



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 14th CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Vol. 1

Monday, July 23, 2007

No. 1

OPENING OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION CALL TO ORDER

At 10:01 a.m., the Presiding Officer, Secretary General Roberto P. Nazareno, called the House to order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Ladies and Gentlemen, today, the fourth Monday of July 2007, is the day mandated by the Constitution for the convening of the First Regular Session of the House of Representatives of the Fourteenth Congress of the Republic of the Philippines.

Pursuant to established parliamentary rules, procedure and practice, I hereby call the session to order.

REP. GOLEZ. Mr. Presiding officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). With due respect, the Chair will recognize the Gentleman at the appropriate time after we have conducted the roll call and established a quorum.

REP. GOLEZ. Presiding Officer.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. Nazareno). Everybody will please rise to sing the Philippine National Anthem...

REP. GOLEZ. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno)...to be led by the House Chorale.

REP. GOLEZ. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. GOLEZ. Point of order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno) Everybody will please remain standing for the Invocation...

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order.

REP. GOLEZ. Point of order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno)...to be led by the Honorable Maria Zenaida B. Angping...

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno)...of the Third District of Manila.

The Honorable Angping will please proceed.

Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

REP. ANGPING. Lord God, God of all nations, once again, by Your grace and Your guidance, You have called this House to the exercise of its solemn task in the formation of the nation and service to the people.

God of compassion and mercy, we pray that the new leadership of the Fourteenth Congress and all its members will forge into law the continuing history of the nation that measures its success by how well it cares for the weakest and most vulnerable among us.

Grant us the faithfulness towards the people whose trust we hold and whose future we influence. Give us the forbearance and the grace toward one another that we may wisely discern the common good for our great country. Bless anew this nation with the spirit of sacrificial leadership in a restless and violent world which still struggles for true peace and justice.

Accept, O God, the efforts of this House and the frail lives of your servants. We ask You to hold us in Your holy and mighty hands. May we do justly and walk humbly with You.

I ask all of you, my colleagues, in the Fourteenth Congress to join me in giving thanks to our Creator as I quote O. Eugene Pickett:

For our human community, our common past and future hopes, our oneness transcending all separation, our capacity to work for peace and justice in the midst of hostility and oppression, we give thanks for this day.

For high hopes and noble causes, for faith without fanaticism, for understanding our views not shared, we give thanks for this day.

For all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world, who have lived so that others might live in dignity and freedom, we give thanks for this day.

For human liberty and sacred rites, for opportunities to change and grow, to affirm and choose, we give thanks for this day.

We pray that we may live, not by our fears but by our hopes, not by our words but by our deeds.

To You, our Lord and our Savior, be all the honor and glory, world without end.

Amen.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Deputy Secretary General for Operation will call the roll of Members.

REP. GOLEZ. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

REP. TAÑADA. Prejudicial question, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Deputy Secretary General please call the roll.

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order.

REP. GOLEZ. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer .

ROLL CALL

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa). Roll call of Members....

REP. TAÑADA. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, point of order.

REP. GOLEZ. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer. I still have the floor.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa).honorable Congressmen and Congresswomen....

REP. TAÑADA. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, point of order.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa). ...of the National Capital Region....

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Mr. Presiding Officer,....

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. ...we cannot adopt the "railroad system" here.

REP. TAÑADA. There is a prejudicial question.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa). ...City of Manila....

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order.

REP. GOLEZ. I question the Secretary General's authority to preside.

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order.

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

First District

Honorable Benjamin Dr. Asilo Present

REP. GOLEZ. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Mr. Secretary General.

REP. TAÑADA. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

REP. GOLEZ. A point of order takes precedence over a roll call.

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

Second District

Hon. Jaime C. Lopez Present

REP. GUINGONA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Is the Presiding Officer deaf?

REP. GOLEZ. What is the authority of the Secretary General to preside?

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

Third District

Hon. Maria Zenaída Angping Present

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order.

REP. GOLEZ. May we know by what authority the Secretary General is acting as the Presiding Officer?

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

Fourth District

Hon. Ma. Theresa B. Bonoan-David Present

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Point of order.

REP. GOLEZ. Point of order.

REP. GUINGONA. Point of order.

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

Fifth District

Hon. Amado S. Bagatsing Present

REP. GUINGONA. Point of order. The Secretary has no authority to preside.

REP. TAÑADA. Parliamentary inquiry.

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

Sixth District

Hon. Bienvenido M. Abante Jr. Present

REP. VILLAFUERTE. The Secretary General has no authority to preside.

REP. GUINGONA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. TAÑADA. Parliamentary inquiry.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. The Secretary General has no authority to preside. Point of order.

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

QUEZON CITY

First District

Hon. Vincent “Bingbong” P. Crisologo .. Present*

Second District

Hon. Mary Anne L. Susano Present

Third District

Hon. Matias V. Defensor Jr. Present

Fourth District

Hon. Nanette Castelo Daza Present

REP. GUINGONA. Mr. Presiding Officer, parliamentary inquiry.

REP. GOLEZ. The Secretary General has no authority. Point of order.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Parliamentary inquiry. By what authority is the Secretary General acting as the Presiding Officer?

REP. GOLEZ. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. TAÑADA. Parliamentary inquiry.

REP. GOLEZ. The Secretary General does not have any authority. Point of order.

REP. GUINGONA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer. These proceedings have no legitimacy.

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

KALOOCAN CITY

First District

Hon. Oscar G. Malapitan Present

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Under what authority are we talking here?

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. GOLEZ. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

Second District

Hon. Mary Mitzi “Mitch” L. Cajayon ... Present

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Parliamentary inquiry. These proceedings have no legitimacy, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order.

REP. GUINGONA. The Secretary General is not a Member of Congress.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Point of order.

REP. TANADA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

MAKATI CITY

First District

Hon. Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. Present

Second District

Hon. Mar-Len Abigail S. Binay Present

REP. GUINGONA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order.

REP. GUINGONA. These proceedings have no legitimacy. The Secretary General is not a Member of Congress.

REP. TANADA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. GUINGONA. Parliamentary inquiry.

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

PASAY CITY

Lone District

Hon. Jose Antonio F. Roxas Present

MANDALUYONG CITY

Lone District

Hon. Neptali M. Gonzales II Present

PASIG CITY

Lone District

Hon. Roman T. Romulo Present

REP. GUINGONA. These proceedings have no legitimacy. Mr. Speaker, by what authority do we proceed? By what authority does the Secretary General proceed?

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

MARIKINA CITY

First District

Hon. Marcelino “Marcy” R. Teodoro Present

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

Second District

Hon. Del R. De Guzman Present

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Under what personality is the Secretary General presiding?

