

## **RECORD OF PLENARY PROCEEDINGS**

### **NO. 1**

**Monday, July 26, 2004**

#### **OPENING OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

*At 10:00 a.m., the Presiding Officer, the honorable Secretary General Roberto P. Nazareno, called the House to order.*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, today, the fourth Monday of July 2004, is the day mandated by the Constitution for convening the First Regular Session of the House of Representatives of the Thirteenth Congress of the Republic of the Philippines.

Pursuant to established parliamentary practice, I hereby call the session to order.  
(Gavel)

#### **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Everybody will please stand for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem to be led by the House Chorale.

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Everybody will please remain standing for the Invocation to be delivered by the Honorable Antonio V. Cuenco, Representative of the Second District of Cebu City .

*Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.*

#### **INVOCATION**

REP. CUENCO. Almighty and loving Father, as we usher in the Thirteenth

Congress, we come to You once again in prayer, with gratitude for the months that passed which bore witness to the enduring spirit of democracy. We thank You for inspiring us to uphold its hallowed institution.

As we gather here today, bearing the responsibility and the challenge entrusted upon us by the Filipino people, we beseech You to unite us with one mind, one spirit, and one purpose. Stretch out Your hand, that we may strive to heal the wounds of divisiveness and let us seek unity founded on shared respect for democracy and on the noble principle of serving the people. Let there be concord instead of discord among us.

Allow us to extend our hand of welcome to our new colleagues, that You lead them with the same divine guidance that You accorded us in the past. We call on You to grant us the wisdom and strength to fulfill the purpose for which You have individually put us in different roles in this House. Inspire us to work each day, filled with determination to build a shelter strong enough to withstand the strongest storm.

In this time of uncertainty, much depends on our commitment to change inequitable structures of oppression. As we hold in our hands the lives of each and every Filipino here and overseas, we look to You for guidance on how best to serve them and shield them from the perils of poverty and injustice.

In our vision to create a strong Republic, we entreat You to steer us in the right direction that we may fulfill our promise to create equal opportunities for the people, provide for good health and education, and engender possibilities for growth for all regions of our beloved nation. May we have enough resources to see these aspirations to the end. If we, by any chance, falter in our resolve, stretch out Your Hand and deliver us from doubt and fear, and let us feel again the convictions of our heart and soul, mind and spirit.

We seek Your advice in making life-altering decisions, that we put into service measures steeped in efficiency and righteousness. We ask You to bless our leaders with divine wisdom to govern our country with laws that will usher in justice, peace, and prosperity.

Our country today, dear Lord, faces many grave problems. We turn to You for salvation.

But our salvation, Lord, will not be quick or easy, nor will it come without the collective toils and strivings of this House working overtime as the representatives of our troubled but unvanquished nation. We know that You will strengthen the sinews of our determination and valor so that we can play our part in our deliverance. You will prepare our hands for struggle, and clear our minds of confusion and fear. You will vitiate our hardships with Your graces, and wipe away our tears with Your blessings. And the falling debris of our misfortunes will be mitigated by the upswing of our common prayers.

Allow us then, O Lord, to proceed with our deliberations today, conscious of our obligations to You, our people, our history and our country.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

Amen.

ROLL CALL

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Deputy Secretary General for Operations will now call the roll of Members of the House of Representatives elected from the legislative districts, apportioned among the provinces and cities, and party-list organizations in alphabetical order.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:

ABRA

Lone District

Hon. Luis P. Bersamin Jr. .... Present

AGUSAN DEL NORTE (with the City of Butuan)

First District

Hon. Leovigildo B. Banaag .... Present

Second District

Hon. Ma. Angelica Rosedell M. Amante .... Present

AGUSAN DEL SUR

Lone District

Hon. Rodolfo “Ompong” G. Plaza .... Present\*

AKLAN

Lone District

Hon. Florencio T. Miraflores .... Present

ALBAY (with the Cities of Legaspi, Ligao and Tabaco)

First District

Hon. Edcel C. Lagman .... Present

Second District

Hon. Carlos R. Imperial .... Present

Third District

Hon. Joey Sarte Salceda .... Present

ANTIPOLO CITY

First District

Hon. Ronaldo V. Puno .... Present

Second District

Hon. Victor R. Sumulong .... Present

\* Appeared after the roll call

**ANTIQUE**

## Lone District

Hon. Exequiel B. Javier ..... Present

**APAYAO**

## Lone District

Hon. Elias C. Bulut Jr. .... Present

**AURORA**

## Lone District

Hon. Juan Edgardo M. Angara ..... Present

**BACOLOD CITY**

## Lone District

Hon. Monico O. Puentevella ..... Present

**BAGUIO CITY**

## Lone District

Hon. Mauricio G. Domogan ..... Present

**BASILAN (with the City of Isabela)**

## Lone District

Hon. Gerry A. Salapuddin ..... Present

**BATAAN (with the City of Balanga)**

## First District

Hon. Antonino P. Roman ..... Present

## Second District

Hon. Albert S. Garcia ..... Present

**BATANES**

## Lone District

Hon. Henedina R. Abad ..... Present

**BATANGAS (with the Cities of Batangas, Lipa and Tanauan)**

## First District

Hon. Eileen Ermita-Buhain ..... Present\*

## Second District

Hon. Hermilando I. Mandanas ..... Present

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\* Appeared after the roll call

## Third District

Hon. Victoria H. Reyes ..... Present

## Fourth District

Hon. Oscar L. Gozos ..... Present

## BENGUET

## Lone District

Hon. Samuel M. Dangwa ..... \*\*\*

## BILIRAN

## Lone District

Hon. Gerardo J. Espina Jr. .... Present

## BOHOL (with the City of Tagbilaran)

## First District

Hon. Edgar M. Chatto ..... Present

## Second District

Hon. Roberto C. Cajés ..... Present

## Third District

Hon. Eladio “Boy” Jala ..... Present

## BUKIDNON (with the Cities of Malaybalay and Valencia)

## First District

Hon. J.R. Nereus O. Acosta ..... Present

## Second District

Hon. Teofisto DL. Guingona III ..... Present

## Third District

Hon. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri ..... Present

## BULACAN (with the City of Meycauayan)

## First District

Hon. Wilhelmino M. Sy-Alvarado ..... Present

## Second District

Hon. Pedro M. Pancho ..... Present

## Third District

Hon. Lorna C. Silverio ..... Present

## Fourth District

Hon. Reyliana “Neneng” G. Nicolas ..... Present

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

**CAGAYAN (with the City of Tuguegarao)****First District**

Hon. Jack Enrile ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Florencio L. Vargas ..... Present

**Third District**

Hon. Manuel N. Mamba ..... Present

**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY****Lone District**

Hon. Constantino G. Jaraula ..... Present

**CALOOCAN CITY****First District**

Hon. Oscar G. Malapitan ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Luis A. Asistio ..... Present\*

**CAMARINES NORTE****Lone District**

Hon. Renato J. Unico Jr. .... Present

**CAMARINES SUR (with the Cities of Naga and Iriga)****First District**

Hon. Rolando G. Andaya Jr. .... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Luis R. Villafuerte ..... Present

**Third District**

Hon. Arnulfo P. Fuentebella ..... \*\*\*

**Fourth District**

Hon. Felix R. Alfelor Jr. .... Present

**CAMIGUIN****Lone District**

Hon. Jurdin Jesus M. Romualdo ..... Present

**CAPIZ (with Roxas City)****First District**

Hon. Rodriguez D. Dadivas ..... Present

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\* Appeared after the roll call

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

Second District

Hon. Fred H. Castro ..... Present

CATANDUANES

Lone District

Hon. Joseph A. Santiago ..... Present

CAVITE (with the Cities of Tagaytay, Cavite and Trece Martires)

First District

Hon. Joseph Emilio A. Abaya ..... Present

Second District

Hon. Gilbert C. Remulla ..... Present

Third District

Hon. Jesus Crispin C. Remulla ..... Present

CEBU (with the Cities of Danao, Lapu-lapu, Mandaue, Toledo and Talisay)

First District

Hon. Eduardo R. Gullas ..... Present

Second District

Hon. Simeon L. Kintanar ..... Present

Third District

Hon. Antonio P. Yapha Jr. .... Present

Fourth District

Hon. Clavel A. Martinez ..... Present

Fifth District

Hon. Joseph “Ace” H. Durano ..... Present

Sixth District

Hon. Nerissa Corazon Soon-Ruiz ..... Present

CEBU CITY

First District

Hon. Raul V. Del Mar ..... Present

Second District

Hon. Antonio V. Cuenco ..... Present

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

First District

Hon. Manuel “Way Kurat” E. Zamora ..... Present

Second District

Hon. Prospero S. Amatong ..... Present

**DAVAO CITY****First District**

Hon. Prospero C. Nograles ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Vincent J. Garcia ..... Present

**Third District**

Hon. Ruy Elias C. Lopez ..... Present\*

**DAVAO DEL NORTE (with the Cities of Tagum, Panabo and Is. Garden City of Samal)****First District**

Hon. Arrel R. Olaño ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Antonio R. Floirendo Jr. .... Present

**DAVAO DEL SUR (with the City of Digos)****First District**

Hon. Douglas RA. Cagas ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Claude P. Bautista ..... Present

**DAVAO ORIENTAL****First District**

Hon. Corazon N. Malanyaon ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. J. Mayo Z. Almario ..... Present

**EASTERN SAMAR****Lone District**

Hon. Marcelino C. Libanan ..... Present

**GUIMARAS****Lone District**

Hon. Edgar T. Espinosa ..... Present

**IFUGAO****Lone District**

Hon. Solomon R. Chungalao ..... Present

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\* Appeared after the roll call



**ILOCOS NORTE (with the City of Laoag)****First District**

Hon. Roque R. Ablan Jr. .... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Imee R. Marcos .... Present

**ILOCOS SUR (with the Cities of Vigan and Candon)****First District**

Hon. Salacnib F. Bateria .... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Eric D. Singson .... Present

**ILOILO (with the City of Passi)****First District**

Hon. Janette L. Garin .... Present\*

**Second District**

Hon. Judy J. Syjuco .... Present

**Third District**

Hon. Arthur D. Defensor .... Present

**Fourth District**

Hon. Ferjenel G. Biron .... Present

**Fifth District**

Hon. Rolex T. Suplico .... Present

**ILOILO CITY****Lone District**

Hon. Raul T. Gonzalez Jr. .... Present

**ISABELA (with the Cities of Santiago and Cauayan)****First District**

Hon. Rodolfo T. Albano III .... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Edwin C. Uy .... Present

**Third District**

Hon. Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III .... Present

**Fourth District**

Hon. Anthony C. Miranda .... Present

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\* Appeared after the roll call

**KALINGA****Lone District**

Hon. Laurence B. Wacnang ..... Present

**LAGUNA (with the Cities of San Pablo and Calamba)****First District**

Hon. Uliran T. Joaquin ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Justin Marc SB. Chipeco ..... Present

**Third District**

Hon. Danton Q. Bueser ..... Present

**Fourth District**

Hon. Benjamin C. Agarao Jr. .... Present

**LANAO DEL NORTE (with the City of Iligan)****First District**

Hon. Alipio “Tikbong” V. Badelles ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Abdullah D. Dimaporo ..... Present

**LANAO DEL SUR (with the City of Marawi)****First District**

Hon. Faysah Maniri-Racman Dumarpa ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Benasing O. Macarambon Jr. .... Present

**LAS PIÑAS CITY****Lone District**

Hon. Cynthia A. Villar ..... Present

**LA UNION (with the City of San Fernando)****First District**

Hon. Manuel C. Ortega ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Tomas M. Dumpit ..... Present

**LEYTE (with the Cities of Tacloban and Ormoc)****First District**

Hon. Remedios L. Petilla ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Trinidad “Ebbie” G. Apostol ..... Present

## Third District

Hon. Eduardo K. Veloso ..... Present

## Fourth District

Hon. Eufrocino M. Codilla Jr. .... Present

## Fifth District

Hon. Carmen L. Cari ..... Present

## MAGUINDANAO (with the City of Cotabato)

## First District

Hon. Bai Sendig G. Dilangalen ..... Present

## Second District

Hon. Simeon A. Datumanong ..... Present

## MAKATI CITY

## First District

Hon. Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. .... Present

## Second District

Hon. Agapito A. Aquino ..... Present

## MALABON CITY/NAVOTAS

## Lone District

Hon. Federico S. Sandoval II ..... Present\*

## MANDALUYONG CITY

## Lone District

Hon. Benjamin C. Abalos Jr. .... Present

## MANILA CITY

## First District

Hon. Ernesto “Banzai” Nieva ..... Present

## Second District

Hon. Jaime C. Lopez ..... Present

## Third District

Hon. Miles M. Roces ..... Present\*

## Fourth District

Hon. Rodolfo C. Bacani ..... Present\*

## Fifth District

Hon. Joey D. Hizon ..... Present

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\* Appeared after the roll call

## Sixth District

Hon. Bienvenido M. Abante Jr. .... Present

## MARIKINA CITY

## Lone District

Hon. Del R. De Guzman ..... Present

## MARINDUQUE

## Lone District

Hon. Edmund O. Reyes ..... Present

## MASBATE (with the City of Masbate)

## First District

Hon. Narciso R. Bravo Jr. .... Present

## Second District

Hon. Emilio R. Espinosa Jr. .... Present

## Third District

Hon. Rizalina C. Seachon-Lanete ..... Present

## MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL (with the Cities of Oroquieta, Ozamiz and Tangub)

## First District

Hon. Ernie Dulalas Clarete ..... \*\*\*

## Second District

Hon. Herminia M. Ramiro ..... Present

## MISAMIS ORIENTAL (with the City of Gingoog)

## First District

Hon. Danilo P. Lagbas ..... Present

## Second District

Hon. Augusto H. Baculio ..... Present\*

## MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

## Lone District

Hon. Victor S. Dominguez ..... Present

## MUNTINLUPA CITY

## Lone District

Hon. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon ..... Present

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\* Appeared after the roll call

