appointments;
- 2) 7 Members were on official mission; and
- 3) 25 Members were attending committee meetings as authorized by the Committee on Rules.

He thus concluded and reiterated that they had a quorum. He also stated that he was standing by the count of the Secretary General.

MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA

Granting that 43 Members were considered present, Representative Atienza argued that the count would have reached only 170 Members which was still not an actual quorum. He then said that he would not question the figures cited by Representative Romualdo for as long as the Body would not vote on any measure.

He added that should a measure be voted upon, only those physically present should be allowed to register their votes; otherwise, it would be a violation of fundamental parliamentary rules and the people's trust

The Chair duly noted Representative Atienza's manifestation.

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE ROMUALDO

Thereupon, Representative Romualdo concurred that only those who were present will be able to vote on the measures to be taken up during the day's session.

The Chair also noted the remarks of Representative Romualdo.

APPROVAL ON THIRD READING OF HOUSE BILL NO. 137

On a previous motion of Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the approval on Third Reading of House Bill No. 137, entitled: "AN ACT IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, AS AMENDED," printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on February 13, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the Provisional Rules of the House.

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.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative:

Balindong

Abante Castelo
Abaya Castro (F.L.)
Abu Castro (F.H.)
Abunda Cayetano (A.P.)
Acop Cayetano (M.L.)
Agabas Celeste
Agarao Chatto

Agarao Chatto
Aglipay Chipeco
Aguinaldo Chungalao
Albano (A.) Co (E.)
Almario Crisologo
Alvarez (F.) Cua

Alvarez (G.) Cuaresma Amante-Matba Cullamat Amatong Dagooc Andaya Dalipe Angara Dalog Aragones Datol Arenas Daza Arroyo De Jesus Atienza de Venecia Aumentado Defensor (L.) Del Mar Babasa **Bagatsing Delos Santos**

Barba Dimaporo (M.K.) Baronda Dujali Duterte Barzaga Bascug Dy (F.) Belmonte Dy (F.M.C.) Bernos Dy (I.P.) **Ebcas** Biazon Billones Elago Bolilia Enverga Bondoc Erice Bordado Eriguel

Deloso-Montalla

Ermita-Buhain Brosas Bulut Espina Cabatbat Espino Cabredo Estrella Cagas Fariñas (R.C.) Calderon Fernandez Calixto Fernando Caminero Ferrer (J.M.) Campos Ferrer (L.) Canama Flores Caoagdan Fortun Cari Fortuno

Zubiri

Frasco Olivarez Fuentebella Ong (J.) Gaite Ong (R.) Garbin Ortega Garcia (J.E.) Ouano-Dizon Garcia (P.J.) Pacquiao (A.) Garcia (V.) Pacquiao (R.) Garin (J.) Paduano Garin (S.) Palma Pancho Gasataya Gatchalian Panotes Gato Peña Geron **Pichay** Go (E.C.) Pimentel Go (M.) Pineda Plaza Gonzaga Gonzales (A.) Puno Gonzales (N.) Ouimbo

Gullas Radaza Guya Ramirez-Sato Haresco Ramos Hataman Remulla Hernandez Revilla Hofer Rivera **Jalosjos** Robes Jimenez Rodriguez Romualdez (F.M.) Kho (E.)

Kho (E.)
Kho (W.)
Romualdo
Khonghun
Romulo
Lacson
Sacdalan
Lagman
Sagarbarria
Lagon
Salceda
Lara
Salimbangon

Lazatin Salo Leachon Sanchez Legarda Santos-Recto Lim Sarmiento Limkaichong Saulog Savellano Lusotan Madrona Siao Silverio Malapitan Mangaoang Singson Marcoleta Singson-Meehan

Mariano-Hernandez Sinsuat Marquez Suansing (E.) Martinez Suansing (H.) Matugas Suarez (A.) Momo Suntay Nieto Taduran Noel Tallado Nograles (J.J.) Tambunting Nograles (J.F.F.) Teves (A.)

Teves (J.)

Tiangco

Nolasco

Oaminal

Tolentino Vargas Alfonso Tulfo Veloso Tutor Vergara Ty (D.) Villa Umali (A.) Villanueva (N.) Villar Umali (M.V.) Villarica Unabia Ungab Violago Uy (R.) Yap (E.) Valeriano Zamora (R.) Valmayor Zarate

Negative:

Vargas

None

Abstention:

None

With 228 affirmative votes, zero negative votes, and zero abstentions, the Body approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 137.

MOTION OF REPRESENTATIVE ROMUALDO

Representative Romualdo moved that the Body direct the Secretary General to transmit House Bill No. 137 as approved on Third Reading.