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

LAS PINAS CITY

Lone District

Hon. Cynthia A. Villar Present

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order.

REP. GUINGONA. Point of order.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. There is no legitimacy in this proceeding.

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

MUNTINLUPA CITY

Lone District

Hon. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon Present

REP. TANADA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Who are you?

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

PARAÑAQUE CITY

First District

Hon. Eduardo C. Zialcita Present

REP. GUINGONA. These proceedings have no legitimacy.

REP. TAÑADA. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

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

Second District

Hon. Roilo S. Golez Present

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. GUINGONA. Parliamentary inquiry. We must first address issues of legitimacy.

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

VALENZUELA CITY

First District

Hon. Rex T. Gatchalian Present

REP. TAÑADA. Prejudicial question, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. GUINGONA. Just like the administration of Gloria Arroyo that has no legitimacy, the Chair is proceeding in an illegitimate manner.

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

Second District

Hon. Magtanggol T. Gunigundo Present

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

SAN JUAN

Lone District

Hon. Ronaldo B. Zamora Present

MALABON/NAVOTAS

Lone District

Hon. Alvin S. Sandoval Present

TAGUIG CITY-PATEROS

First District

Hon. Ma. Laarni L. Cayetano Present

Second District

Hon. Henry M. Duenas Jr. Present

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer. Gusto lang po naming malaman kung sino ang nagbigay ng authority para tumayo ang Acting Secretary General bilang Presiding Officer.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. CERILLES. Who authorized the Secretary General to preside?

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

REGION I

ILOCOS NORTE (with the City of Laoag)

First District

Hon. Roque R. Ablan Jr. Present

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order.

REP. TAÑADA. Who authorized the Secretary General to preside?

VOICE. Who are you?

REP. GUINGONA. There is no legitimacy in this proceedings.

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

Second District
Hon. Ferdinand R. Marcos II Present

ILOCOS SUR (with the Cities of Vigan and Candon)

First District
Hon. Ronald V. Singson Present
Second District
Hon. Eric D. Singson Present

LA UNION (with the City of San Fernando)

First District
Hon. Victor Francisco C. Ortega Present
Second District
Hon. Thomas L. Dumpit Jr. Present

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

First District
Hon. Arthur D. Celeste Present

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order.

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

Second District
Hon. Victor E. Agbayani. Present
Third District
Hon. Ma. Rachel “Baby” J. Arenas Present
Fourth District
Hon. Jose C. De Venecia Jr. Present
Fifth District
Hon. Mark O. Cojuangco Present
Sixth District
Hon. Conrado M. Estrella III Present

REP. CERILLES. On what personality is the Secretary General presiding?

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

REGION II

BATANES

Lone District
Hon. Carlo Oliver D. Diasnes Present

CAGAYAN (with the City of Tuguegarao)

REP. CERILLES. Who authorized the Secretary General to preside?

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

First District
Hon. Salvacion S. Ponce-Enrile Present
Second District
Hon. Florencio L. Vargas Present

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. CERILLES. Who authorized the Secretary General to preside?

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

Third District
Hon. Manuel N. Mamba Present

ISABELA (with the Cities of Santiago and Cauayan)

First District
Hon. Rodolfo T. Albano III
Second District
Hon. Edwin C. Uy Present
Third District
Hon. Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III Present

REP. CERILLES. Under what personality is the Secretary General presiding?

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

Fourth District
Hon. Giorgidi B. Aggabao Present

NUEVA VIZCAYA

Lone District
Hon. Carlos M. Padilla Present

QUIRINO

Lone District
Hon. Junie E. Cua Present

REGION III

AURORA

Lone District
Hon. Juan Edgardo “Sonny” M. Angara Present

BATAAN (with the City of Balanga)

First District
Hon. Herminia B. Roman Present
Second District
Hon. Albert S. Garcia Present

BULACAN (with the Cities of San Jose del Monte and Meycauayan)

First District	
Hon. Ma. Victoria R. Sy-Alvarado	Present
Second District	
Hon. Pedro M. Pancho	Present
Third District	
Hon. Lorna C. Silverio	Present
Fourth District	
Hon. Reyлина G. Nicolas	Present
SAN JOSE DEL MONTE	
Lone District	
Hon. Arturo B. Robes	Present
NUEVA ECIJA (with the Cities of Cabanatuan, Palayan, San Jose, Gapan and Science City of Muñoz)	
First District	
Hon. Eduardo Nonato N. Joson	Present
Second District	
Hon. Joseph Gilbert F. Violago	Present
Third District	
Hon. Czarina D. Umali	Present
Fourth District	
Hon. Rodolfo W. Antonino	Present
PAMPANGA (with the Cities of Angeles and San Fernando)	
First District	
Hon. Carmelo F. Lazatin	Present
Second District	
Hon. Juan Miguel “Mikey” Macapagal Arroyo ..	Present
Third District	
Hon. Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr.	Present
Fourth District	
Hon. Anna York P. Bondoc	Present
TARLAC (with the City of Tarlac)	
First District	
Hon. Monica “Nikki” Prieto-Teodoro ...	Present
Second District	
Hon. Jose V. Yap	Present
Third District	
Hon. Jeci A. Lapus	Present
ZAMBALES (with the City of Olongapo)	
First District	
Hon. Maria Milagros “Mitos” H. Magsaysay ..	Present
Second District	
Hon. Antonio M. Diaz	Present
REGION IV-A	
BATANGAS (with the Cities of Batangas, Lipa and Tanauan)	
First District	
Hon. Eilleen Ermita-Buhain	Present
Second District	
Hon. Hermilando I. Mandanas	
Third District	
Hon. Victoria Hernandez Reyes	Present
Fourth District	
Hon. Mark Llandro L. Mendoza	Present
CAVITE (with the Cities of Tagaytay, Cavite and Trece Martires)	

First District	
Hon. Joseph Emilio A. Abaya	Present
Second District	
Hon. Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr.	Present
Third District	
Hon. Jesus Crispin C. Remulla	Present
LAGUNA (with the Cities of San Pablo and Calamba)	
First District	
Hon. Dan Fernandez	Present
Second District	
Hon. Justin Marc SB. Chipeco	Present
Third District	
Hon. Maria Evita “Ivy” R. Arago	Present
Fourth District	
Hon. Edgar S. San Luis	Present
QUEZON (with the City of Lucena)	
First District	
Hon. Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga	Present
Second District	
Hon. Proceso J. Alcala	Present
Third District	
Hon. Danilo E. Suarez	Present
Fourth District	
Hon. Lorenzo R. Tañada III	Present
RIZAL	
First District	
Hon. Michael John “Jack” R. Duavit	Present
Second District	
Hon. Adelina Rodriguez-Zaldarriaga	Present
ANTIPOLO CITY	
First District	
Hon. Roberto V. Puno	Present
Second District	
Hon. Angelito C. Gatlabayan	Present
REGION IV-B	
MARINDUQUE	
Lone District	
Hon. Carmencita O. Reyes	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