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

**NEGROS OCCIDENTAL (with the Cities of San Carlos, Cadiz, Bago, La Carlota, Silay, Kabankalan, Sagay, Victorias, Escalante, Sipalay and Himamaylan)**

**First District**

Hon. Tranquilino B. Carmona ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Alfredo D. Marañon III ..... Present

**Third District**

Hon. Jose Carlos V. Lacson ..... Present

**Fourth District**

Hon. Carlos O. Cojuangco ..... \*\*\*

**Fifth District**

Hon. Ignacio T. Arroyo ..... Present

**Sixth District**

Hon. Genaro Rafael K. Alvarez III ..... Present

**NEGROS ORIENTAL (with the Cities of Bais, Canlaon, Dumaguete, Bayawan and Tanjay)**

**First District**

Hon. Jacinto V. Paras ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Emilio C. Macias II ..... Present

**Third District**

Hon. Herminio G. Teves ..... Present

**NORTH COTABATO (with the City of Kidapawan)**

**First District**

Hon. Emmylou J. Taliño-Santos ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Gregorio T. Ipong ..... Present

**NORTHERN SAMAR**

**First District**

Hon. Harlin Cast. Abayon ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Romualdo T. Vicencio ..... Present

**NUEVA ECIJA (with the Cities of Cabanatuan, Palayan, San Jose, Gapan and Science City of Muñoz)**

**First District**

Hon. Josefina M. Joson ..... Present

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

## Second District

Hon. Eleuterio R. Violago ..... \*\*\*

## Third District

Hon. Aurelio M. Umali ..... Present

## Fourth District

Hon. Rodolfo W. Antonino ..... Present

## NUEVA VIZCAYA

## Lone District

Hon. Rodolfo Q. Agbayani ..... Present

## OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

## Lone District

Hon. Ma. Amelita C. Villarosa ..... Present\*

## ORIENTAL MINDORO (with the City of Calapan)

## First District

Hon. Rodolfo G. Valencia ..... Present

## Second District

Hon. Alfonso V. Umali Jr. .... Present

## PALAWAN (with the City of Puerto Princesa)

## First District

Hon. Antonio C. Alvarez ..... Present

## Second District

Hon. Abraham Kahlil B. Mitra ..... Present

## PAMPANGA (with the Cities of Angeles and San Fernando)

## First District

Hon. Francis “Blueboy” L. Nepomuceno ..... Present

## Second District

Hon. Juan Miguel M. Arroyo ..... Present

## Third District

Hon. Rey B. Aquino, M.D. .... Present

## Fourth District

Hon. Anna York P. Bondoc, M.D. .... Present

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\* Appeared after the roll call

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

PANGASINAN (with the Cities of Dagupan, San Carlos, Urdaneta and Alaminos)  
First District

Hon. Arthur F. Celeste ..... Present

Second District

Hon. Amado T. Espino Jr. .... Present

Third District

Hon. Generoso DC. Tulagan ..... Present

Fourth District

Hon. Jose De Venecia Jr. .... Present

Fifth District

Hon. Mark O. Cojuangco ..... Present

Sixth District

Hon. Conrado M. Estrella III ..... Present

PARAÑAQUE CITY

First District

Hon. Eduardo C. Zialcita ..... Present

Second District

Hon. Roilo Golez ..... Present

PASAY CITY

Lone District

Hon. Consuelo A. Dy ..... Present

PASIG CITY

Lone District

Hon. Robert Vincent Jude B. Jaworski ..... Present

QUEZON (with the City of Lucena)

First District

Hon. Rafael P. Nantes ..... Present

Second District

Hon. Proceso J. Alcala ..... Present

Third District

Hon. Danilo E. Suarez ..... Present

Fourth District

Hon. Lorenzo R. Tañada III ..... Present

QUEZON CITY

First District

Hon. Vincent P. Crisologo ..... Present

## Second District

Hon. Mary Ann L. Susano ..... Present

## Third District

Hon. Matias V. Defensor Jr. .... Present

## Fourth District

Hon. Nanette Castelo Daza ..... Present

## QUIRINO

## Lone District

Hon. Junie E. Cua ..... Present

## RIZAL (with the City of Antipolo)

## First District

Hon. Michael John “Jack” R. Duavit ..... Present

## Second District

Hon. Isidro S. Rodriguez Jr. .... Present

## ROMBLON

## Lone District

Hon. Eduardo C. Firmalo ..... Present

## WESTERN SAMAR (with the City of Calbayog)

## First District

Hon. Reynaldo S. Uy ..... Present

## Second District

Hon. Catalino V. Figueroa ..... Present

## SAN JOSE DEL MONTE

## Lone District

Hon. Eduardo V. Roquero, M.D. .... Present

## SAN JUAN

## Lone District

Hon. Ronaldo B. Zamora ..... Present

## SARANGANI

## Lone District

Hon. Erwin L. Chiongbian..... Present

## SIQUIJOR

## Lone District

Hon. Orlando A. Fua Jr. .... Present



**SORSOGON (with the City of Sorsogon)****First District**

Hon. Francis G. Escudero ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Jose G. Solis ..... Present

**SOUTH COTABATO (with the Cities of General Santos and Koronadal)****First District**

Hon. Darlene R. Antonino-Custodio ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Arthur “Dodo” Y. Pingoy Jr., M.D. .... Present

**SOUTHERN LEYTE (with the City of Maasin)****Lone District**

Hon. Roger G. Mercado ..... Present

**SULTAN KUDARAT (with the City of Tacurong)****Lone District**

Hon. Suharto “Teng” T. Mangudadatu ..... Present

**SULU****First District**

Hon. Hussin U. Amin ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Munir M. Arbison ..... Present

**SURIGAO DEL NORTE (with the City of Surigao)****First District**

Hon. Glenda B. Ecleo ..... Present\*

**Second District**

Hon. Ace S. Barbers ..... Present

**SURIGAO DEL SUR (with the City of Bislig)****First District**

Hon. Prospero A. Pichay Jr. .... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Peter Paul Jed C. Falcon ..... Present

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\* Appeared after the roll call

**TAGUIG/PATEROS****Lone District**

Hon. Alan Peter S. Cayetano ..... Present

**TARLAC (with the City of Tarlac)****First District**

Hon. Gilberto C. Teodoro Jr. .... \*\*

**Second District**

Hon. Benigno S. Aquino III ..... Present

**Third District**

Hon. Jesli A. Lapus ..... Present

**TAWI-TAWI****Lone District**

Hon. Anuar J. Abubakar ..... Present

**VALENZUELA CITY****First District**

Hon. Jose Emmanuel L. Carlos ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Antonio M. Serapio ..... Present

**ZAMBALES (with the City of Olongapo)****First District**

Hon. Ma. Milagros “Mitos” H. Magsaysay ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Antonio M. Diaz ..... Present

**ZAMBOANGA CITY****Lone District**

Hon. Erico Basilio A. Fabian ..... Present

**ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE (with the Cities of Dapitan and Dipolog)****First District**

Hon. Cecilia G. Jalosjos-Carreon ..... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Roseller L. Barinaga ..... Present

**Third District**

Hon. Cesar G. Jalosjos ..... Present

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\*\* On official mission abroad

**ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR (with the City of Pagadian)****First District**

Hon. Isidoro E. Real Jr. .... Present

**Second District**

Hon. Antonio H. Cerilles .... Present

**ZAMBOANGA-SIBUGAY****Lone District**

Hon. Belma A. Cabilao .... Present

**PARTY-LISTS****AKBAYAN! CITIZEN'S ACTION PARTY (AKBAYAN)**

Hon. Mario Joyo Aguja .... Present

Hon. Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros-Baraquel .... Present

Hon. Loretta Ann P. Rosales .... Present

**ALAGAD**

Hon. Rodante D. Marcoleta .... Present

**ANG LABAN NG INDIGENONG FILIPINO (ALIF)**

Hon. Acmad M. Tomawis .... Present

**ANAK MINDANAO (AMIN)**

Hon. Mujiv S. Hataman .... \*\*\*

**ANAKPAWIS**

Hon. Crispin B. Beltran .... Present

Hon. Rafael V. Mariano .... Present

**AN WARAY**

Hon. Florencio Gabriel G. Noel .... Present

**ASSOCIATION OF PHILIPPINE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (APEC)**

Hon. Ernesto Dela Cruz Pablo .... Present

Hon. Sunny Rose A. Madamba .... Present

Hon. Edgar L. Valdez .... Present

**ALLIANCE OF VOLUNTEER EDUCATORS (AVE)**

Hon. Eulogio "Amang" R. Magsaysay, Ph.D. .... Present

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

BAYAN MUNA

- Hon. Teodoro A. Casiño ..... Present
- Hon. Satur C. Ocampo ..... Present
- Hon. Joel G. Virador ..... Present

BUHAY HAYAAN YUMABONG (BUHAY)

- Hon. Christian M. Señeres ..... Present
- Hon. Rene M. Velarde ..... Present

BUTIL FARMERS’ PARTY (BUTIL)

- Hon. Benjamin A. Cruz ..... Present

CITIZENS BATTLE AGAINST CORRUPTION (CIBAC)

- Hon. Emmanuel Joel J. Villanueva ..... Present

COOPERATIVE NATCCO NETWORK PARTY (COOP NATCCO)

- Hon. Guillermo P. Cua ..... Present

GABRIELA WOMEN’S PARTY (GABRIELA)

- Hon. Liza L. Maza ..... Present

PARTIDO NG MANGGAGAWA (PM)

- Hon. Renato B. Magtubo ..... Present

VETERANS FREEDOM PARTY (VFP)

- Hon. Ernesto S. Gidaya ..... Present

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa). Mr. Presiding Officer, the roll call shows 218 Members responded to the call.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). There being 218 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

In the interest of orderly parliamentary procedure, the Chair designates the Honorable Prospero C. Nograles of the First District of Davao City as the Acting Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer.

In accordance with the Order of Business, I move that we proceed to the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). There is a motion to proceed to the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. The nomination for the position of the Speaker is now in order.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, I ask that the Gentleman from the Second District of Pampanga, the Honorable Mikey Macapagal Arroyo, be recognized for his nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The distinguished Gentleman from the Second District of Pampanga, the Honorable Juan Miguel M. Arroyo, is recognized.

#### NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO

REP. MACAPAGAL ARROYO. My esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen:

Today, I have the honor to nominate the most worthy Member of Congress to lead this Chamber throughout the life of the Thirteenth Congress.

No other man or woman possesses the time-tested skills and wealth of experience of this leader in building consensus among diverse groups and achieving legislative goals in the middle of distraction.

If history is written by leaders—and not randomly dictated by events—our esteemed colleague looms larger than life in the annals of Congress. He has led the House through three remarkable terms—through times of national prosperity and national crisis.

We have had distinguished Filipinos, patriots and freedom lovers, leading this House to eminence through various times of our history.

He has a great vision of what this present Congress can achieve.

He is a dreamer—he wants a billion trees planted to reclaim our lost forests; he wants a new railway backbone not only for Luzon and the Visayas but also for Mindanao. He dreams of political reforms—of strengthening the political parties as a prelude to a shift to a parliamentary government.

He is a statesman, unequalled in stature in this House. He has led Asia's 41 parliaments in seeking a hundred years of peace for Asia and a no-nonsense campaign against poverty and terrorism in the region.

He has worked hard for peace with insurgent groups.

He has pushed reform legislation using his skills as a vaunted coalition-maker and consensus-builder. His skill at building consensus helped bring a stable majority in the House in each of his three terms as Speaker. His "Rainbow" and "Sunshine" Coalitions were historic feats of political negotiating.

His mastery of the legislative machinery has produced landmark laws to stimulate economic growth, attract new investment, and build new infrastructure at no cost to the government. In his first and second terms as Speaker, he helped turn around a dormant economy and avert a crippling power crisis.

He has stood by his decisions and lived by his convictions. In the impeachment case against the Chief Justice last October and November, he risked his post in the process of upholding the rule of law. His decisiveness averted a constitutional crisis and kept the democratic foundations of government intact.

In my dictionary, that means courage; that means character. That means a man truly worthy of being called the first among equals.

Courage is what we need as we grapple with difficult challenges clamoring for immediate attention. We must steer our nation away from financial distress; we must protect our compatriots risking their lives abroad while keeping our allies in a world at war with terrorism.

We must reform our system of governance. We have to reject waste, corruption and paralysis, based on the lessons we have learned.

We have to improve investment conditions nationwide to create jobs and fuel activity in vital industries.

Our administration needs a strong and decisive leader in Congress to help turn all of its aspirations into reality.

No other man fits the mold better than the one who has led the House through three remarkable terms, the last being the recently concluded Twelfth Congress.

My dear colleagues, it is my honor to nominate none other than Jose De Venecia Jr. of the Fourth District of Pangasinan to be the Speaker of the Thirteenth Congress. *(Applause)*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, I now ask that the Gentleman from the Fifth District of Negros Occidental, the Honorable Ignacio “Iggy” Arroyo, be recognized to second the nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The distinguished Gentleman from the First District of Negros Occidental, the Honorable Iggy T. Arroyo, is recognized.