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA

At this point, Representative Atienza stated that only 146 Members were present at the time of the voting; thus, voting result should not be more than the said count. He claimed that while he voted "Yes" to the measure, he would not allow those who were not physically present to be counted in the voting as this would be a mockery of a good measure, and its passage would be questionable.

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE ROMUALDO

Representative Romualdo said that the Secretary General had been reminded about the matter accordingly. Nevertheless, he stressed that the Secretariat gave the assurance that only those who were present had been counted for voting. In

view thereof, he reiterated his earlier motion for the Secretary General to be directed to transmit House Bill No. 137 to the Senate.

OBJECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA

Representative Atienza objected thereto as he reiterated that less than 220 Members were present on the floor, and that the Secretariat could not invent a number just so the measure could be passed.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 4:11 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 4:23 p.m.

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE ROMUALDO

Upon resumption of session, Representative Romualdo relayed to Representative Atienza the assurance of the Committee on Rules and Majority Leader Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez to rectify any errors that may have been committed by the Secretariat with regard to the count of the number of Members present on the floor and of the votes on House Bill No. 137.

The Chair noted the remarks of Representative Romualdo.

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE ATIENZA

After conferring with Majority Leader Romualdez (F.M.), Representative Atienza stated that he would grant the Secretariat the leeway to defend their position on the matter. He however demanded and admonished the Secretariat not to play around with the roll call and the counting of votes of the Members as they, as elected officials, have the right to question the actions and decisions of the Secretariat especially when the Rules of the House are not being followed.

He withdrew his objection and then requested the Secretariat, whose members were appointed and not elected, to do their duty; otherwise, he said he would take the necessary action to prove that a mockery of procedures was committed during the session.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Representatives Castelo, Taduran, and Anthony Peter "Onyx" D. Crisologo, acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Reps. Estrellita B. Suansing, Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano, and Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat, and of Minority Leader Bienvenido M. Abante Jr.

MANIFESTATION OF MINORITY LEADER ABANTE

Upon recognition by the Chair, Minority Leader Abante informed the Body that his guests from Taiwan came to show their gratitude to the House of Representatives, particularly the Committees on Economic Affairs, and Tourism for raising the issue of the travel ban on Taiwan which was eventually lifted by the Department of Health.

TRANSMITTAL TO THE SENATE OF HOUSE BILL NO. 137

Thereupon, on an earlier motion of Representative Romualdo, there being no objection, the Body directed the Secretary General to immediately transmit to the Senate a copy of House Bill No. 137 which had just been approved on Third Reading.

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

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

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

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

Representative Romualdo stated that the period of sponsorship and debate on the Bill had already been terminated; and on his motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Sharon S. Garin, chairperson of the Committee on Economic Affairs, to sponsor the measure.

PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Romualdo, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the period of amendments.

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

AMENDMENT BY SUBSTITUTION

Pursuant to Section 104 of the Provisional Rules of the House, on motion of Representative Romualdo, there being no objection, the Body approved to amend by substitution the entire House Bill No. 78 as contained in Committee Report No. 5 with the contents of the substitute Bill, copies of which had been previously distributed to the Members.

Thereupon, on successive motions of Representative Romualdo, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the individual amendments; and thereafter, the Chair recognized Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez for his amendment.

AMENDMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE RODRIGUEZ

As proposed by Representative Rodriguez and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the amendment on page 7 of the Bill.

MANIFESTATION OF SENIOR DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER REMULLA

Upon recognition by the Chair, Senior Deputy Majority Leader Jesus Crispin C. Remulla manifested his intent to propose an anterior amendment to the amendment previously proposed by Representative Rodriguez.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The Chair *motu proprio* suspended the session at 4:35 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

The session resumed at 4:36 p.m.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE REMULLA

Representative Remulla proposed an amendment on page 5, on the enumeration of public utilities, to add the following provision: "(e) TELEPHONE SYSTEMS, (f) INTERNET AND ALL THE INTERNET APPLICATIONS; AND (g) TRANSPORTATION."

The Sponsor stated that the Committee cannot accept the proposed amendments. Representative Romualdo, on behalf of the Majority, adopted the position of the Sponsor.

Thereafter, on motion of Representative Romualdo, the Chair recognized Rep. Manuel F. Zubiri for his amendments.

AMENDMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVE ZUBIRI

As proposed by Representative Zubiri and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the amendments on page 30 as well as on page 7 which the Sponsor reworded in consolidation with the previous amendment of Representative Rodriguez.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Representative Romualdo, the Chair suspended the session at 4:40 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:41 p.m., the session resumed.

MOTION OF REPRESENTATIVE ROMUALDO

Thereupon, Representative Romualdo moved for the termination of the period of amendments.

MANIFESTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE GO (M.)

At this point, Rep. Mark O. Go asked that he be allowed to introduce his proposed amendment.

AMENDMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVE GO (M.)