ROMBLON

Lone District

Hon. Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona Present

REGION V

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

First District

Hon. Edcel C. Lagman Present

Second District

Hon. Al Francis C. Bichara Present

Third District

Hon. Reno G. Lim Present

CAMARINES NORTE

Lone District

Hon. Liwayway Vinzons-Chato Present

CAMARINES SUR (with the Cities of Naga and Iriga)

First District

Hon. Diosdado “Dato” Macapagal Arroyo

Second District

Hon. Luis R. Villafuerte Present

Third District

Hon. Arnulfo P. Fuentebella Present

Fourth District

Hon. Felix R. Alfel Jr. Present

CATANDUANES

Lone District

Hon. Joseph A. Santiago Present

MASBATE (with the City of Masbate)

First District

Hon. Narciso R. Bravo Jr. Present

Second District

Hon. Antonio T. Kho Present

Third District

Hon. Rizalina L. Seachon-Lanete Present

SORSOGON (with the City of Sorsogon)

First District

Hon. Salvador H. Escudero III Present

Second District

Hon. Jose G. Solis Present

REGION VI

AKLAN

Lone District

Hon. Florencio T. Miraflores Present

ANTIQUE

Lone District

Hon. Exequiel B. Javier Present

CAPIZ (with the City of Roxas)

First District

Hon. Antonio A. Del Rosario Present

Second District

Hon. Fredenil H. Castro Present

GUIMARAS

Lone District

Hon. Joaquin Carlos Rahman A. Nava .. 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 Sr. Present

Fourth District

Hon. M.D. Ferjenel “Ferji” G. Biron Present

Fifth District

Hon. Niel “Junjun” C. Tupas, Jr. Present

ILOILO CITY

Lone District

Hon. Raul T. Gonzalez Jr. Present

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

First District

Hon. Julio A. Ledesma IV Present

Second District

Hon. Alfredo “Thirty” D. Marañon III . Present

Third District

Hon. Jose Carlos V. Lacson Present

Fourth District

Hon. Jeffrey “Jeff” P. Ferrer Present

Fifth District

Hon. Ignacio “Iggy” T. Arroyo Present

Sixth District

Hon. Genaro M. Alvarez Jr. Present

BACOLOD CITY

Lone District

Hon. Monico O. Puentevella Present

REGION VII

BOHOL (with the City of Tagbilaran)

First District

Hon. Edgar M. Chatto Present

Second District

Hon. Roberto C. Cajés Present

Third District

Hon. Adam Relson L. Jala Present

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

First District

Hon. Eduardo R. Gullas Present

Second District

Hon. Pablo P. Garcia Present

Third District

Hon. Pablo John F. Garcia Present

Fourth District

Hon. Benhur L. Salimbangon Present

Fifth District

Hon. Ramon “Red” H. Durano VI 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
NEGROS ORIENTAL (with the Cities of Bais, Canlaon, Dumaguete, Bayawan and Tanjay)	
First District	
Hon. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong	Present
Second District	
Hon. George P. Arnaiz	Present
Third District	
Hon. Pryde Henry A. Teves	Present
SIQUIJOR	
Lone District	
Hon. Orlando B. Fua	Present
REGION VIII	
BILIRAN	
Lone District	
Hon. Glen A. Chong	Present
LEYTE (with the Cities of Tacloban and Ormoc)	
First District	
Hon. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez ..	Present
Second District	
Hon. Trinidad "Ebbie" G. Apostol	Present
Third District	
Hon. Andres "Andy" D. Salvacion Jr.	Present
Fourth District	
Hon. Eufrocino M. Codilla Jr.	Present
Fifth District	
Hon. Carmen L. Cari	Present
SOUTHERN LEYTE (with the City of Maasin)	
Lone District	
Hon. Roger Gaviola Mercado	Present
EASTERN SAMAR	
Lone District	
Hon. Teodulo M. Coquilla	Present
NORTHERN SAMAR	
First District	
Hon. Paul Ruiz Daza	Present
Second District	
Hon. Emil L. Ong	Present
WESTERN SAMAR (WITH THE CITY OF CALBAYOG)	
First District	
Hon. Reynaldo S. Uy	Present
Second District	
Hon. Shari Ann Tan	Present

REGION IX – ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA

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

First District	
Hon. Cecilia G. Jalosjos-Carreon	Present
Second District	
Hon. Rosendo "Dodoy" S. Labadlabad .	Present
Third District	
Hon. Cesar G. Jalosjos	Present

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR (with the City of Pagadian)

First District	
Hon. Victor J. Yu	Present
Second District	
Hon. Antonio H. Cerilles	Present

ZAMBOANGA CITY

First District	
Hon. Maria Isabelle G. Climaco	Present
Second District	
Hon. Erico Basilio A. Fabian	Present

ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY

First District	
Hon. Belma A. Cabilao	Present
Second District	
Hon. Ann K. Hofer	Present

REGION X – NORTHERN MINDANAO

BUKIDNON (with the Cities of Malaybalay and Valencia)

First District	
Hon. Candido P. Pancrudo Jr.	Present
Second District	
Hon. Teofisto L. Guingona III	Present
Third District	
Hon. Jose Ma. F. Zubiri III	Present

CAMIGUIN

Lone District	
Hon. Pedro P. Romualdo	Present

LANAO DEL NORTE (with the City of Iligan)

Second District	
Hon. Abdullah D. Dimaporo	Present

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

First District	
Hon. Marina P. Clarete	Present
Second District	
Hon. Herminia M. Ramiro	Present

MISAMIS ORIENTAL (with the City of Gingoog)

First District	
Hon. Danilo P. Lagbas	Present
Second District	
Hon. Yevgeny Vicente B. Emano	Present

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

First District

Hon. Rolando A. Uy Present

Second District

Hon. Rufus B. Rodriguez Present

REGION XI – DAVAO REGION

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

First District

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

Second District

Hon. Rommel C. Amatong Present

DAVAO DEL NORTE (with the Cities of Tagum, Panabo and Island Garden City of Samal)

First District

Hon. Arrel R. Olano Present

Second District

Hon. Antonio F. Lagdameo Jr. Present

DAVAO DEL SUR (with the City of Digos)