REP. ARROYO (I.). I second the motion and give full support to the nomination of our beloved Speaker Jose De Venecia. *(Applause)*.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, I ask that the Gentleman from the Second District of Maguindanao, the Honorable Simeon A. Datumanong, be recognized also to second the nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The distinguished Gentleman from the Second District of Maguindanao, the Honorable Datumanong, is recognized.

SPEECH OF REP. DATUMANONG  
SECONDING THE NOMINATION

REP. DATUMANONG. Mr. Presiding Officer, distinguished colleagues in the Thirteenth Congress of the Philippines, ladies and gentlemen:

I am most honored to express again admiration for the man whose leadership and political ingenuity has brought achievements not only to the Congress of the Philippines, but to the government and our country as a whole.

When I participated in his nomination to the speakership of the Ninth Congress some 12 years ago, I was inspired by the many achievements of the Honorable Jose De Venecia Jr. both in government and in his private capacity. I knew him well as we were both Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardees in 1974. He, in the field of business, and I, in public administration. But the reality of the thing is that he was a very successful businessman, a construction executive who ventured in the Middle East when there was yet no diplomatic relations between the Philippines and some of the countries where his company operated. His initiatives were important factors in the establishment of diplomatic ties with many Middle East nations.

His leadership of the Ninth Congress and later the Tenth Congress produced for our country many significant measures for its economic recovery and political stability including the repeal of the Anti-Communist Act and the granting of amnesty that facilitated the return to government of many of those who opposed the administration.

As one of the representatives of Mindanao, I can say, in behalf of the people of Mindanao, Christians and Muslims, and other cultural communities alike, that Honorable Jose De Venecia Jr. has been so dedicated and committed to the people of Mindanao. He is a devoted Christian and Catholic, but he looks to the welfare of Muslim Mindanao and treats the Muslims as his own brothers. He had taken the lead role in forging peace with the MNLF in 1992 and with the MILF in 1998. Likewise, he was the first and highest political leader to visit Camp Abubakar in the mountains of Central Mindanao bringing peace and economic initiatives that would benefit both Muslims and Christians. He is one of the shining hopes of Mindanao, and we, Mindanaoans, look up to him for the realization of our dream to see Mindanao truly graduate from a land of promise to a land of fulfillment.

During the Twelfth Congress, he exhibited his statesmanship as exemplified during the crisis brought about by the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. He made a big decision guided only by his conscience and a national interest in upholding the decision of a coequal body of government. In doing so, he was able to convince different parties to transcend their political issues and interest, and thereby concentrate on preserving the national order.

For these reasons and more, I am most honored to second the nomination of the Honorable Jose De Venecia Jr. for the speakership in the House of Representatives in this Thirteenth Congress.

Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, may I ask that the Honorable Constantino Jaraula of Cagayan de Oro City be recognized also to second the nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The distinguished Gentleman from the Lone District of Cagayan de Oro, the Honorable Jaraula, is recognized.

#### SPEECH OF REP. JARAULA SECONDING THE NOMINATION

REP. JARAULA. Mr. Secretary General, honorable Members of the Thirteenth Congress: In this highly professionalized realm of government and politics, we are privileged to have a dominant personality, distinguished by sterling qualities, a consummate politician—brilliant, competent, dedicated and idealistic—an idealism that is tempered by practicality and ideas that mostly are ahead of his times.

A thinker and visionary, he digs deep into the hearts and minds of his countrymen and comes up with enviable programs for government and society for peace and prosperity. He can very well serve as the brains of any administration.

A keen student of history and world affairs, he can dish out facts, events and perspectives as easily and readily as he can recite the major achievements of the Ninth, the Tenth and the Twelfth Congresses, which he presided as Speaker. A diplomat par excellence, he graciously traveled the avenues of international diplomacy, as much as he has traveled the avenues of Metro Manila and the 7,100 islands of this archipelago. And he is widely known and highly respected by foreign diplomats and world leaders.

A leader of men, brave and compassionate, patient and persevering, he can smile in the face of adversity, form grand coalitions of parties and men, strike an effective compromise and still exude humility in victory.

I take pride in seconding the nomination of the Honorable Jose De Venecia Jr. as Speaker of this House for an unprecedented fourth term. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.



REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, I ask that the Gentleman from the Sixth District of Pangasinan, the Honorable Conrado M. Estrella III, be recognized also to second the nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The distinguished Gentleman from the Sixth District of Pangasinan, the Honorable Estrella, is recognized.

SPEECH OF REP. ESTRELLA  
SECONDING THE NOMINATION

REP. ESTRELLA. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. It is my honor and privilege to stand before you, my esteemed colleagues, to nominate to the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives the man who has ably steered this Chamber during his previous three terms as the House Speaker even amidst turbulent times. I do this not because he is my provincemate but simply because of my firm conviction that he is the man best suited for the job.

To those who have been reelected, it would not be easy to forget that it is because of this man's statesmanship that a large number of landmark-reform laws that are reshaping our economy, politics and our whole nation have been passed today. Among the successful economic and social initiatives are as follows: the Build-Operate-Transfer Law which brought into the country \$26 billion in foreign investments; the Bases Conversion Law which transformed the Subic Naval Base, Clark Air Base, Camp John Hay and Poro Point into special economic zones; the law creating the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas which helped increase the country's dollar reserves and opened the financial sector to a greater competition; the law on high-value crops which enabled the farmers to increase their revenue per hectare of land by planting more economically viable crops; and the Migrant and Overseas Filipino Workers Act which set aside P100 million for the protection of our five million overseas workers.

Aside from his substantial contribution in the legislative arena, his expertise in consensus building gave birth to the "Rainbow" and later to the "Sunshine" Coalitions, a conglomeration of various lawmakers with different political persuasions which ensured the passage of other equally important laws. Needless to say, this man's diplomatic skills had a profound effect on the gains that we have attained through the years on the matter of bringing peace to our country. Never before was the House of Representatives faced with the challenge of playing a vital role in the development of our country by passing meaningful legislations that will hasten our economic recovery. And now that we are faced with the possibility of having a full-blown fiscal crisis, we need a man who is not only equipped with experience but also with an endless reserve of patience to deal with the multifarious problems besetting our country. With the public sector debt and public sector deficits steadily rising, we need a man with a vision. This humble Representation sees his double-barreled

proposal will raise public revenue through revenue reform initiatives in the House and initiate legislations that will encourage the creation of new wealth as the most viable solution to the problem.

With the seemingly endless bickering in our midst, we need a man who has the experience in conflict management and consensus building. It is for these reasons that I am respectfully seconding the nomination of Honorable Jose C. De Venecia Jr., Representative of the Fourth District of Pangasinan, to the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Thank you very much and a good day to all of you. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, may I now request that the Gentleman from the Lone District of Quirino, the Honorable Junie Cua, be recognized to second the nomination also.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The distinguished Gentleman from the Lone District of Quirino, the Honorable Cua (J.), is recognized.

#### SPEECH OF REP. CUA (J.) SECONDING THE NOMINATION

REP. CUA (J.). Mr. Presiding Officer, distinguished colleagues, as our honorable colleagues have explained convincingly, our people and our country need Joe De Venecia to lead the Thirteenth Congress, so I second the motion to nominate him to the speakership of the House of Representatives.

Joe De Venecia's pioneering vision and unifying leadership has made the House a renowned institution. The House of Representatives under his leadership can be likened to a well-oiled machine or a tireless workhorse surpassing all previous Congresses in the number of bills passed based on easily verifiable statistics.

More importantly, the House exceeded all expectations under Joe De Venecia's watch in acting upon much-needed reforms in our economic and political infrastructure that many thought could never be passed.

With Joe De Venecia's leadership, the House of Representatives was able to reach out to our countrymen. Under his direction, the House has made a strong and deliberate effort to touch the lives of every Filipino, both here and abroad, through outstanding public relations, educating and informing our people on the work that we do in this House.

The House of Representatives was a bulwark of stability under Joe De Venecia's watch, weathering political storms and thwarting enemies of our Constitution in their vain attempts to destabilize our democracy.

I am convinced that it was Joe De Venecia's statesmanship and vast political experience in dealing with the intricacies of our branches of government that averted the serious constitutional crisis from taking place.

For his innate wisdom and parallel work ethic, inspiring leadership and wealth of experience, I respectfully second the nomination of Jose "Joe" De Venecia Jr. to the speakership of this House. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, I now ask that the Gentleman from the Visayas, from the First District of Cebu City, the Honorable Raul Del Mar, be recognized to second the nomination also.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The distinguished Gentleman from the First District of Cebu City, the Honorable Del Mar, is recognized.

#### SPEECH OF REP. DEL MAR SECONDING THE NOMINATION

REP. DEL MAR. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer.

Esteemed colleagues, more than anything else, the time is called for a leader who can make today better than yesterday and tomorrow better than today. It is said that this man must be with competence, courage and conviction, a leader with a positive way of thinking, combining dynamism and flexibility.

These qualities we find in the person of the Gentleman from the Fourth District of Pangasinan.

It is a tribute to him that consensus building is now an accepted imperative of positive government and coalition making, committing people representing different interests and ideas to a common purpose, the best argument for democracy. He knew only too well that running a legislative assembly—a gathering of brilliant and practical minds—is not done by ideal policies and prescriptions but dictated by practical needs and popular aspirations. He knows how to "separate clouds from silver linings," how to balance benefits and burdens. He knows that leadership in the face of articulate minds and competing ideas is largely an exercise of persuasion and projection of authority.

There is therefore little wonder why this will now be his fourth term as Speaker of the House of Representatives, which makes him the longest serving Speaker since the First Congress in 1946.

Some say he is easily given to "squandering superlatives," a leader so incapable of understatement, an expert in "all devices of ego nourishment." But those who say this, not even with disdain, are "voices from the fringe." To many of us within and

beyond this assembly, this is but one of his ways of expressing optimism about men and events. But make no mistake about it. He has something that stirs people and rivets their attention. When he addresses his doubts and misconceptions, he speaks with firmness and authority against elements who do not mean well and he can be fiercely combative. If he expresses a national need, people listen; if he says Congress is in trouble, legislators run to his side; if he presents a legislative program and explains it, he always prevails.

This is the man we want. We, specially us Cebuanos, fondly recall the historic moment when he took us through the turmoil in the impeachment case against our brother Cebuano—Supreme Court Chief Justice Davide—when he stood his ground, putting his political life on the line. He ordered with full conviction that the decision of the Supreme Court must prevail, killing the impeachment move. It was sense of purpose most inspiring, toughness at its best, politics with principle at its finest.

In these difficult times—emerging from an electoral battle well fought—he stands firm in the “whirl of change” of which policies and politics are made up. He now has the deepest trust and confidence in the executive department. He helped sustain its leadership and promote its programs of government. He now has the highest respect for the judiciary. He fought for its independence and integrity. He now has the acknowledged imprimatur of civil society in pursuing programs of development. Indeed, there is no pride to match that of having a Speaker held in high esteem by government and society. With his leadership, we look forward with certainty and confidence to the future of this institution.

Therefore, on behalf of my colleagues from the Visayas, I am privileged to second the nomination of Honorable Jose De Venecia Jr. as Speaker of the House.

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. I thank my esteemed colleagues. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, the second to the last to second the nomination comes from the Party-List APEC. May I request that the Honorable Edgar Valdez be recognized also to second the nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The distinguished Gentleman from the Party-List APEC, the Honorable Valdez, is recognized.

#### SPEECH OF REP. VALDEZ SECONDING THE NOMINATION

REP. VALDEZ. Mr. Presiding Officer, distinguished colleagues:

To be chosen among the Party-List Representatives to second the nomination of this statesman par excellence is indeed a rare privilege and honor that has been bestowed on me.

We have found in this man a leader, a brother, a father of all the Party-List Representatives in Congress. He has protected the interest not only of our constituencies but also of the rights of Party-List Representatives to have equal and genuine representation in the halls of Congress. Despite the problems that beset the party-list groups, this man welcomed us as a brother and a father. We see in this man the realization of the hopes and aspirations of the 12.6 million marginalized and underrepresented sectors, the rural poor in the countryside.

Therefore, it is my honor and privilege to second the nomination of the Honorable Jose De Venecia as Speaker of the Thirteenth Congress. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, the last to second the nomination of Jose De Venecia comes from the Fourth District of Isabela, the Honorable Anthony Miranda. May I ask that he be recognized.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The distinguished Gentleman from the Fourth District of Isabela, the Honorable Miranda, is recognized.

#### SPEECH OF REP. MIRANDA SECONDING THE NOMINATION

REP. MIRANDA. Thank you very much, Mr. Presiding Officer.

My esteemed colleagues, I greet thee a blessed day.

My membership in this august Body is through the Lord's intercession. His blessings, not given to everybody, will equip one dedicated public servant the authority he needs to enable him to be directly involved in the legislation of measures towards socioeconomic development and nation-building.

It is an opportune time to oversee also the plans and programs implemented by national and local government agencies in our respective legislative districts. Squarely, he meets local needs and preferences in accordance with the 10-point program of Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The issue at hand is the leadership in the House and I take pride to cite the 747 program of Speaker De Venecia for economic takeoff towards sustained growth designed to generate seven percent growth for seven years. It is not however a promotion of the herbal concoction of pito-pito, but similarly, if the latter cures physical illness, the former is a medication of a sick Philippines. The 747 program, attuned with the 10-point agenda of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, shall sum up into a 757, the fastest airbus the Filipinos could ride towards growth and development.