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

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF REPRESENTATIVE LAGMAN

Recognized by the Chair on motion of Representative Romualdo, Rep. Edcel C. Lagman inquired about the procedure regarding an amendment by substitution to a bill as in the case of House Bill No. 78. He asked whether the substitute Bill was considered by the sponsoring Committee as chaired by Representative Garin (S.), and if there was a committee report that would attest to the Committee's action on the substitute Bill.

He also asked Representative Romualdo to read, for the record, the particular provision in the House Rules which gives the Majority Leader the sole power, jurisdiction, and authority to make an amendment by substitution for a pending bill under deliberation.

Representative Romualdo mentioned the pertinent House Rules and assured his colleague that according to Representative Garin, the sponsoring Committee had considered the substitute Bill. He also underscored that an amendment by substitution is a matter of plenary action by the Committee on Rules and the Majority Leader, which does not need a separate action such as a committee amendment on the part of the sponsoring committee.

Considering that the Committee on Rules is still in the process of revising the Rules of the House, Representative Lagman then proposed to include in the revision that any amendment by substitution should be reverted to the sponsoring committee for its collective action. Representative Romualdo duly noted his colleague's manifestation. Representative Lagman said that he also had proposed a number of amendments to the provisional House Rules which he hoped would be considered by the Committee on Rules.

TERMINATION OF PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

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

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

On subsequent motion of Representative Romualdo, there being no objection, the Body

suspended the consideration on Second Reading of House Bill No. 78.

RESUMPTION OF PRIVILEGE HOUR

Subsequently, on motion of Representative Romualdo, there being no objection, the Body resumed the Privilege Hour and the Chair recognized Rep. Godofredo N. Guya for his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE GUYA

Representative Guya spoke about the selfless dedication, resilience, and sacrifices of the unsung heroes of the power sector or the so-called Warriors of Light. He described how these fearless linemen responded to restore power during the onslaught of Typhoons Tisoy and Ursula in December 2019 in the Visayas region, and helped rebuild lives while they were also victims of these calamities. He also requested for a moment of silence to remember the linemen who died while in the course of their duty, including Mr. Jose Pablo Biaco of the Capiz Electric Cooperative.

In closing, Representative Guya acknowledged the gallant efforts of these linemen, and expressed his appreciation for their dedicated service, courage, and spirit to face adversities.

REFERRAL OF PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE GUYA

Thereupon, on motion of Representative Castelo, there being no objection, the Body referred the privilege speech of Representative Guya to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

At this point, Representative Castelo acknowledged the presence in the Session Hall of the guests of Speaker Alan Peter "Compañero" S. Cayetano.

On motion of Representative Castelo, the Chair subsequently recognized Representative Ebcas for his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE EBCAS

Representative Ebcas related the experience of linemen during Typhoons Tisoy and Ursula which

struck several provinces in Luzon and Visayas in December 2019. He stressed that they were underappreciated and unnoticed but were actually modern-day superheroes in view of their relentless, unceasing, unselfish, and dangerous work to restore electricity to hundreds of thousands of affected families. As he said that linemen were the backbone of the power industry, he emphasized that electric cooperatives will not lose the interest or courage to provide electrical services even during calamities and in dangerous situations.

REFERRAL OF PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE EBCAS

Upon Representative Castelo's motion, the Body referred Representative Ebcas' privilege speech to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

On motion of Representative Castelo, the Chair next recognized Representative Dagooc for his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE DAGOOC

Representative Dagooc called for the quick passage of measures that the power bloc had filed in order to honor and acknowledge the hard work and heroism of linemen whom he referred to as the "Warriors of Light."

At the outset, he relayed his beginnings as an ordinary lineman himself; explained the hazards that linemen faced in their line of duty; and likened their status to that of soldiers whose efforts brought about investments, jobs, and revenues for the country. He also decried efforts to destroy electric cooperatives and the leadership of the NEA.

He then discussed House Bill No. 472, designating a Linemen Appreciation Day, and House Bill No. 3247 which he said would contribute to a positive future for linemen; called on the leadership of the House and his colleagues to support the immediate passage of said measures; and assured his fellow linemen that he and the other three Representatives from the power sector would push for their rights.

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE DE VENECIA

Upon recognition by the Chair, Representative de Venecia called the attention of Representative Dagooc on Section 122, Rule XVI of the Provisional Rules of the House which prohibits a Member from availing of the Privilege Hour to talk about matters that are directly or principally related to measures that are pending before any committee or in the

plenary session. He then reminded the Members to ensure that they would be speaking on measures that are yet to be filed.

REFERRAL OF PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE DAGOOC

Subsequently, on another motion of Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body referred Representative Dagooc's privilege speech to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

EXTENSION OF PRIVILEGE HOUR

On motion of Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body approved to extend the Privilege Hour for another 30 minutes.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE NOGRALES (J.F.F.)