First District

Hon. Marc Douglas C. Cagas IV Present

Second District

Hon. Franklin P. Bautista Present

DAVAO ORIENTAL

First District

Hon. Nelson L. Dayanghirang Present

Second District

Hon. Thelma Z. Almario Present

DAVAO CITY

First District

Hon. Prospero C. Nograles Present

Second District

Hon. Vincent J. Garcia Present

Third District

Hon. Isidro T. Ungab Present

REGION XII – SOCCSASARGEN

NORTH COTABATO (with the City of Kidapawan)

First District

Hon. Emmylou “Lala” J. Taliño-Mendoza

Present

Second District

Hon. Bernardo F. Piñol Jr. Present

SARANGANI

Lone District

Hon. Erwin L. Chiongbian Present

SOUTHCOTABATO (with the Cities of General Santos and Koronadal)

First District

Hon. Darlene R. Antonino-Custodio Present

Second District

Hon. Arthur “Dodo” Y. Pingoy Jr. Present

SULTAN KUDARAT (with the City of Tacurong)

First District

Hon. Datu Pax S. Mangudadatu Present

Second District

Hon. Arnulfo F. Go Present

AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM)

BASILAN

Lone District

Hon. Wahab M. Akbar Present

LANAO DEL SUR (with the City of Marawi)

First District

Hon. Faysah R.P.M. Present

Second District

Hon. Pangalian M. Balindong Present

MAGUINDANAO

Lone District

Simeon A. Datumanong Present

SULU

First District

Hon. Yusop H. Jikiri Present

Second District

Hon. Abdul Munir M. Arbison Present

TAWI-TAWI

Lone District

Hon. Nur G. Jaafar Present

SHARIFF KABUNSUAN (with the City of Cotabato)

Lone District

Hon. Didagen P. Dilangalen Present

CARAGA REGION

AGUSAN DEL NORTE (with the City of Butuan)

First District

Hon. Jose S. Aquino II Present

Second District

Hon. Edelmiro A. Amante Present

AGUSAN DEL SUR

Lone District

Hon. Rodolfo “Ompong” G. Plaza Present

SURIGAO DEL NORTE (with the City of Surigao)

First District

Hon. Francisco T. Matugas Present

Second District

Hon. Guillermo A. Romarate Jr.

SURIGAO DEL SUR (with the City of Bislig)

First District

Hon. Philip A. Pichay Present

Second District

Hon. Florencio C. Garay Present

DINAGAT ISLANDS

Lone District

Hon. Glenda B. Ecleo Present

CORDILLERA AUTONOMOUS REGION (CAR)

ABRA

Lone District

Hon. Cecilia M. Seares Luna Present

APAYAO

Lone District

Hon. Elias C. Bulut Jr. Present

BENGUET

Lone District

Hon. Samuel M. Dangwa Present

BAGUIO CITY

Lone District

Hon. Mauricio G. Domogan Present

IFUGAO

Lone District

Hon. Solomon R. Chungalao Present

KALINGA

Lone District

Hon. Manuel S. Agyao Present

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

Lone District

Hon. Victor S. Dominguez Present

PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES

A TEACHER

Honorable Mariano U. Piamonte Jr. Present

ABONO

Hon. Robert Raymund M. Estrella Present

AGAP

Hon. Nicanor M. Briones Present

AKBAYAN! Citizens Action Party (Akbayan)

Hon. Ana Theresia N. Hontiveros-Baraquel . Present

ANAKPAWIS

Hon. Crispin “Ka Bel” B. Beltran Present

ASSOCIATION OF PHILIPPINE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES (APEC)

Hon. Edgar L. Valdez Present

Hon. Ernesto C. Pablo Present

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ALLIANCE OF THE PHILIPPINES (ARC)

Hon. Narciso Santiago III Present

BAYAN MUNA

Hon. Saturnino C. Ocampo Present

Hon. Teodoro A. Casiño Jr. Present

BUHAY HAYAANG YUMABONG (Buhay)

Hon. Rene M. Velarde Present

Hon. Ma. Carissa D. Coscoluella Present

Hon. William Irwin C. Tieng Present

BUTIL (Luzon Farmers Party)

Hon. Leonila V. Chavez Present

CITIZEN’S BATTLE AGAINST CORRUPTION (Cibac)

Hon. Emmanuel Joel J. Villanueva Present

COOPERATIVE-NATCCO NETWORK (Coop-NATCCO)

Hon. Guillermo P. Cua Present

GABRIELA Women’s Party (Gabriela)

Hon. Liza L. Maza Present

Hon. Luzviminda C. Ilagan Present

Mr. Presiding Officer, the roll call shows that 223 Members responded to the call.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). With 223 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). In the interest of orderly parliamentary procedure, the Chair designates the Honorable Arthur D. Defensor Jr. as the Acting Floor Leader.

REP. GOLEZ. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

REP. GOLEZ. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

REP. DILANGALEN. Point of information.

REP. GOLEZ. Point of order takes precedence, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. There is a point of order.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, point of information.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. This unauthorized Acting Presiding Officer does not recognize...

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, point of information.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I ask that the distinguished Gentleman from Maguindanao be recognized for his point of order.

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

REP. DILANGALEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

When the Representative of Shariff Kabunsuan was called during the roll call, I did not acknowledge it. I did not stand up because there was an error in the district or name of the district which I represent. I do not represent the province of Shariff Kabunsuan only. According to the ordinance of the Philippine Constitution, I represent Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City. That was the name of my former district under the Constitution. So, I hope this will be corrected.

From now on, the Representative of Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City is Congressman Didagen P. Dilangalen. And please pronounce my name correctly.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Point of order.

REP. DILANGALEN. I am not yet through, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

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

REP. DILANGALEN. This is very important and I will take this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. I stand corrected— Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). All right.

REP. DILANGALEN. Under the Constitution, each House may determine the Rules of its proceedings. Right now, we are not operating under any particular Rule of the House, not even the Rules under the Thirteenth Congress. This Body has not yet adopted the Rules of the Thirteenth Congress to govern these proceedings ...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Yes.

REP. DILANGALEN. ...and therefore, under the prevailing parliamentary practice, parliamentary law shall apply which means that, because under the Constitution each House is mandated to or may adopt its own Rules, we must adopt our own rules. But as I have said, right now, we do not have any particular Rules.

May I recall, Mr. Speaker—again, forgive me, I am used to saying “Mr. Speaker”—in the Journal of July 26, 2004, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, a person by the name of the Honorable Norberto P. Nazareno was designated to preside during the opening of Congress. That was accepted by tolerance because he used to be the Secretary General of the Twelfth Congress.