These past few days, many words have been said, probably some are hurt, but public servants should not be affected by such, for those are just consequences of a

stable democracy. Humbly, Mr. Presiding Officer, in behalf of KAMPI, I am honored to second the nomination of Honorable Jose De Venecia Jr. of the Fourth District of Pangasinan, the better of the best Speakers the Philippine Congress has ever had, Speaker of the Twelfth Congress, to be the Speaker also of the Thirteenth Congress.

Maraming salamat po. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, since there are other nominations to be made for the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives, may I ask that the Gentleman from the Lone District of Taguig/Pateros, the Honorable Alan Peter Cayetano, be recognized for his nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The distinguished Gentleman from the Lone District of Taguig/Pateros, the Honorable Cayetano, is recognized.

#### NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. CAYETANO

REP. CAYETANO. Maraming salamat sa Ginoong temporary Presiding Officer at sa lahat po nating mga colleagues.

I thank God for this opportunity to represent the Lone District of Taguig/Pateros and serve the Filipino people for the third time. I praise God that for every grave problem, there is a solution, in every challenge, there is hope to overcome. For great challenges and problems, we need great leaders. We have a great President, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in the executive department; a great Chief Justice Davide for the judicial branch of government; we need a Speaker of the House of the Filipino people.

A Speaker, while being a peacemaker and a symbol of unity, will declare war on poverty, illiteracy, injustice and all forms of human sufferings. And he should be a pillar of moral regeneration in our country.

The question, my colleagues in the Thirteenth Congress, is how much are we willing to give up? How much are we willing to sacrifice to elect that kind of a Speaker?

In my first term, I was told to respect the seniority and the traditions and system in the House. In my second term, we were given a chance at leadership positions, and in my third term, most third termers expect to be now on top of the food chain and be the one to take advantage of the system that we put in place in the past for our country.

But when is the term for reform? When is the time to listen to our people so we can have a House that we can truly be proud of, isa pong House of Representatives na mahal ng masa? Nagtataka po ako kung bakit sa buong bansa, mahal ng tao ang

kanilang Kongresman, pero galit sila sa Kongreso. They hate Congress but they love their Congressmen. Sabi nga po ng isang constituent ko, pagkatapos daw ma-hostage ni Angelo, na-hostage daw ang lahat ng Kongresman at ang dini-demand sa ating Pangulo ay P10 bilyong ransom. At ang sabi pa: “Kung hindi mababayaran ang P10 bilyon, ano ang gagawin mo, Mr. hostage-taker?” Ang sabi niya: “Pakakawalan ko isa-isa ang mga Kongresman.” Natawa po ang mga sinabihan ng joke, pero ako po ay hindi sapagka’t miyembro ako ng Eleventh, Twelfth, at Thirteenth Congresses. If I am already pained by the lawyer-jokes in this country and around the world, I do not think we deserve to take these jokes about Congress. And we are in a position to do something about it. The question especially to the third termers is: Are we willing to give up these perks, these positions, these chairmanships promised to us to have a Speaker whose yes is yes and no is no? A Speaker, who in the truest sense of the word, is the first among equals? Do we feel that we are all equal here? Are our districts being treated equally? Sabi po sa akin ng iba: “Maging praktikal ka Alan, maging realistic ka.”

I chanced upon a passage or a phrase by Richard Nixon, former US President, where he said: “Idealism without realism is impotent.” But he continued: “Realism without idealism is immoral.” There are many, many progressive minds and hearts in this Congress. Napakarami pong idealistic na mga miyembro ng Kongres, maging galing sa distrito o sa Party-List. Kailan pa tayo magkakaroon ng oportunidad na ihalal ang isang Speaker na ire-represent ang tunay nating damdamin? This is our opportunity. Sabi ng iba, sa huli ang pagsisisi. Huwag po nating paabutin na tayo pa ang magsisisi.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, let us make a stand and a sacrifice for change. While we support our President and we want her to succeed because her success is the success of every Filipino, we cannot criticize the executive and the judicial branches and ask them to reform unless we start reforming in our own backyard. And as far as the leadership is concerned, si Way Kurat pa lamang ang nag-aayos ng backyard natin dahil ginawang nursery ang likod ng Kongreso. Pero as far as congressional reforms, napakarami pong magagandang idea, pero somehow they have not made their way into our Rules; they have not been implemented. Whoever wins as Speaker, Mr. Temporary Presiding Officer, I hope congressional reform would be foremost in his list.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we need a man of personal integrity, a man of respect, a man who can take on the job. I respectfully nominate for the whole three years without term or time-sharing, Francis Escudero, the Gentleman from Sorsogon, for Speaker of the House of the Thirteenth Congress.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, may I ask that the Honorable Emmanuel Joel Villanueva of the CIBAC Party-List be recognized to second the nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The distinguished Gentleman representing the Party-List CIBAC, the Honorable Villanueva, is recognized.

SPEECH OF REP. VILLANUEVA  
SECONDING THE NOMINATION

REP. VILLANUEVA. Thank you very much, Mr. Presiding Officer. Thank you very much to my esteemed colleagues, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I became a Member of this august Body, the House of Representatives, being a nominee of the Citizen's Battle Against Corruption Party, more affectionately known by many as CIBAC.

As its nominee, I am expected to banner my party's principles and echo its shibboleths of truth, justice and righteousness. Such an expectation proved not to be hard to fulfill as my party's principles and shibboleths are no different from my own.

There are a number of times though when details would get in the way and my personal opinions would have to be sidelined for the official party line on certain issues.

But as I stand before you today to nominate the Speaker of this honorable House, such disagreement finds no space.

CIBAC is for truth. And there can be no truer person than he who I am to nominate.

CIBAC is for dynamic leadership. I think no one would doubt the dynamism of youth that our nominee would infuse to this Body.

CIBAC is for justice and righteousness. His record of fighting for justice and righteousness, despite the perils it brings, is of no question.

CIBAC is for meaningful reform. Homogeneity often brings with it stagnation and eventually decay. The House of Representatives is not exempt from such reality.

My dear colleagues, we need change, real change. We need to explore new paths that can be opened up only by a new leadership. We need to infuse new blood to the leadership of our House, or we might stagnate or decompose.

And personally, I see no other person more fit for the job than the one I am going to nominate. Therefore, I second the motion to nominate the honorable Gentleman from the First District of Sorsogon, the Honorable Francis "Chiz" Escudero. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, we have another nomination for Speaker. At this point, I would like to ask that the Honorable Butz Aquino of the Second District of Makati City be recognized.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The distinguished Gentleman from the Second District of Makati City, the Honorable Aquino, is recognized.



## NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. AQUINO (A.)

REP. AQUINO (A.). Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer.

I am nominating a man who is not only qualified to be the Speaker of this House but probably more qualified to be the Minority Floor Leader. Having been with the opposition for the last three years, his intellectual capacity is beyond doubt or debate. This man graduated *magna cum laude* in political science; *magna cum laude* in law from the University of the Philippines. He graduated valedictorian of his law class, was first place in the bar examinations in 1969, I believe, besting about 5,000 examinees that year. He was with the Batasang Pambansa in 1978, but after the EDSA revolution he was elected to the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Congresses. After taking a breather, he was reelected again in the Twelfth Congress and now Thirteenth Congress. He also served as executive secretary during the Estrada administration, except for the last two weeks before President Estrada left his office.

In Congress, he has been a Majority Leader for three years in the Eighth and Ninth Congresses then as Minority Leader in the Tenth Congress. His experience in sponsorship, debates and floor stewardship is without equal in recent legislative history.

Mr. Presiding Officer, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Congressman I am referring to is none other than the Honorable Ronaldo “Ronnie” Zamora of San Juan, Metro Manila. (*Applause*) This is the man with a big heart, with wide experience, and by just one look at him, you know he covers a lot of ground.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, to second the nomination, may I ask that the Honorable Rolex Suplico from the Fifth District of Iloilo be recognized.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The distinguished Gentleman from the Fifth District of Iloilo, the Honorable Suplico, is recognized.

SPEECH OF REP. SUPLICO  
SECONDING THE NOMINATION

REP. SUPLICO. Thank you. Mr. Presiding Officer, colleagues and friends, I have the honor to second the nomination of Congressman Ronaldo “Ronnie” Zamora from the Lone District of San Juan as Speaker of this House.

I wish to state for the record that I am not entertaining any thought that Congressman Ronaldo Zamora will be our next Speaker. I daresay this morning that Congressman Ronaldo Zamora should be our next Minority Leader. This is so because in a field of three declared candidates, Congressman Zamora is the only true-blooded

opposition candidate for the position of Minority Leader. At this critical period in our nation's history, we need a Minority Leader who is independent, experienced, vocal, intelligent and fearless.

For these reasons, I have the honor to second the nomination of Congressman Ronaldo "Ronnie" Zamora as Speaker of the House, and God willing, he will be our next Minority Leader.

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, we still have another nomination for Speaker, and I would like to ask that the Honorable Juan Edgardo Angara from the Lone District of Aurora be recognized.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The distinguished Gentleman from the Lone District of Aurora, the Honorable Angara, is recognized.

#### NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. ANGARA

REP. ANGARA. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. Distinguished colleagues, I respectfully nominate for the position of Speaker of the Thirteenth Congress the honorable Gentleman from the First District of Negros Oriental, Jacinto "Jing" Paras. Congressman Paras has shown himself to be a man of leadership and of competence, especially during the last Congress when he chaired the Committee on Transportation and Communications. In the short time that I have known him, he has shown considerable leadership skills, and I believe that he will be able to work with all of you in pursuing the reform agenda of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. Thank you, dear colleagues. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. To second the nomination, may I ask that the Honorable Joey Hizon from the Fifth District of Manila be recognized.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The distinguished Gentleman from the Fifth District of Manila, Congressman Hizon, is recognized.

REP. HIZON. I second the motion on the nomination of Congressman Jing Paras.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. To second the motion of the nomination also, may I ask that the Honorable Erbie Fabian from the Lone District of Zamboanga City be recognized.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The distinguished Gentleman from the Lone District of Zamboanga City is recognized.

SPEECH OF REP. FABIAN  
SECONDING THE NOMINATION

REP. FABIAN. Thank you very much. Mr. Presiding Officer, with all humility, I personally and very sincerely would like to take this opportunity to be part of this momentous activity in this Thirteenth Congress of the Republic of the Philippines, to second the nomination of my esteemed colleague, the Honorable Sonny Angara, as I give my support to the Honorable Jacinto Paras to the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, there being no other nominations for the position of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, I now move that the nominations be closed.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). There is a motion to close the nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. I now move that we proceed to the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Thirteenth Congress.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. GOZOS. Before we vote, I would just like to inquire on the total membership of the House so that we will be guided accordingly. How many are the total Members of the House and what is the majority?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). There are 236 Members and the majority is one-half plus one or 119.

REP. GOZOS. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Deputy Secretary General for Operations will now call the roll for nominal voting for the speakership and each Member, upon being called will please state clearly the name of his or her candidate. Please proceed.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa).  
Roll call of Members voting for the position of the Speaker.

Abad ..... Jose de Venecia for Speaker  
Abalos ..... Jose de Venecia for Speaker  
Abante ..... Jose de Venecia

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Presiding Officer, can I explain my vote.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Gentleman cannot explain his vote because it is a roll call without explanation.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Abaya .....

REP. ABAYA. The First District of Cavite votes for Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Abayon .....

REP. ABAYON. Jose De Venecia, considering that the Liberal Party is supporting Jose De Venecia. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Ablan ..... De Venecia  
Abubakar .....

REP. ABUBAKAR. The Lone District of Tawi-Tawi votes for Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Acosta .....

REP. ACOSTA. Along with my colleagues in the Liberal Party, Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Agarao .....

REP. AGARAO. I am abstaining, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Agbayani .....

REP. AGBAYANI. For Congressman Jacinto Paras.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Aguja ..... Jose De Venecia  
Albano ..... De Venecia  
Alcala ..... De Venecia  
Alfelor ..... De Venecia  
Almario ..... De Venecia  
Alvarez (A.) ..... Joe De Venecia  
Alvarez (G.) ..... Jose De Venecia  
Amante .....

REP. AMANTE. My vote is for Jose De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Amatong ..... Joe De Venecia Jr.  
Amin ..... Jose De Venecia Jr.  
Andaya ..... Jose De Venecia Jr.  
Angara ..... Paras  
Antonino (R.) .....

REP. ANTONINO (R.). This Representation from the Fourth District of Nueva Ecija votes for Speaker Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Antonino-Custodio .....

REP. ANTONINO-CUSTODIO. This Representation from the First District of South Cotabato and General Santos City votes for Congressman Francis ‘Chiz’ Escudero.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Apostol .....

REP. APOSTOL. Mr. Presiding Officer, this Representative from the Second District of Leyte is voting for Speaker Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Aquino, Agapito A. ....

REP. AQUINO (A.). While I am a great admirer of Speaker De Venecia, actually, I have more admiration for Gina De Venecia. (*Laughter*)  
I vote for Ronnie Zamora. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Aquino, Benigno S. III ..... De Venecia  
Aquino, Dr. Rey B. ....

REP. AQUINO (R.). This Representation from the Third District of Pampanga votes for Joe De Venecia, as Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Arbison .....

REP. ARBISON. The Second District of Sulu votes for Jose De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Arroyo .....