On further motion of Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Chair recognized Rep. Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles who spoke about the failure of: 1) the Supreme Court to formulate the implementing rules and regulations on legal services and accreditation processes of organizations and associations under Republic Act No. 9999 or the Free Legal Assistance Act of 2010; and 2) the Bureau of Internal Revenue to draft the revenue regulations for proper implementation of said measure's provision on tax.

He emphasized that for 10 years, said legislation has not been implemented to the detriment of poor people who could not afford legal services; and stressed that this should not be the norm on other laws, as Congress would appear powerless and laughable.

He then called on the Supreme Court and the BIR to update the Body regarding the matter and finally issue the lacking rules and regulations. He stressed the importance of the law's implementation albeit delayed, and urged the Body to ensure that laws passed are implemented.

REFERRAL OF PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE NOGRALES (J.F.F.)

On motion of Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body referred Representative Nograles' privilege speech to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

Thereafter, upon Representative de Venecia's motion, the Chair recognized Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate for his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE ZARATE

Representative Zarate decried the harassment and illegal arrests of members of certain human rights and media groups in the Visayas. He considered these attacks as curtailment of their right to press freedom and to report the human rights abuses and corruption by those in power. He then mentioned the red-tagging of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines; threats of shutdown of other media outfits such as Rappler and Philippine Daily Inquirer; and the impending non-renewal of the ABS-CBN's franchise, which he emphasized is within the mandate and power of the legislative branch.

Representative Zarate emphasized that said action is an issue of the use of state power and influence over media outfits. He then appealed to the Members to be part of the fight for the preservation of freedom of speech and expression.

REFERRAL OF PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REPRESENTATIVE ZARATE

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

TERMINATION OF PRIVILEGE HOUR

There being no other Members who wished to avail of the Privilege Hour, on motion of

Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body terminated the Privilege Hour.

APPROVAL OF JOURNAL NO. 43

On motion of Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Body approved Journal No. 43 dated February 12, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

On motion of Representative de Venecia, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, February 18, 2020.

It was 5:43 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

JOSE LUIS G. MONTALES
Secretary General

Approved on February 19, 2020.

Congress of the Philippines House of Representatives Quezon City, Philippines

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

Journal No. 44

Monday, February 17, 2020

	A D A NUCE		DODD A DO		DUTEDTE
	ABANTE	***	BORDADO		DUTERTE
****	ABAYA	***	BRAVO		DY (F.)
**	ABELLANOSA		BROSAS		DY (F.M.C.)
	ABU	sle sle sle	BULUT		DY (I.P.)
***	ABUEG-ZALDIVAR	***	BUSTOS	ale de de	EBCAS
	ABUNDA	de de	CABATBAT	***	ECLEO
de de de	ACOP	**	CABOCHAN		ELAGO
***	ACOSTA	de de	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	ala ala ala	CHUNGALAO		FRASCO
ala ala ala	ARAGONES	***	CO (A.N.)		FUENTEBELLA
***	ARBISON	ala ala	CO (E.)		GARRE
	ARENAS	**	COJUANGCO		GARBIN
	ARROYO	****	COLLANTES		GARCIA (J.E.)
*	ATIENZA		CRISOLOGO		GARCIA (P.J.)
4	AUMENTADO		CUA		GARCIA (V.)
	BABASA	***	CUARESMA		GARIN (J.)
	BAGATSING	****	CUEVA		GARIN (S.)
****	BALINDONG BAÑAS NOCRALES		CULLAMAT	Ψ.	GASATAYA
4, 4, 4, 4, 4,	BAÑAS-NOGRALES		DAGOOC DALIBE		GATCHALIAN
*	BARBA		DALIPE		GATO
4	BARBERS		DALOG		GERON
	BARONDA		DATOL		GO (E.C.)
	BARZAGA		DAZA		GO (M.)
**	BASCUG		DE JESUS		GONZAGA
***	BAUTISTA BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN		DE VENECIA		GONZALES (A.) GONZALES (N.)
-111-		****	DEFENSOR (L.)	****	` ,
****	BELMONTE BENITEZ		DEFENSOR (M.) DEL MAR	***	GONZALEZ GORRICETA
	BERNOS		DELOS SANTOS	*	GUICO
	BIAZON		DELOS SANTOS DELOSO-MONTALLA	-1-	GULLAS
	BILLONES	****	DIMAPORO (A.)		GUYA
****	BIRON		DIMAPORO (M.K.)	*	HARESCO
	BOLILIA	****	DUAVIT	•	HATAMAN
	BONDOC		DUJALI		HERNANDEZ
	DONDOC		DOJALI		TILINIANDEL

*	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

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

^{**} 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