That was when I was still a Member of Congress. During that time, as far as I could remember, the honorable Secretary General was elected by the House of Representatives. However, in the Thirteenth Congress there was no showing in any of the Journals of the House of Representatives that the Secretary General was ever elected, which means that the honorable gentleman who is now presiding, the Honorable Norberto P. Nazareno, was never elected as the Secretary General. He was only designated by the former Speaker of the House of Representatives. And I am not really very sure whether the former Speaker will be elected today.

Now, what is my point here?

The former Speaker designated the Secretary General. The Secretary General was never elected. Pursuant to the Rules of the House which was adopted, he should be elected by that time. And because by its very nature, the Rules of the House are *functus officio* the moment the life of the Congress ceases as when it ceases on June 30, 2004 at twelve o'clock noon, and considering that the appointive position at that time of the Secretary General is only coterminous with the term of the former Speaker—who is now aspiring again for Speaker—the fact that the former Speaker ceases to be Speaker on June 30, 2004 at twelve o'clock noon, necessarily, because the authority of the Secretary General is also coterminous, he ceases to be one.

The very reason, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I stood today is to put some order in the House. This is my objective. I want these proceedings to be very orderly because I come from the minority. And even if we are with the minority, we are very cooperative in the sense that we do not want a situation where it will appear that this afternoon there will be State of the Nation Address (SONA) and the President will be coming here without any Speaker being elected. And so, that is to show to everybody how composed the opposition is right now. We are for order in this country and therefore, may I inquire whether the Acting Presiding Officer was really elected by the Members of the House of Representatives during the Thirteenth Congress? I mean no offense, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer. I have nothing personal against him.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Yes, Sir. There is just one correction—the name is Roberto, not Norberto. *(Applause)*

REP. DILANGALEN. I see.

Thank you very much. The feeling is mutual. *(Laughter)* I was out of Congress for three years and so, I have forgotten Congress. So, this time I am back, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Chair will now respond to the inquiry of the Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan. Indeed, prior to the enactment or approval of our Rules, the House operates under general parliamentary law, practice and precedents. Parliamentary law, as understood and observed by the House, consists of the provisions of the Constitution particularly pertaining to legislative procedures, previous Rules of the House of Representatives, rulings of the Chair, decisions rendered *motu proprio* by the Speaker, the Chair or the Presiding Officer on questions or point of order and decisions of the Supreme Court, among others.

Regarding the tenure of the Secretary General—indeed, he was elected during the Twelfth Congress—but the

Thirteenth Congress extended it and gave him a mandate to perform his duties as Secretary General, including the approval or signing, certifying to the passage of laws passed by the House.

Under the House practices and precedents, the Secretary General presides over the initial session of the Congress until the election of the Speaker. And so, that is the reason why this Secretary General is now presiding over this inauguration of this House—to have it elect its new Speaker.

REP. DILANGALEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

Thank you very much for the lecture. But we could assume, as a three-termers in Congress, I know already the rules. Because I noticed that the Acting Presiding Officer has begged the question, my question is: Was the Presiding Officer duly elected by the House of Representatives during the Thirteenth Congress? Because if he was elected, then, maybe as a matter of parliamentary practice, he may be allowed to preside temporarily. But if he was only designated by the former Speaker, then he had assumed a coterminus position of Secretary General, having been appointed by the former Speaker whose term as a Speaker expired on June 30, 2004 at twelve o'clock noon, and therefore, necessarily, by logic and by operation of law including the Supreme Court decisions, he ceases to be the Secretary General at this point. That is why I asked the question and I hope that the gentleman will not force an issue and he will not beg the question. The question is: Was he elected by the House of Representatives during the Thirteenth Congress?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Considering that the questions involved the person of the Secretary General, may he request the Acting Floor Leader to respond.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, assuming for the sake of argument that the Presiding Officer has not been elected in the Thirteenth Congress as Secretary General, he held the position of the Secretary General in the Thirteenth Congress in the holdover capacity, as the Secretary General of the Twelfth Congress.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). By the nature of the job, the function of the Secretary General...

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, parliamentary inquiry.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I still have the floor.

REP. PADILLA. That is the parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I cannot be interrupted by a parliamentary inquiry.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader will please continue.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, the present Acting Secretary General or Secretary General as the Presiding Officer holds the position of the Secretary General on a holdover capacity.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). And as such he continues to discharge the functions of the Presiding Officer pursuant to Rules and traditions

REP. PADILLA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, may I finish, Mr. Speaker. The Gentleman is ~~out of order~~. (deleted by order of the Chair)

REP. PADILLA. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Gentleman will please allow the Acting Floor Leader to continue please...

REP. PADILLA. It should be the Chair who should respond to the point of order.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Because what this Gentleman is saying is that he is not violating the Rules. He is just replying to the point of inquiry of the distinguished Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan and Cotabato City.

REP. PADILLA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I still have the floor, I did not yield it to anybody.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Please allow me to finish.

REP. DILANGALEN. I still have the floor.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). If we are not going to allow the Secretary General to preside, then....

REP. PADILLA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). We have to reckon with the nature of his position. Because the term of the Speaker then expired on June 30, there must be a person who shall discharge and do the administrative job of the Secretary General after June 30 in the holdover capacity, or else this Congress will not function; nobody will sign the checks. Therefore, in the nature of this holdover capacity, the Acting Presiding Officer must continue to preside pursuant to established rules, precedents and traditions.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

REP. PADILLA. Point of order. Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. I still have the floor, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer. My question was not answered.

REP. PADILLA. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DILANGALEN. Was the gentleman who is now presiding elected by Thirteenth Congress? Because if he was elected by the Thirteenth Congress, probably we could tolerate his presence as a Presiding Officer; and second, another point of inquiry, under what authority is the gentleman, who is now presiding, whose authority is questioned ...

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader, will please respond.

REP. DILANGALEN. ...appoint the Acting Floor Leader? Because, we are questioning now the authority of the Acting Presiding Officer. All of a sudden, we are confronted with somebody who was designated by somebody whose authority is questionable and so we have two questionable personalities here debating with this Gentleman.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader will please respond.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.) Mr. Presiding Officer, as we have said, the records do not show that the Secretary General has been elected in Thirteenth Congress but, as I will reiterate, considering the nature of the job of the Secretary General, the Secretary General now holds the position in a holdover capacity; and pursuant to establish parliamentary practices, traditions, procedures and precedents, the Acting Secretary General has the authority to preside as Presiding Officer in the opening session of the Fourteenth Congress as practiced in the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, and Thirteenth Congresses. And because the Secretary General has the authority to preside, the Secretary General and also pursuant to tradition and as established in the Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, and Twelfth Congresses, the Secretary General has the authority to designate an Acting Floor Leader in the interest of orderly procedure and business in the opening session of the House of Representatives.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Presiding Officer, let me make my position very clear.