REP. ARROYO (I.). The Fifth District of Negros Occidental votes for Joe De Venecia for Speaker of the House.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Asistio .....

REP. ASISTIO. From the Second District of Caloocan, I vote for Francis Escudero.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Bacani .....

REP. BACANI. This Representation votes for Jose De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Baculio .....

REP. BACULIO. I vote for Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Badelles .....

REP. BADELLES. I am voting for Tito Joe De Venecia. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Banaag .....

REP. BANAAG. Mr. Presiding Officer, I vote for Speaker Jose C. De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Barbers ..... Jose De Venecia  
Barinaga ..... Jose De Venecia Jr.  
Baterina .....

REP. BATERINA. Mr. Presiding Officer, Region I votes for Jose Claveria De Venecia Jr. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Bautista ..... Joe De Venecia

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Beltran .....

REP. BELTRAN. Despite so much rhetoric, for the interest of Anak Pawis, I vote for Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Bersamin ..... Jose De Venecia

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Biazon .....

REP. BIAZON. This loyal Liberal votes Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Biron .....

REP. BIRON. This Representation from the Fourth District of Iloilo votes for Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Bondoc ..... Jose De Venecia Jr.  
 Bravo ..... Joe De Venecia  
 Bueser .....

REP. BUESER. I vote for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Bulut ..... Joe De Venecia

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Cabilao ..... Jose De Venecia  
 Cagas .....

REP. CAGAS. I am a member of the Nationalist People's Coalition. Majority of the NPCs have forged a coalition with Lakas. I am for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Cajes .....

REP. CAJES. The Second District of Bohol votes for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Cari .....

REP. CARI. The Fifth District of Leyte votes for Honorable Joe De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Carlos ..... Jose De Venecia  
 Carmona ..... Joe De Venecia  
 Casiño ..... Jose De Venecia  
 Castelo-Daza .....

REP. CASTELO DAZA. This Representation from the Fourth District of Quezon City votes for Jose De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Castro .....

REP. CASTRO. In concurrence with the choice of the Liberal Party, this Representation from the Second District of Capiz votes for "Smokin'" Joe De Venecia.  
*(Laughter)*



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Cayetano .....

REP. CAYETANO. For Taguig/Pateros, I vote for Francis Escudero of the First District of Sorsogon.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Celeste .....

REP. CELESTE. My vote is for Speaker Jose “Coalition” De Venecia. (*Laughter*)  
Cerilles ..... De Venecia  
Chatto .....

REP. CHATTO. This Representation from the First District of Bohol votes in favor of Speaker Manong Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Chiongbian .....

REP. CHIONGBIAN. The Lone District of Sarangani votes for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Chipeco .....

REP. CHIPECO. This Representation from the Second District of Laguna, a member of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, is voting for Jing Paras.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Chungalao .....

REP. CHUNGALAO. From the home of the rice terraces, Lone District of Ifugao votes for Jose C. De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Clarete .....  
Codilla .....

REP. CODILLA. I am from the Fourth District of Leyte. I vote for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Cojuangco, Carlos O. ....  
Cojuangco, Mark O. ....

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). The Fifth District of Pangasinan supports the sentiment of the Province of Pangasinan. I vote for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Crisologo .....

REP. CRISOLOGO. This Representation from the First District of Quezon City votes for Chiz Escudero.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Cruz .....  
Cua, Guillermo P. ....

REP. CUA (G.). COOP NATCCO Party-List votes for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Cua, Junie E. ....

REP. CUA (J.). As the Representative of the people of the Province of Quirino, I vote Joe De Venecia for Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Cuenco .....

REP. CUENCO. To Joe De V., a great consensus builder, he has got our vote from Cebu City.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Dadivas .....

REP. DADIVAS. As always, the First District of Capiz votes for Speaker Jose “Joe” De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Dangwa .....  
Daturanong ..... De Venecia  
De Guzman ..... De Venecia  
De Venecia .....

REP. DE VENECIA. History and tradition mandate that I cast my vote for the minority. However, there are three outstanding candidates of the opposition, all exceptionally capable. For this reason, I am unable to cast a vote for either one. I abstain.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Defensor, Arthur D. .... De Venecia  
Defensor, Matias V. Jr ..... De Venecia  
Del Mar ..... Jose De Venecia  
Diaz ..... De Venecia  
Dilangalen ..... Ronnie Zamora  
Dimaporo ..... Jose De Venecia  
Dominguez .....

REP. DOMINGUEZ. From the highest elevated province of the country, we vote for Sunshine Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Domogan .....

REP. DOMOGAN. The hope of today and tomorrow, this Representation from the Lone District of Baguio City votes for Jose De Venecia as Speaker of the Thirteenth Congress.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Duavit ..... Jose De Venecia  
Dumarpa .....

REP. DUMARPA. I cast my vote in favor of the Sunshine Coalition man, the Honorable Jose De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Dumpit .....

REP. DUMPIT. For the Second District of La Union, I vote Joe De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Durano ..... Jose De Venecia  
Dy, Consuelo A. ....

REP. DY (C.). This Representation from Pasay City votes for Congressman Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Dy, Faustino “Bogie” G. III ..... Jose De Venecia

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Ecleo .....

REP. ECLEO. District I Representative of Surigao del Norte votes for Jose De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Enrile .....Jing Paras

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Ermita-Buhain .....

REP. ERMITA-BUHAIN. This Representation from the First District of Batangas votes for Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Escudero .....

REP. ESCUDERO. Mr. Presiding Officer, out of courtesy and respect to my colleagues in the minority as well as the Honorable De Venecia, I abstain.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Espina .....Jing Paras

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Espino .....De Venecia  
Espinosa, Edgar T. ....Jose De Venecia  
Espinosa, Emilio Jr. ....De Venecia  
Estrella .....

REP. ESTRELLA. In behalf of the people of the Sixth District of Pangasinan, I vote for Apo Jose De Venecia Jr.  
Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Fabian .....

REP. FABIAN. This Representation from the Lone District of Zamboanga City, a member of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, votes in favor of Jing Paras.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Falcon .....

REP. FALCON. This Representation from the Second District of Surigao del Sur votes for Speaker Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Figueroa .....

REP. FIGUEROA. Mr. Presiding Officer, my heart is for Jose De Venecia, but my vote is for Zamora.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Firmalo .....

REP. FIRMALO. This Representation from Romblon votes for Francis Escudero.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Floirendo ..... Joe De Venecia  
Fua ..... De Venecia  
Fuentebella .....  
Garcia, Albert S. ....

REP. GARCIA (A.). The Second District of Bataan, through this humble Representation, votes for the Honorable Jose de Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Garcia, Vincent J. .... Jose De Venecia

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Garin ..... Honorable Ronnie Zamora

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Gidaya .....

REP. GIDAYA. In behalf of the Veterans Freedom Party, I vote for Joe De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Golez .....

REP. GOLEZ. The Second District of Parañaque is for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Gonzalez .....

REP. GONZALEZ. As Representative of the Lone District of Iloilo City, I vote De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Gozos .....

REP. GOZOS. I am and will always be for Joe De V.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Guingona .....

REP. GUINGONA. The Second District of the Province of Bukidnon votes for Francis “Chiz” Escudero.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Gullas .....

REP. GULLAS. The First District of Cebu is for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Hataman .....  
Hizon .....Jing Paras  
Hontiveros-Baraquel .....Jose De Venecia  
Imperial .....De Venecia  
Ipong .....De Venecia  
Jala.....

REP. JALA. I vote for the winner, Joe De V.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Jalosjos .....

REP. JALOSJOS. This Representation from the Third District of Zamboanga del Norte is for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Jalosjos-Carreon .....

REP. JALOSJOS-CARREON. The First District of Zamboanga del Norte is for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Jaraula .....

REP. JARAULA. Cagayan de Oro goes for Joe De V.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Jaworski .....

REP. JAWORSKI. The Lone District of the City of Pasig votes for Jose De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Javier ..... Jose De Venecia  
Joaquin .....

REP. JOAQUIN. In behalf of the people of the First District of Laguna, I vote for Honorable Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Joson .....

REP. JOSON. From the First District of Nueva Ecija, the vote is for Kuyang Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Kintanar .....

REP. KINTANAR. This Representation from the Second District of the Province of Cebu, a party member of NPC, votes for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Lacson ..... De Venecia

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Lagbas .....

REP. LAGBAS. The First District of Misamis Oriental votes for Jacinto “Jing” Paras.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Lagman .....

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Presiding Officer, during his previous three terms in this Chamber, this Representation was with the minority most of the time. I had fulfilling experience with the opposition. This time, however, I support the opposition and I vote for the Honorable Jose C. De Venecia Jr. for Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:

Lapus ..... De Venecia  
 Libanan ..... Jose De Venecia  
 Locsin ..... JDV  
 Lopez, Jaime C. .... Jose De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:

Lopez, Ruy Elias (C.) .....

REP. LOPEZ (R.E.). This Representation from the Third District of Davao City votes for Francis.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:

Macapagal Arroyo ..... Joe De Venecia  
 Macarambon ..... De Venecia  
 Macias .....

REP. MACIAS. The Second District of the Province of Negros Oriental votes for Speaker Joe De Venecia, and Mr. Presiding Officer, since it is not inconsistent, it is our wish also in Negros Oriental that Jing Paras would be the Minority Leader.  
*(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:

Madamba .....  
 Magsaysay, Eulogio “Amang” R. ....

REP. MAGSAYSAY (E.). Along with the great majority and the party-list coalition, as always, I vote for Tito Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:

Magsaysay, Ma. Milagros “Mitos” H. ....

REP. MAGSAYSAY (M.). The First District of Zambales and Olongapo votes for Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:

Magtubo .....

REP. MAGTUBO. Mr. Presiding Officer, as a matter of principle and policy, our party, the Partido ng Manggagawa, will be joining the opposition. Since there are three able candidates, I will choose the one who has the experience. I will vote for Congressman Ronnie Zamora.



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Malanyaon .....

REP. MALANYAON. The First District of Davao Oriental votes for Joe De V.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Malapitan .....

REP. MALAPITAN. From the First District of Caloocan, I vote for Francis Escudero.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Mamba .....

REP. MAMBA. The Third District Of Cagayan goes for Honorable Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Mandanas ..... Jose De Venecia

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Mangudadatu .....

REP. MANGUDADATU. The Lone District of the Province of Sultan Kudarat votes for Joe de Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Marañon ..... De Venecia

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Marcoleta .....

REP. MARCOLETA. Alagad Party-List votes for Jose De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Marcos .....

REP. MARCOS. For a brave, new Thirteenth Congress, we vote Escudero.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Mariano .....

REP. MARIANO. Mr. Presiding Officer, this Representation from Anak Pawis Party-List votes for Jose C. De Venecia Jr. for Speaker of the Thirteenth Congress. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Martinez .....

REP. MARTINEZ. I always thought Speaker Joe was monopolizing the speakership but I have also told him because he is like a big brother to me, that even if I do not agree with him, I am still with him. So, I vote for Speaker Joe.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Maza ..... Jose De Venecia

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Mercado .....

REP. MERCADO. Mr. Presiding Officer, the Honorable Roberto Nazareno, esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen:

As the Representative of the beautiful Province and Lone District of Southern Leyte in Region VIII, I vote for the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Thirteenth Congress my boss, the Honorable Jose De Venecia Jr.

Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Miraflores .....

REP. MIRAFLORES. This Representation from the Lone District of Aklan votes for the Honorable Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa.), *reading*:  
Miranda .....

REP. MIRANDA. Iti nagan dagiti kailiyak nga agnanayon apo iti ika-uppat nga distrito iti Probinsiya ti Isabela, agsidadayawak nga maipadanon kadakayo nga sibubukel ti panatalek mi keni apo, Manong Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Mitra ..... I abstain

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Nantes ..... Jose De Venecia

Nepomuceno .....

REP. NEPOMUCENO. Representing the First District of Pampanga, including Angeles City, my vote goes for “rainbow” Jose De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Nicolas .....

REP. NICOLAS. This Representation from the Fourth District of Bulacan votes for Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Nieva .....

REP. NIEVA. Boto ng Tondo, para kay Uncle Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Noel ..... Ronaldo Zamora

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Nograles ..... De Venecia  
Ocampo .....

REP. OCAMPO. For his advocacy of a just peace, Bayan Muna Representation votes for Jose C. De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Olaño .....

REP. OLAÑO. The First District of Davao del Norte is for Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Ortega .....

REP. ORTEGA. In the First District of La Union, I vote for my lawyer, Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Pablo .....

REP. PABLO. The APEC Party-List seconded the nomination of Speaker De Venecia without consultation from this Representation. Therefore, Mr. Presiding Officer, I vote for Jose De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Pancho ..... Jose De Venecia  
 Paras .....

REP. PARAS. I would have voted for Speaker De Venecia. However, in the unfolding moments before this Thirteenth Congress, I have left my original party. We were cofounder of Lakas, and I just want to be consistent with the opposition. I have made my stand and since there are three candidates also within the ranks of the opposition, I abstain, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Petilla .....

REP. PETILLA. First District of Leyte goes for Pareng Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Pichay .....  
 Pingoy .....

REP. PINGOY. This Representation from the Second District of South Cotabato votes in favor of JDV.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Plaza .....

REP. PLAZA. Mr. Presiding Officer, I have three friends vying for the speakership, to include the fourth, Speaker De Venecia. It is 12:05 high noon. It is about time that we should give a chance and opportunity to a young, dynamic and new leader in Congress. I vote for Chiz Escudero.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Puentevella .....