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

REP. DILANGALEN. All right.

In the Twelfth Congress, that was during my last term, the House elected a Secretary General. During the opening of the Thirteenth Congress, the Secretary General, pursuant to the Rules of the Twelfth Congress, was designated to preside. But then, there is also that provision in the Rules of the Twelfth Congress and even in the Thirteenth Congress, that the Secretary General must be elected by the House pursuant to the Rules adopted by the House, pursuant to the provision of the Constitution. But no election took place during the Thirteenth Congress. And because no election took place, necessarily, that position...

REP. ABANTE. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. ...of Secretary General is *functus officio*.

REP. ABANTE. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. The Speaker who designated the acting Presiding Officer or Secretary General...

REP. ABANTE. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. ...necessarily, Acting Mr. Presiding Officer...

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, the Gentleman does not know the rule on parliamentary procedure.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

REP. DILANGALEN. When somebody has the floor, he must not be interrupted.

REP. ABANTE. There are 236 Congressmen...

REP. DILANGALEN. The Gentleman is out of order, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer...

REP. ABANTE. ...in this Chamber, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. ...pursuant to parliamentary procedure...

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). May I move for a one-minute suspension?

REP. ABANTE. The Gentleman has been speaking for ten minutes.

REP. DILANGALEN. ...rather through...

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 10:51 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 11:08 a.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). May I request the Chair to rule on the point of order raised by the distinguished Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan and Cotabato City?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Chair adopts the position taken by the Acting Floor Leader and so rules. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I move ...

REP. DILANGALEN. May I know the ruling of the Acting Presiding Officer?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Presiding Officer adopts the position taken by the Acting Floor Leader stating the Secretary General is occupying the position and performing the functions of Secretary General on a holdover capacity.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I move for a reconsideration of the decision. This is my position on the matter—we are treading on constitutional...

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Point of inquiry, Mr. Presiding Officer. Is that a motion for reconsideration or an appeal on the ruling?

REP. DILANGALEN. If that is not possible, I appeal the decision of the Chair.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan has five minutes.

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

We are in a country where the rule of law prevails. We are here because we are honorable men and we believe in the rule of law. All of us here are lawmakers. Let me cite the provision of the Constitution on the matter of rule of law, and I am referring to the Preamble of the Constitution.

The 1987 Constitution, in its Preamble, states:

We, the sovereign Filipino people, imploring the aid of Almighty God, in order to x-x-x establish a Government that shall embody our ideals x-x-x, promote the general welfare x-x-x and secure to ourselves and our posterity the blessings of peace, justice, liberty and democracy under the rule of law do hereby ordain and promulgate this Constitution.

I believe in the rule of law, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer. And pursuant to this provision of the Constitution which, as I have said, is the Preamble where the rule of law is enshrined, let me cite again another provision of the Constitution, under Section 16 (3) of Article VI, which states that: "Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings...."

Another provision of the Constitution is to the effect that at the inaugural opening of Congress, a Speaker shall be elected. And at the inaugural opening of Congress, as also provided for under the Constitution, there shall be a joint session of Congress to hear the State of the Nation Address of the President of the Republic of the Philippines, this time, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

And why is this very important, Mr. Presiding Officer? This is very important because I want to emphasize that the rule of law must prevail in this Chamber. This is the very reason why you always see me here standing because I always want to invoke the rule of law as enshrined in the Constitution. And being a very patriotic Moro from Mindanao, I want this country, this nation, this House, this Congress, to recognize the sanctity of the Constitution as the primary law of the land where the rule of law prevails.

Right now, we do not have the Rules of the House. What rules are we going to adopt? We resort to general parliamentary practice, and parliamentary law accepted everywhere will apply. We have here the provisions of the *Jefferson's Manual* and *Robert's Rule of Order*. We have here the decisions of the Supreme Court. We have here the parliamentary practices and traditions.

But then, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I raised that question earlier. Even if it was a matter of tradition that there is a holdover of the Secretary General and therefore, at the beginning of each Congress, he presides in order that he could call the Order of Business and proceed with the election of the Speaker and other officers of the House, yet that question will arise. Under what authority is the Acting Presiding Officer presiding?

All right. Here are admitted facts: During the Twelfth Congress, the Honorable Roberto—not Norberto—Nazareno was elected Secretary General of the House. That was the time I graduated from Congress.

During the opening of the Thirteenth Congress, on July 26, at exactly ten o'clock in the morning, his authority was not questioned. Why? Because the Thirteenth Congress, by tolerance, adopted the Rules of the Twelfth Congress where it says that the elected officer who is now the Secretary General shall serve in a holdover capacity.

But then, I ask the question: During the Thirteenth Congress, was the Secretary General elected? But then, obviously there is no answer. The Acting Floor Leader was made to answer. But then, there was no answer. Instead, an issue was being forced and there was a begging of the question. In other words, the question of this Representation from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City was not answered. My question was: Was the Acting Presiding Officer now, the Honorable Roberto Nazareno, elected as Secretary General during the Thirteenth Congress? Because if he was elected as such during the Thirteenth Congress, Congress maybe by tolerance, we could allow him to preside. We could allow him if we will temporarily approve the Rules of the Thirteenth Congress to govern the proceedings of this House. But then there are two defects here: first, this Body has not approved the Rules of the Thirteenth Congress; and second, the honorable Gentleman who is presiding right now—even on the assumption that the Rules of the Thirteenth Congress were approved—was not actually elected, he was only designated. So this is the folly of the situation. We really wanted...

REP. AMANTE. Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. ...the Rules to prevail here.

Now, under the circumstances, we could go on debating, and debating and I have here in my bag plenty of authorities but I will not rely on this. Instead, I hope the Gentlemen and Ladies in this House will support me.

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

REP. AMANTE. Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, this is my view on the matter. I hope that our colleagues here will listen to my appeal.

REP. AMANTE. Mr. Presiding Officer, please.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. AMANTE. Mr. Presiding Officer, it is common...

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I move that we...

REP. AMANTE. Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). ...divide the House on the appeal of the distinguished Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan and Cotabato City.

REP. AMANTE. Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). An aye...

REP. AMANTE. Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Just a moment...

REP. AMANTE. ...before the Acting Floor Leader...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Just a moment.