REP. PUENTEVELLA. The Lone District of Bacolod City supports and congratulates the Speaker of the House, the most popular name today on the floor, JDV.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Puno ..... Jose De Venecia  
 Ramiro .....

REP. RAMIRO. From the Second District of Misamis Occidental, I vote for Honorable Jose C. De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Real .....

REP. REAL. The First District of Zamboanga del Sur votes for the greatest of them all, JDV. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Remulla, Gilbert C. ....

REP. REMULLA (G.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I thought this day would never come. I vote for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Remulla, Jesus Crispin C. ....

REP. REMULLA (J.C). Mr. Presiding Officer, to give peace a chance, I vote for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Reyes, Edmund O. .... Jose De Venecia  
Reyes, Victoria H. ....

REP. REYES (V.). This Representation from the Third District of Batangas votes in favor of Jose De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Roces .....

REP. ROCES. This Representation from the Third District of Manila votes for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Rodriguez Jr. .... De Venecia  
Roman .....

REP. ROMAN. Mr. Presiding Officer, in a shrinking world we need a Speaker with international connections among parliamentarians all over the world, De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Romualdo .... De Venecia  
Roquero .....

REP. ROQUERO. The Lone District of the City of San Jose Del Monte, Province of Bulacan, is for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Rosales .....

REP. ROSALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, determined to be part of building a broad political consensus to work out real and lasting reforms in this period of acute social and economic crisis, this Representation from Akbayan votes for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Salapuddin .....

REP. SALAPUDDIN. As Representative of the Lone District of Basilan Province, I vote for “Mr. Consensus and Coalition Builder,” Speaker Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Salceda ..... De Venecia  
Sandoval .....

REP. SANDOVAL. Mr. Presiding Officer, the Lone District of Navotas and Malabon votes for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Santiago .....

REP. SANTIAGO. Mr. Speaker, the Island Province of Catanduanes votes for Sorsogon. I vote Chiz Escudero.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Seachon-Lanete .....

REP. SEACHON-LANETE. This Representation from the Third District of Masbate votes for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Señeres ..... De Venecia  
Serapio .....

REP. SERAPIO. Mr. Speaker, my respect and my friendship is always with Joe De Venecia. But please permit me to have my principle and my vote goes to Francis Escudero.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Silverio .....

REP. SILVERIO. From the Third District of Bulacan, my vote goes to the ladies' choice, Joe De V.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Singson .....

REP. SINGSON. Mr. Presiding Officer, this will be my fourth time to vote for this man as Speaker of the House. I vote for Speaker Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Solis .....

REP. SOLIS. Mr. Presiding Officer, sana po ang boto ko ay abstain dahil matalik ko pong kaibigan si Ronnie Zamora; kababayan ko naman si Chiz Escudero; isa ring napakalapit na kaibigan si Jing Paras. But as a party-mate ng Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), I am voting for this man, Joe De Venecia, hoping that the sunshine will spread to the Bicol Region and to my district. I vote for Joe De V.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Soon-Ruiz .....Joe De Venecia

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Suarez .....

REP. SUAREZ. The Liberal District of Bondoc Peninsula, Province of Quezon, votes for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Sumulong .....

REP. SUMULONG. Ang kakampi ng Kampi, Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Suplico .....Zamora  
Susano .....

REP. SUSANO. Mr. Speaker, this Representation of the biggest district in the land, 60 percent poor and 40 percent rich, I am for Jose De Venecia of Pangasinan.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Sy-Alvarado .....

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Presiding Officer, the Province of Bulacan is for Speaker Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Syjuco ..... Joe De Venecia  
 Taliño-Santos .....

REP. TALIÑO-SANTOS. Mr. Presiding Officer, the NP is for Joe De Venecia. I vote for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Tañada .....

REP. TAÑADA. With the Liberal Party, the Fourth District of Quezon Province votes for De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Teodoro .....  
 Teves .....

REP. TEVES. The Third District of the Province of Negros Oriental supported the President so I cannot afford to be in the opposition. Therefore, I vote for Speaker Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Tomawis .....

REP. TOMAWIS. The indigenous people need the help of Joe De Venecia so the Ang Laban ng Indiginong Filipino (ALIF) is voting for Joe De Venecia.  
 Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Tulagan .....

REP. TULAGAN. From the Third District of Pangasinan, I vote for Manong Joe De Venecia. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
 Umali, Alfonso V. Jr ..... Joe De Venecia



Umali, Aurelio M. .... De Venecia  
Unico ..... De Venecia  
Uy, Edwin C. .... De Venecia  
Uy, Reynaldo S. ....

REP. UY (R.). The First District of Western Samar goes for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Valdez .....

REP. VALDEZ. Consistent with my seconding the nomination, to lighten up the countryside with, say, 80 percent, I vote for Apo Manong “Sunshine” Joe De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Valencia .....

REP. VALENCIA. Mr. Presiding Officer, distinguished Members of the House of Representatives, Congressman Joe De Venecia did not support me in my past three elections, but in spite of this, the First District of Oriental Mindoro is honored and privileged to vote for Speaker Congressman Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Vargas .....

REP. VARGAS. The Second District of Cagayan votes for Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Velarde .....

REP. VELARDE. In behalf of Buhay Party-List and all of its constituents and for the sake of national healing and reconciliation, our vote is for Jose C. De Venecia Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Veloso .....

REP. VELOSO. Mr. Presiding Officer, the Third District of Leyte votes for Joe De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Vicencio .....

REP. VICENCIO. Mr. Presiding Officer, to the greatest and the youngest at all times in all aspects, I am therefore voting for “Junior.”

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Villafuerte .....

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Mr. Presiding Officer, knowing that Digs Dilangalen has now agreed to live a quiet contemplative life as a member of the Congressional Spouses Organization under the tender loving care of Gina De Venecia, I support him in voting for Joe De V.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Villanueva .....

REP. VILLANUEVA. Winning is not always right. For the 13<sup>th</sup> vote this Thirteenth Congress, CIBAC Party-List votes for the next Minority Leader, Francis “Chiz” Escudero. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Villar ..... Jose De Venecia  
Villarosa .....

REP. VILLAROSA. The Lone District of Occidental Mindoro votes for Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Violago .....  
Virador .....JDV  
Wacnang .....

REP. WACNANG. The Lone District of Kalinga votes for Speaker Jose De Venecia.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Yapha ..... De Venecia  
Zamora, Manuel “Way Kurat” E. ....

REP. ZAMORA (M.). Mr. Presiding Officer, the Representative of “Maalaala Mo Kaya” will vote for Joe De V. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Zamora, Ronaldo B. ....

REP. ZAMORA (R.). Mr. Presiding Officer, as the candidates have previously agreed, I will be abstaining from voting.  
Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa), *reading*:  
Zialcita ..... De Venecia  
Zubiri ..... De Venecia

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Gentleman from Albay is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. I would like to clarify the Journals of the proceedings.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Gentleman will please proceed.

REP. LAGMAN. By force of habit and inclination and previous political affinity, I was informed that what I said was: “This time, I support the opposition.” The Journal should read: “This time, I support the majority.”  
Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). That is noted.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa). The result of the voting on the election for the office of the Speaker is as follows: De Venecia – 191; Escudero – 13; Paras – 8; Zamora – 7; Abstentions – 6. (*Applause*)

REP. PICHAY. Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The result of the voting shows that the Gentleman from the Fourth District of Pangasinan, the Honorable Jose De Venecia Jr., garnered 191 votes; the Gentleman from the First District of Sorsogon, 13 votes; the Gentleman from the Lone District of San Juan, 7 votes; and the Gentleman from the First District of Negros Oriental, 8 votes. Therefore, on the basis of the result of the voting, the Chair declares that the Gentleman from the Fourth District of Pangasinan, the Honorable Jose De Venecia Jr., is the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)  
The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, in accordance with our tradition, I now move that we form a committee composed of the following Members of the

House to notify the Honorable Jose De Venecia Jr. of his election as Speaker of the House and to escort the Speaker-elect to the rostrum, namely: the honorable Reps. Faysah Maniri-Racman Dumarpa, Ma. Amelita Villarosa, Cynthia A. Villar, Mary Ann Susano, Mauricio Domogan, Edgardo Gullas, Albert Garcia and Agapito A. Aquino.

I so move.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Members named are hereby requested to inform the Speaker-elect, the Honorable Jose De Venecia, of his election and to escort him to the rostrum of the session hall of the House.

The Chair invites the family of the Speaker-elect to join him at the rostrum as he takes his oath.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The session is suspended.

*It was 12:26 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 12:27 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The session is resumed.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa). Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, the Speaker-elect, the Gentleman from the Fourth District of Pangasinan, the Honorable Jose De Venecia Jr. (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Upon the express wish of the Speaker-elect, the Gentleman from the Party-List representing CIBAC, the Honorable Joel Villanueva, will administer the oath of office. The Honorable Villanueva is requested to come up to the rostrum and administer the oath of office for the Speaker-elect.

*At this juncture, the family of Speaker-elect Jose De Venecia ascended the rostrum to witness the oath-taking*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). All Members are requested to rise.

*All Members rose.*

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OATH-TAKING

*At this juncture, the Honorable Jose De Venecia took his oath of office as Speaker of the House of Representatives before the Honorable Emmanuel Joel J. Villanueva.*

REP. VILLANUEVA. Please raise your right hand and follow after me.

"I, Jose C. De Venecia, of the Fourth District of Pangasinan, having been elected to the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives, hereby solemnly swear that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders, and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

"So help me God." (*Applause*)

*At this juncture, the Presiding Officer relinquished the Chair to the Speaker, the Honorable Jose De Venecia.*

## ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF SPEAKER DE VENECIA

THE SPEAKER. Before we swear in the Members of the House of Representatives for their historic oath-taking pursuant to tradition and duty, may I now read my statement.

My colleagues, by electing me Speaker for the fourth time in our postwar history, you have done me an unprecedented honor.

I owe you all a debt of gratitude that I can never hope to repay except by rededicating myself to the service of this House, in which I have spent so many memorable years and made so many warm friendships.

We open this Thirteenth Congress at perhaps one of the most critical periods of our nation's history.

We are faced with a financial crisis, dramatized by a large budget deficit and a huge foreign-debt burden, the most formidable problem facing the nation and facing this House since appropriation and revenue measures emanate from this House and not in the Senate.

We are faced with the long-running Communist insurgency and Muslim secessionist rebellion, both of which remain unresolved despite our best efforts at peace-building.

We are faced with negative politics that has swept aside all norms of civility and disdained the virtue of dialogue and conciliation.

And beyond them, looming large are the nation's structural weaknesses that are choking the economy's growth and impeding its global competitiveness.

We are saddled by so many burdens, with rapid population growth, mass poverty, low savings rate, inadequate rural development, the slow diffusion of technology, and outmoded infrastructure. These structural weaknesses this Thirteenth Congress must strive to remedy.

As practicing politicians, we must acknowledge that ordinary people are more and more cynical about our country's politics because of excessive partisanship. We must put an end to "politics-as-usual" and "business-as-usual" attitudes. And we must moderate our factional struggles for political power so that we can unite this House, this Congress, in our struggle to survive global competition.

For we cannot unite the nation unless we first unite this House, and the Senate itself unites. Only then could we begin to unite the nation.

In recent months, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and I proposed the Government of National Unity motivated only by this objective. This Unity Government does not promise to be a cure-all, but it will enable us to focus, undistracted by partisan concerns, on reforming politics and governance, making the economy a more efficient creator of social wealth, and improving the quality of life of our people.

Let me digress a bit to dwell on the organization of the 53 standing House committees and the allocation of chairmanships and vice chairmanships.

It is no easy task putting together seamlessly, so to speak, a mosaic of committee chairmanships, vice chairmanships and assignments.

We have gone to great lengths to consider all requests made by the Liberal Party, the Nationalist Peoples' Coalition, the Nacionalista Party, Kampi, PDP-Laban, the social democrats and their PDSP, the Party-List groups and our own Lakas CMD.

But unlike in the Senate, where there are much more committees than Senators available to chair them, the House has only 53 standing committees and about 140 second- and third-termers in a Chamber of 236 Members vying for the chairmanship of each committee.

So many from our ranks are eminently qualified, and there are so few House committees in which they could take positions of leadership. I can sympathize with those among us who feel aggrieved because they feel left out and deprived.

But as part of the tradition in this House, after the election of the Speaker, the organization of these various committees will now proceed, and we will complete this process, as tradition dictates, in the next seven to 10 days.

In the face of contending positions, one thing is certain: We shall give justice to every man—justice to every Member of the House. (*Applause*)

As caretaker President these last three years, President Arroyo has been able, to some extent, to revive our economy devastated by a financial and then a political crisis.

Over this first quarter, for instance, our gross domestic product expanded by 6.4 percent—the best in 15 years—which shows that the economy has vigor enough to regain its historical rate of growth. But this growth is no longer enough. We, Filipinos, must surpass ourselves if we are to wipe out poverty among us and catch up with our vigorous neighbors in the world's fastest-growing region.

In this light, many urgent tasks await this Thirteenth Congress. But beyond these urgent tasks, we must focus on three basic objectives: 1) to strengthen the State capacity to improve government's ability to provide essential public services; invest in our human capital; and facilitate the fair and efficient functioning of the market; 2) to stop, once and for all, the collusion, the corruption, and nepotism that are paralyzing the country's productive capacity; and 3) to begin the process of shifting to the unicameral parliamentary federal system that our most thoughtful leaders now regard as the best suited to our stage of political development. This is a shift to a unicameral parliamentary federal system that you and I have been espousing for years, that our beloved President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has now been espousing and made it a battle cry in the last elections, as well as those in the majority and now those in the opposition. With the exception of Indonesia and the Philippines, almost all governments now in Asia are parliamentary governments. All governments in Europe, from England to Ireland, to Greece, to Spain, to Portugal, without exception, are parliamentary governments. France is not even an exception because it is semi-presidential and semi-parliamentary. And in Asia, among the economic tigers—Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand—the ruling economic and political powers in China, Japan and India, all follow parliamentary governments.

And so, I say to you, let us pass the President's revenue measures. Let us pass the President's proposed tax measures. If we can use the next 100 days as a time-bound challenge for the Senate and for ourselves to pass these revenue measures so that we can offset the deficit and finance the foreign exchange crisis, then we have every reason in the world to move towards this shift to a unicameral parliamentary federal system of government.

My dear colleagues, we should also finally conclude the peace talks with the MILF separatists and the National Democratic Front-Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (NDF-CPP-NPA) insurgents. For without political stability, our country will remain a nation divided against itself.

I have been talking to Satur Ocampo and the leaders of the Left—using now the power in their hands as outstanding Members of this House—if we can now make a powerful appeal to the leaders of the insurgency in the Netherlands and here, so that together we can bring about a final peace agreement, not three or five years from now but maybe six months from now if all of us join hands together with the Congressmen of the Left to finally bring about a peace settlement with the New People's Army. Also, with the support of our Muslim Congressmen, brothers and sisters in Mindanao, together, let us finalize a peace agreement with the MILF so that we can put an end to violence and bloodshed in Mindanao and in other parts of the Philippines.

To complete the peace process, I ask this Congress to give amnesty anew to all our armed dissidents and later adopt “affirmative action” programs initially for Muslims and indigenous communities and finally for all our poorest provinces and regions.

Our overriding concern should be to make the economy grow and remove poverty from among us. Economic development makes the best social welfare policy—for the poor benefit from growth as much as the rich.

We remember Malaysia, from the time of Tunku Abdul Rahman to Tun Rasak, to Hussein on to Mahathir, now to Abdullah Badawe, when it solved its insurgency problem it began to move forward and is now targeting to become from a Fourth World power to a Third World power, to a Second World power and maybe achieving First World status by the year 2020.

Singapore, poorer than Cebu, 40 years ago, when you and I used to go there, now has rates of growth and has achieved per capita income well in excess of the United States, Japan and Switzerland.

So my friends, it is very essential that I ask the Mindanao Congressmen, the Congressmen of the Left, the Christians and Muslims, and the Catholic leaders who are here in this Chamber, that now that we should help President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo put these contentious issues, finally, once and for all, so that we can bring peace to our land.

My friends, the issue of pork barrel has hounded the Senate and the House of Representatives. But if we use our pork barrel entitlements to purchase computers for our schools so that the Filipino student can compete with the American student, with the Japanese and European students, if we can use our public works entitlements to help President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo create six to 10 million jobs and create an army of three million entrepreneurs—farmers now can become agricultural entrepreneurs backed by microfinance credits just like they do in Bangladesh—if we can use our public works to build more classrooms, to develop an educational curriculum to emphasize Arithmetic, English and the Science subjects, build farm-to-market roads and post-harvest facilities, Congress will be less vulnerable to public criticism. Because now, we are going to use our public works programs to fight poverty—to defeat poverty—in line with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s 10-point action plan.

My friends, finally, I say that you and I should do the solemn task, as the nation demands, to help the President avert the crisis that is threatening the nation. We are the President’s full partners and faithful allies in rebuilding this nation and in unifying our people. We are loyal to the President. We support the President. We will mobilize our resources to the maximum in order to support her 10-point program. But having said that, let me also make it clear that this House shall maintain its independence. This House shall never be subservient; this House shall not be a footstool of Malacañang. Let us then join hands. Let us set aside the passions of political partisanship. We must not be timid in spirit. It is for us to turn this hopeful beginning into a fountainhead of reforms.



May God, who gives endurance and encouragement, bless us with unity as we begin our work.

I now declare this First Regular Session of the Thirteenth Congress of the House of Representatives open. (*Applause*).

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. May we now proceed to the oath-taking of all the Members of the Thirteenth Congress.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

### OATH-TAKING OF MEMBERS

*At this juncture, all Members of the House of Representatives took their oath of office before Speaker Jose De Venecia.*

THE SPEAKER. For your historic oath, please rise and repeat after me.

“I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ having been elected to the position of Representative, hereby solemnly swear that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders, and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

“So help me God.”

Congratulations to all of you. (*Applause*)

The Secretary General will provide the Members copies of their oath.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker, in order to govern the initial sessions of the Thirteenth Congress until such time as we have approved our Rules, I move that we adopt the existing Rules of the Twelfth Congress provisionally.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Rules of the Twelfth Congress is hereby adopted to provisionally govern the initial sessions of the Thirteenth Congress.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

## CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. NO. 38

## PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 38.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker, since copies of the resolution have been previously distributed, I move that we dispense with the reading of the text of the resolution.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Consideration of House Resolution No. 38 is now in order. With the permission of the Body, the Secretary General will read only the title of the resolution without prejudice to inserting in the Record the text thereof.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 38, entitled: RESOLUTION INFORMING THE SENATE THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS BEEN ORGANIZED AND HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS.

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*The following is the text of the resolution:*

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 38

Introduced by Rep. Prospero C. Nograles

RESOLUTION INFORMING THE SENATE THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS BEEN ORGANIZED AND HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS

*Resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, That the Senate be informed that the House of Representatives has been organized and has entered upon the exercise of its functions.*

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ADOPTION OF H.RES. NO. 38

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 38.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved unanimously.

## CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. NO. 39

### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 39.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker, since copies of the resolution have been previously distributed, I move that we dispense with the reading of the text of the resolution.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Consideration of House Resolution No. 39 is now in order. With the permission of the Body, the Secretary General will read only the title of the resolution without prejudice to inserting in the Record the text thereof.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 39, entitled: RESOLUTION INFORMING HER EXCELLENCY, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS.

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*The following is the text of the resolution:*

### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 39

Introduced by Rep. Prospero C. Nograles

RESOLUTION INFORMING HER EXCELLENCY, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS

*Resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, That Her Excellency, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines, be informed that the House of Representatives has entered upon the exercise of its functions.*

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## ADOPTION OF H.RES. NO. 39

REP. NOGRALES. I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 39.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

## CONSIDERATION OF H.CT. RES. NO. 6

## PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Concurrent Resolution No. 6.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker, since copies of the concurrent resolution have been previously distributed, I move that we dispense with the reading of the text of the concurrent resolution.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Consideration of House Concurrent Resolution No. 6 is now in order. With the permission of the Body, the Secretary General will read only the title of the concurrent resolution without prejudice to inserting in the Record the text thereof.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Concurrent Resolution No. 6, entitled: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO HOLD A JOINT SESSION TO HEAR THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

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*The following is the text of the concurrent resolution:*

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Introduced by Rep. Prospero C. Nograles

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO HOLD A JOINT SESSION TO HEAR THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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*Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, That both Houses of Congress of the Republic of the Philippines hold a Joint Session on July Twenty-sixth, Year Two Thousand and Four, at four o'clock in the afternoon at the Session Hall of the House of Representatives, to hear the message of the President of the Republic of the Philippines.*

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#### ADOPTION OF H. CT. RES. NO. 6

REP. NOGRALES. I move for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution No. 6.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker, I understand that there are certain messages from the Senate. I ask that the messages be read.

THE SPEAKER. The Secretary General will please read the Messages from the Senate.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated July 26, 2004, informing the House that the Senate adopted Senate Resolution No. 19 informing the House that the Senate has been organized and has entered upon the exercise of its function.

TO THE ARCHIVES

Message dated July 26, 2004, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate concurred with House Concurrent Resolution No. 6.

TO THE ARCHIVES

Message dated July 26, 2004, informing the House of Representatives that on even date, the Senate adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 to which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE CALENDAR OF THE BUSINESS FOR THE DAY

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

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CONSIDERATION OF S. CT. RES. NO. 2

## PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker, since copies of the Senate concurrent resolution have been previously distributed, I move that we dispense with the reading of the text of the concurrent resolution.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 is now in order. With the permission of the Body, the Secretary General will read only the title of the concurrent resolution without prejudice to inserting in the Record the text thereof.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2, entitled: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CREATING A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT CONGRESS, NOW CONVENED FOR ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES, IS READY TO HEAR HER STATE-OF-THE-NATION ADDRESS IN A JOINT SESSION OF BOTH HOUSES.

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*The following is the text of the concurrent resolution:*

## S.CT. RES. NO. 2

Introduced by Senator Pangilinan

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CREATING A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT CONGRESS, NOW CONVENED FOR ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES, IS READY TO HEAR HER STATE-OF-THE-NATION ADDRESS IN A JOINT SESSION OF BOTH HOUSES

*Resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives of the Philippines concurring, That a Joint Committee of both Houses of Congress be created, composed*

of ten (10) members, five to be appointed by the President of the Senate and five to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to notify the President of the Philippines that Congress, now convened for its First Regular Session of the Thirteenth Congress of the Philippines, is ready to hear her State-of-the-Nation Address in a Joint Session of both Houses.

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#### ADOPTION OF S.CT. RES. NO. 2

REP. NOGRALES. I move for the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. NOGRALES. Mr. Speaker, in view of the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 authorizing the appointment of a Joint Committee of both Houses to notify the President of the Philippines that the Congress is convened and ready to hear her message, on the part of our House, I move that the following Members be named to the Joint Committee: The Honorable Nanette Castelo Daza, Clavel A. Martinez, Henedina R. Abad, Consuelo A. Dy, Simeon A. Datumanong, Ernie Dulalas Clarete, Joseph “Ace” H. Durano and Juan Edgardo M. Angara.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; this panel’s constitution has been approved.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. NOGRALES. To give the Members of the Joint Committee time to perform their assigned tasks and to report back to the House, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended for a minute.

*It was 12:56 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 12:57 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.  
The distinguished Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

## ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. NOGRALES. We have received a report from the Joint Committee that the President has been informed that Congress will convene in joint session at four o'clock this afternoon.

We wish to remind our colleagues that they should be here one hour before the joint session at four o'clock.

In the meantime, we ask that this session be adjourned until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

The session will be called at four o'clock and that is a joint session. We will suspend the session until four o'clock this afternoon.

THE SPEAKER. Just for clarification, the joint session of the House of Representatives and of the Senate will be at four o'clock this afternoon to hear the State-of-the-Nation message of the President.

This particular session, our regular session, is hereby adjourned until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Congratulations to all of you!

*It was 12:58 p.m.*



**RECORD OF PLENARY PROCEEDINGS  
FIRST JOINT SESSION  
THIRTEENTH CONGRESS  
Monday, July 26, 2004**

**OPENING OF JOINT SESSION**

*At 3:58 p.m., the Senate President, the Honorable Franklin M. Drilon, and the Speaker, the Honorable Jose De Venecia opened the First Joint Regular Session of the Thirteenth Congress.*

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. On the part of the Senate, the joint session is called to order.

THE SPEAKER. On the part of the House of Representatives, the joint session is called to order.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

THE SPEAKER. Everybody please rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

THE SPEAKER. Everbody will please remain standing for the Nation's Prayer.

*Everybody remained standing for the Nation's Prayer led by the Most Reverend Antonio R. Tobias, the Most Reverend Tito E. Paseo, Dr. Arab C. Aguam and Bro. Isaias T. Samson Jr.*

**PANALANGIN NG BAYAN**

Poong Maykapal, Dakilang Ama, lumikha ng buong sangkalangitan  
Kayo na naghahari sa trono ng Inyong biyaya

Lubos kaming kumikilala sa Inyong katapatan at kapangyarihang tupdin  
ang Inyong layunin sa sangkatauhan  
Kabilang ang para sa aming minamahal na bayan.

Igawad Ninyo ang higit na karunungan at katatagan  
Sa aming mahal na Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo  
At sa aming mga kinatawan ng bayan  
Na humihiling ng Inyong pagkalinga at patnubay.

Iwaksi po Ninyo ang mga gawaing hindi tama  
At mga layunin na taliwas sa Inyong mabuting kalooban.  
Tulungan po Ninyo na maisulong ang katuwiran at pagkakaisa  
Upang maisakatuparan ang isang matatag at mapayapang Republika.

Bigyan po Ninyo ng kalutasan ang kahirapan  
Ng karamihan sa aming kababayan.  
Pagyamanin po Ninyo ang mga gawaing  
Magpapalaganap ng katarungan at magpapaunlad ng ekonomiya.

Marubdob naming itinataas ang kalagayan ng aming bayan,  
Ibaling po Ninyo ang Inyong pandinig sa aming mga panawagan.  
Ito ang aming samo't dalangin, na may pag-asa sa Inyong pangako  
Mahabaging Diyos, Mapagkalingang Panginoon ng Sangkatauhan,  
Allah na Makapangyarihan.  
Amen.

THE SPEAKER. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Congress of the Philippines, Her Excellency, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the President of the Republic of the Philippines.  
(*Applause*)

#### STATE-OF-THE-NATION ADDRESS

THE PRESIDENT. Thank you, Speaker De Venecia.

Vice-President Noli de Castro, President Fidel Ramos, Senate President Drilon, Chief Justice Davide and the Justices of the Supreme Court, honorable Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, His Excellency, Archbishop Franco and the Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps, members of the Cabinet, commanders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, officers and members of the Philippine National Police, fellow workers in government, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Angelo de la Cruz is home.