REP. AMANTE. ...would propose a division of the House, may I be permitted to speak? I have been here for so many years. This is the first time I am pleading, if I could be allowed to say something. I am already a 74-year old man, my twilight is almost evening.

Would the Presiding Officer please recognize this Representation?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). He will please proceed.

REP. AMANTE. The fine Gentleman from Mindanao quoted the Constitution. Now, because of that quotation, I draw this inspiration that even without the Rules—specific Rules as there are—provided that the Secretary General is still drinking water and receiving salary, he can preside because we are governed here by the welfare of the people which is well-expressed in Latin, *salus populi suprema lex*. (Applause) Because we will even be grateful to the Acting Presiding Officer for working together with us to serve the highest interest of our people. My people in my area in Mindanao are hungry and that is why I am a little angry, but I cannot be angry with these distinguished Gentlemen who are kings in their own areas—I am only Prinsipe Amante in my little piece of Agusan. (Applause)

So, Mr. Presiding Officer, with that I join the sentiment

now of anybody who wants to recognize, before the Gentleman will bang the gavel, the Acting Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I now move that we divide the House on the appeal of the distinguished Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The House will now divide on the appeal submitted by the Gentleman.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). May I be allowed—for just a moment, Mr. Presiding Officer?

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). With the Body's indulgence please, may I be allowed to state clearly the parliamentary situation?

An *aye* vote sustains the appeal of the distinguished Gentleman. A *nay* vote is a vote against it—defeat the appeal of the distinguished Gentleman. An *aye* vote means one is in favor of the the point of order that the Presiding Officer has no authority to preside. A *nay* vote sustains the position that the Acting Presiding Officer has the authority to preside over this session.

I so move, Mr. Presiding Officer.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). As many as in favor of the appeal, say *aye*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Aye*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno) As many as are against, say *nay*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Nay*.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno) The *nays* have it.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I move for nominal voting.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, we object to the ...

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for nominal voting, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. I second the motion for nominal voting.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I move for a suspension of the session.

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

It was 11:20 a.m

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 11:38 a.m., the session is resumed.

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

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I rise on a matter of highest constitutional privilege.

Before I propose my motion, Section 15, Article VI of the Constitution provides and I quote:

The Congress shall convene once every year on the fourth Monday of July for its regular session, unless a different date is fixed by law, and shall continue to be in session for such number of days as it may determine until thirty days before the opening of its next regular session, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. The President may call a special session at any time.

Section 16 (1) provides and I quote:

The Senate shall elect its President and the House of Representatives its Speaker, by a majority vote of all its respective Members.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

REP. GONZALES (N.). This is a matter of highest and constitutional privilege, Mr. Presiding Officer. I have already been recognized. I cannot be interrupted.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. There is a pending motion, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer, I have been recognized for a matter of highest constitutional privilege...

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I move for the previous question.

REP. GONZALES (N.). ...which even precedes all motions...

REP. DILANGALEN. There is a pending motion, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

REP. GONZALES (N.). ...in the order of precedence as provided for by parliamentary practice and past Rules.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I move for the previous question. This is of high privilege.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, this is the highest constitutional privilege.

REP. DILANGALEN. May I have the floor, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer....

REP. DILANGALEN. There is a pending issue here.

REP. GONZALES (N.). ...this Representation was.... May I proceed?

REP. DILANGALEN. There is a motion for a nominal voting.

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

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer....

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer,....

REP. GONZALES (N.). ...Section 16, paragraph 1, and Section....

REP. DILANGALEN. ...there is here a previous question and that

REP. GONZALES (N.).In relation to Section 15, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. ...is the motion for nominal voting. This has precedence over anything else.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer, a motion for a nominal voting is just like an ordinary motion....

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, there is a motion for the previous question.

REP. GONZALES (N.). ...and it does not even occupy a precedent.

REP. DILANGALEN. We have to decide on the motion for nominal voting and this is pending right now. I move for the previous question on the issue of nominal voting.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I rise on a matter of highest constitutional privilege.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer I move for the previous question. That is the issue right now.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer, can we have a ruling on who has the floor—the Gentleman from Mandaluyong who rose on a matter of personal privilege or the Gentleman from Maguindanao. Let me read the Rules as the Court....

REP. DILANGALEN. What is the high privilege that the Gentleman from Mandaluyong is talking about? He has

not spoken any motion which is of high privilege. The Gentleman from Mandaluyong is out of order.

REP. GONZALES (N.). May I move for a ruling, Mr. Presiding Officer?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Order, please, order in the House.

REP. DILANGALEN. The Gentleman from Mandaluyong is out of order. I move for the previous question....

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Order in the House.

REP. DILANGALEN. ...and that is the motion for nominal voting.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Order in the House.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question. The Gentleman from Mandaluyong is out of order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Order in the House.

The Chair has recognized the Gentleman from Mandaluyong. He will please proceed.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question, which is the motion for nominal voting.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer. That is of high privilege. What high privilege is he talking about?

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer, under the Rules of the Construction Principle, Section 5 and paragraph 1 of Section 16....

REP. DILANGALEN. He has not stated any motion at all. He has not stated anything which is of high privilege.

Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I move for the previous question.

REP. GONZALES (N.). ...should be given explained meaning, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question on nominal voting. This is of the highest privilege. The Gentleman from Mandaluyong has not stated anything which is of high privilege. He did not move for anything which is of high privilege.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I have already been recognized.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I have already been recognized.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Gentleman from Mandaluyong

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). ...has raised a constitutional privilege which is higher than any order.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Gentleman from Mandaluyong shall proceed.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question.

REP. GONZALES (N.). I move that the Sergeant-at-Arms be directed to carry out the order of the Presiding Officer and place the Gentleman in ~~order~~. *(deleted by order of the Chair)*

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 11:43 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 11:46 a.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. GONZALES (N.). May I continue, Mr. Presiding Officer?

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

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer, today is July 23. . .

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I move for the previous question.

REP. CASIÑO. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I move for the previous question. There was a motion for nominal voting, then all of a sudden the session was suspended. So, that is pending right now. So, I move for a previous motion; that is of high privilege.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I have been recognized on a matter of highest constitutional privilege.

REP. DILANGALEN. So, I move for the previous motion. We have to deal with the motion. Otherwise, what will happen to us if we do not follow the rule of parliamentary order? Why and what is this matter of high constitutional privilege? It has not been stated at all, and I will not allow that I will interfere because there is a pending motion for nominal voting. That is the previous question.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. And under the Rules, *Robert's Rules* and *Jefferson's Manual*, if there is a motion for previous question, that has to be given the priority because it is of high privilege.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, if the distinguished Gentleman from Maguindanao can just refrain from talking so that I can respond.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Please allow the Gentleman from Mandaluyong to respond.