We did it! Congratulations to the Filipino people. (*Applause*)

Samakatuwid, ipabatid sa lahat, mula sa pook at panahong ito, sa bawat Pilipino, saan man naroroon, that you have a government—indeed you have a country—that cares. Your life is held more dearly than international acclaim. (*Applause*) And you have a President who is your friend. (*Applause*).

Why was Angelo de la Cruz saved? Because I stuck to my oath. Since I first became President in 2001, my declared foreign policy focus has been to protect the vital interests of the nation, including our eight million overseas Filipinos.

And I cannot apologize for being a protector of my people. (*Applause*)

The difference of a few weeks, for a pullout already decided on, will not justify sacrifice of a human life.

Sacrificing Angelo de la Cruz would have been a pointless provocation; it would have put the lives of a million and a half Filipinos in the Middle East at risk, by making them part of the war.

Wars are for combatants. As I speak, soldiers are being held hostage by communist insurgents but they do not expect to be released except by the compassion of their captors or a military operation.

We have been fighting the longest running communist insurgency in history. We have been coming to grips with fundamentalist terrorism long before 9/11. As the leader of the nation, I say in behalf of the Filipino people to the world: We are strong and principled believers in democracy. Four generations of fighting Filipinos have ceaselessly struggled against totalitarians and terrorists; for our freedom, for the freedom of our people and the people of the world.

We have fought the enemy, and taken as good as we gave, not from a safe distance but in close quarters—Bataan and Corregidor, Korea and Vietnam, East Timor, Kosovo and Liberia, to name a few.

When I opted to save Angelo de la Cruz, I was reflecting whether one life should be sacrificed for no pressing reason or be saved by accelerating an ongoing pullout.

I did not sacrifice policy to save a human life. I applied policy for that purpose. (*Applause*) The Philippines has no policy that demands sacrifice of human lives.

Ask yourselves this: If Angelo de la Cruz had been sacrificed, what would change for the better in Iraq today?

Having saved one Filipino from a painful and pointless death, we must seize the unity we attained to improve our government and save our economy. (*Applause*)

Ipinangako ko ang isang bagong direksiyon: “Mamamayan muna.” Ang taumbayan ang pinakamalaki nating yaman. Ngunit madalas, kaunti lang ang atensyon na ibinibigay sa kanilang pag-unlad. Hindi tuloy matawid ang agwat ng mayaman at mahirap. Hindi tuloy mapaabot sa lahat ang biyaya ng demokrasya. I want to create economic opportunity at home and abroad. I do not just want one or the other. I want both.

But it can only be done with focus, with energy and with a common purpose to do that which still lies within our power: Put our economic house back in working order. (*Applause*) Put it back in order before it finds itself beyond hope of repair and doomed to share the fate of failed nations.

We have made a head start in the last three years. We must take bolder steps forward in the next six.

Inflation is under control. The ordinary housewife has been buying her rice and fish at stable prices. New investments, foreign and better yet domestic, were made. Three million more of our people found jobs in the last three years compared to half a million in the three years before that.

Malaki ang pag-unlad sa pangunahing pangangailangan—malinis na tubig, health insurance, tirahan, paaralan, aklat.

We beat down crime. We are breaking up the drug and kidnapping syndicates. We are mopping up the stragglers. The people are safer in the streets, in their homes and in their places of work.

Every government in the world is at war with its own corruption. We have made lifestyle checks a lethal weapon and adopted procurement reforms to take the fight forward.

Thanks to many of you, I emerged from the last election with more votes than any previous President. (*Applause*) As a further sign of the people's overwhelming support, they gave me a huge majority in Congress and a huge majority among the local governments. This is a new day with a new direction, and renewed confidence is what we can achieve together. I am determined to prove that this tremendous show of faith and confidence is well-deserved. The season of bitter partisanship is over. The season of service is upon us all—majority, minority, opposition, administration.

In my inaugural address, I laid down a 10-point agenda for the next six years, not utopia but something practical we can achieve and accomplish on time. What I did promise was that my term would be the irreversible turning point.

Ipinangangako ko, iiwanan na natin ang ligalig at alinlangan. At the end of my term, the question will no longer be whether we can compete, but where else in the world shall we take an indisputable competitive advantage. The next six years we hope is when we finally get things right.

Is there something about that goal we cannot all agree on? Is there a reason we cannot all work together? All that is needed is to clear away a couple of obstacles as I intend to do with five key reform packages:

1. Job creation through economic growth;
2. Anti-corruption through good government;
3. Social justice and basic needs;
4. Education and youth opportunity; and
5. Energy independence and savings.

Tough decisions would have to be made. It is going to be tough love from here on. It must be tougher on those who have had it easy than on those who have had it tough already.

Humarap din sa problema ang mga karatig bansa. Ang kanilang sikreto ay pagkakaisa ng mamamayan, suporta sa liderato at sakripisyo ng bawat isa.

We must bear the pain and share the pain to enjoy the gain together. Those with more must sacrifice more; those with less are already living lives of self-sacrifice.

Maraming magsasabi: Matagal na silang nagsasakripisyo. Ngunit hinihingi ko sa inyo: Konti pang sakripisyo.

We must wait with patience for the reforms to work. In the meantime, we must work more productively because world competition is keen and we want the jobs not only to come, but to stay.

Our most urgent problem is the budget deficit. Sometimes it is unavoidable; but chronic deficits are always bad.

Sometimes stamping out deficits too vigorously can slow down growth. But ignoring them can kill the economy. It sends the wrong signal that we do not understand our fiscal predicament and will not help ourselves. This will drive away investments, exacerbate the deficit and hurt job growth.

Chronic deficits drastically reduce government's ability to make those infrastructure investments that business needs to grow and create jobs.

Chronic deficits mean undertaking less social services that private charity will never provide, but without which, social war is inevitable. This is a sure fire formula for national failure.

So we must raise revenues and expand government services, yet cut costs all at the same time. It boils down to right priorities.

The beauty of the fiscal problem is that all the solutions are known, though-applying-the-right-ones is tricky.

All the solutions require toughness on the part of government, cooperation on the part of business, patience on the part of our people, and active support on the part of Congress.

All the solutions require profound, even personal changes. Politicians will need to focus on the job at hand rather than on their prospect of re-election.

The worst offender yet and the hardest to pin down is corporate corruption. Businessmen must adopt an attitude of tax acceptance; not tax avoidance. They must stop trying to outrun the tax collector. They must recognize that only a fiscally stronger government can create a more congenial business environment, greater security, (*Applause*) better infrastructure, cheaper credit, more business.

My administration will undertake reforms to raise or save P100 billion. (*Applause*) I ask Congress to pass eight revenue measures that will collect P80 billion more.

Alam kong maaasahan ko ang mga mambabatas upang burahin ang deficit, upang ituloy ang magandang trabaho at upang itaguyod ang saligan ng matapat na gobyerno at malakas na ekonomiya.

Investments, infrastructure and energy provide the greatest multiplier effect for growth and job creation. Pag maganda ang imprastraktura gaya ng kalsada, tulay, pantalan, telepono, kuryente, maraming mamumuhunan, maraming magkakaroon ng trabaho.

We must achieve sufficient, efficient, cheap energy in the near term. We must be sure to have the capacity to meet the demands of a growing economy, so as not to choke off growth when it comes, and thereby lose the opportunities that may not come again.

To this end, the National Power Corporation's (Napocor's) power generating plants and transmission lines must be privatized but not in a fire sale. (*Applause*) Delivering electricity to virtually an entire country as big as ours cannot possibly be worth nothing but the trouble of running it.

The Napocor's transmission systems will be sold on terms that recognize the lucrative monopoly of its transmission grid. I ask Congress to pass the transmission company (Transco) bill that already passed the House in the Twelfth Congress. (*Applause*)

Our investments in social justice and basic needs are as vital to our future as fiscal and macroeconomic reforms. A nation deeply divided will not stand, and it certainly will not move forward.

Our nation is divided by social and economic faultlines. The tectonic plates may shift with unthinkable consequences.

Some say that it is cheaper to die than to get well from an illness; that it is impossible to find clean water in this rainfall country; that in this modern day and age, part of the country still sits in darkness. This is a terrible waste and a terrible shame.

Kaya ang aking agenda para sa maralita ay hanapbuhay, reporma sa lupa, tubig, gamot at kuryente, pagtatanggol at kapangyarihan para sa mahina.

In fact, we will now be able to bring clean water to the entire country because during my previous term, Congress finally passed the Clean Water Act. Thank you for that. (*Applause*) During the first few days of my presidency in 2001, I signed the Solid Waste Act. Thank you also for giving me that opportunity. (*Applause*). So let us move on in reforesting our watersheds.

The place to start now is livelihood for 10 million Filipinos.

The growing industrial service and micro-enterprise sectors will take care of some, a thriving agri-business sector will keep more in the countryside rather than burdening a Metro Manila that is already cracking under the weight of overpopulation.

Land reform covers agrarian reform, urban land reform and ancestral domain land reform. I ask Congress to qualify farmland as bank collateral and to reform the system of urban land titles.

Ang kapangyarihan ng taumbayan ay puso ng demokrasya. Dapat kasama sila sa paghugis ng kanilang kapalaran.

Dadalhin ko ang aking mga reporma sa taumbayan. Ako ay magpapaliwanag; ako ay makikinig. (*Applause*)

I have shown that government does care even for a single Filipino life. Now we must show that we care for the rest of the Filipino people, especially the weakest among us. (*Applause*)

To adapt the words of Adam Smith to the information age: “The greatest improvement in the productive powers of labor seems to have been the effects of a modern education.”

Economies have exhausted the possibilities of the division of labor; the way further forward now is a better-educated, more adaptable workforce.

We need to start early. And we need to maintain the highest educational standards. I ask Congress to legislate an extra year of studies not by adding a fifth year of high school but by standardizing what is taught in the barangay day-care centers. (*Applause*)

To expand youth opportunity, we need to focus on technical and vocational education; on strengthening english, science and technology, and love of country. (*Applause*) As I said in my inaugural: “It is not free markets but patriotism that makes countries strong.” (*Applause*)

There is a sense in which, as a society, we have failed the youth in their formative years—in growing up normally and productively; in getting a good education; in learning the habits of honesty, and citizenship and civic discipline.

I ask the educational system, the parents, the church and pillars of the community to help shape a new culture of honesty, patriotism, respect, discipline and service for young Filipinos. (*Applause*)

The roof cannot collapse when the value pillars of government and society are sound and strong.

I fervently support the judicial reforms being carried out by our Supreme Court. (*Applause*)

I ask Congress for a law making the Ombudsman’s function as effective as Hong Kong’s independent commission against corruption. (*Applause*)

Bureaucratic corruption with its numerous leakages is bad, so is government incompetence. Unlike in the private sector, where the free market punishes mistakes, government incompetence punishes only the public.

We have to tear away layers of inefficiency piled on by decades of political accommodation, redundancy in the national service, waste in local governments, and pointless procedures for getting done what is not needed anyway to secure the public welfare. Just how does paying off the health inspector banish bacteria from a dirty kitchen? (*Applause*)

By definition, public services are what the private sector will not do except for a price the public cannot pay.

Where the private sector can do it better and cheaper, government may have to step aside. (*Applause*) But the watchwords are “better and cheaper.” Where privatization only spells public pillage, government will continue to do the work. (*Applause*) But that is no reason to spare public services from the test of competitive performance.

We will simplify procedures to eliminate fixers. We will downsize the government, motivate excess employees to become entrepreneurs, and increase the pay of a lean and mean bureaucracy. (*Applause*)

I have abolished eighty offices under the Office of the President. (*Applause*) I will abolish thirty more. (*Applause*)

I ask Congress to pass a law on government reengineering, with silver parachutes for redundant offices. (*Applause*)

Once we have proved to our people that we have done what we can within the present structure of government, we can move on to changing the system to one that enhances our freedom and flexibility to do more.

I expect that next year, Congress will start considering the resolutions for Charter change. (*Applause standing ovation*)

No one has a monopoly on right ideas. I am reaching out to all segments of society and all parties, be they with me or against me, to join me in those things that should be everyone's concern because they rise above politics to the level of patriotism. (*Applause*)

I do not want a honeymoon period after which we can forget the country and go after each other again. I want a marriage not of convenience but of conviction, across the spectrum of parties and groups, encompassing the range of intelligent, political, religious and economic views. (*Applause*) I want a marriage for at least the life of this Congress. (*Applause*)

I do not ask for unprincipled support because it will not hold.

I do ask for an end to unprincipled obstructionism because that always succeeds in defeating our best efforts. (*Applause*)

Tunay nga na ang kahirapan at kawalan ng katarungan ang sagabal sa ating pag-unlad. Ngunit ang mga nagsusulsol sa mahihirap para manggulo ang sumisira sa ating kinabukasan. (*Applause*)

So this must stop. We must put a stop to that.

Every year, every President tells Congress that it is the last chance for meaningful change.

This time, I will say it again, adding only that past Presidents were right. And that each time change does not happen, makes change harder and less likely to happen the next time around.

The time for change is well past due. This time, let me say, let us just do it.

Mabuhay ang Pilipino!

Maraming Salamat. (*Applause*)

#### ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT SESSION

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. On the part of the Senate, the joint session is adjourned.

THE SPEAKER. On the part of the House of Representatives, the joint session is adjourned. (*Applause*)

*It was 4:38 p.m.*