REP. GONZALES. Mr. Presiding Officer, the parliamentary situation awhile ago was that there was a ruling of the Chair which the distinguished Gentleman from Maguindanao has appealed...

REP. DILANGALEN. I am from Shariff Kabunsuan with Contabato City.

REP. GONZALES (N.). ...and he lost the appeal. He is now moving for a nominal voting.

The misconception of the distinguished Gentleman from Maguindanao is, considering that he is the one talking, it is as if he could no longer be interrupted. That is a misconception. Following the order of motion and its precedence, anyone can be interrupted for so long as the person rising has a motion which carries a higher precedence than his question.

REP. CASIÑO. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DELANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, there is a motion for the previous question.

REP. CASIÑO. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

Is the Gentleman from Mandaluyong objecting to the motion of Congressman Dilangalen?

REP. GONZALES (N.). I am not objecting.

REP. CASIÑO. If so, then he should say so, so that we can put it into a vote.

REP. GONZALES (N.). If the Gentleman listened awhile ago, and I hope he did, I rose on a matter of highest constitutional privilege.

REP. CASIÑO. Because this is the first time that I hear of such a motion, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Order please.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, there is a pending subject that we have to resolve—the issue of nominal voting. There is a pending motion.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Order please.

REP. CASIÑO. I have also read the Rules on the motion on a matter of highest constitutional consideration, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer, that is not my fault, if he does not understand my motion.

REP. CASIÑO. It is not in the Rules.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

REP. GONZALES (N.). And he will understand it, Mr. Presiding Officer, if they allow me to speak. . .

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, there is a pending motion here. I move for the previous question.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). With due respect to the Gentlemen on the floor, the Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Mandaluyong to finish his statements.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I have the floor. I move for the previous motion.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer, the Chair has already made a ruling. May we request the Chair to implement its ruling?

REP. DILANGALEN. I have the floor, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

REP. GONZALES (N.). We cannot allow anybody to speak continuously, causing disrespect to the Chair and to this institution. (*Applause*)

REP. DILANGALEN. As a matter of respect, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I had the floor earlier.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Nazareno). Order please. Clapping is not allowed.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I am still here standing. I am never out of order. So I move for the previous question.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I move that the Chair direct the Sergeant-at-Arms to implement its order by placing the Gentleman from Maguindanao in ~~order~~, *(deleted by order of the Chair) (Applause)*

REP. ABANTE. I second the motion, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

REP. ABANTE. I second the motion.

REP. GONZALES (N.). I move for the previous question, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, just for the record, the Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City has never been declared out of order because he is invoking and complying with the rules of parliamentary order. That is the reason why I have always moved for the previous question on the issue of nominal voting because that will take precedence over any other matter. If the Gentleman from Mandaluyong wants to introduce a matter of higher constitutional privilege, that is all right.

REP. GONZALES (N.). There is already a ruling, Mr. Presiding Chair.

REP. DILANGALEN. But we have to dispose of the motion for nominal voting.

REP. GONZALES (N.). There is already a ruling. The Chair has already recognized this Representation, and this Representation is asking the Chair to implement its order.

REP. DILANGALEN. So, I move for the previous question on nominal voting.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Chair has ruled that the constitutional privilege raised by the Congressman from Mandaluyong is higher than a question of order.

REP. DILANGALEN. What is that motion?

REP. GONZALES (N.). The Gentleman has not allowed me to finish. Thus, how would he know?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Let the Gentleman finish first, please.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Let me finish first. I am just making a preliminary statement, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. So, how could it be declared a matter of higher constitutional privilege when it has not been stated?

REP. GONZALES (N.). The Gentleman will find out later on if he will allow me to finished.

REP. DILANGALEN. What is the basis of the Acting Presiding Officer in saying that the Gentleman from Mandaluyong has something of higher constitutional privilege?

REP. GONZALES (N.). In which case, I will move...

REP. DILANGALEN. What is the parliamentary status right now, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer? There is a pending motion for nominal voting and the Gentleman from Mandaluyong interrupted it and that is why ...

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I am exercising now my constitutional highest privilege—I move that we elect Jose De Venecia as Speaker of the House of the Fourteenth Congress. *(Applause)*

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Is there any objection?

REP. DILANGALEN. There is no pending motion. I had a pending motion. We have to resolve...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Deputy Secretary General is directed...

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). ... to call the roll for the election of the Speaker.

REP. DILANGALEN. Point of order. We have to resolve my pending motion.

REP. CASIÑO. Point of order.

Unang araw pa lang nire-railroad ninyo na ang proseso.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Mr. Adasa). Roll call of Members for the election of the Speaker for the Fourteenth Congress, honorable Congressmen and Congresswomen.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

What is the rule that will guide us in electing the Speaker? We have no rules yet. How can we elect the Speaker when we have no rules.

REP. CASIÑO. How can we elect the Speaker, Mr. Presiding Officer?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I move for the suspension of the session.

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

It was 11:53 a.m..

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 12:34 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Deputy Secretary General will suspend the calling of the roll.

The Chair will issue a ruling. Inasmuch as the Gentleman from Mandaluyong has raised a higher constitutional mandate of electing the Speaker, the motion of the Honorable Dilangalen for nominal voting must yield to this highest constitutional privilege, higher than any order.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I noticed that the Acting Presiding Officer is reading a ruling prepared by the office of one Congressman, identified with the Gentleman, who has moved for this high privilege. I think the Presiding Officer must never be dictated upon. This is an affront to the Members of the House of Representatives.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Chair has made a ruling.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair has ruled.

REP. DILANGALEN. Yes, but I move for...

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

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Considering that the Chair has already issued the ruling...

May I be recognized, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer. This is within parliamentary rules. We have not disposed of the motion for nominal voting.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I have the floor.

REP. GUINGONA. Point of order.

REP. CASIÑO. Parliamentary inquiry.

REP. GUINGONA. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

REP. DILANGALEN. That is the parliamentary status, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). May I request that the Chair enforce its order recognizing...

REP. GUINGONA. Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Sergeant at Arms is requested to bring the mace so the Members will stop speaking.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I move for the previous question.

REP. GUINGONA. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

REP. DILANGALEN. The previous question is on nominal voting which could not be interrupted, not even by a high constitutional privilege. What is that high constitutional privilege, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer?

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). The Chair has recognized this Representation, Mr. Presiding Officer. I move that the Gentleman be prevented from speaking.

REP. GUINGONA. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Chair requests the Sergeant at Arms to bring the mace to the Gentleman from Mindanao, to stop him from further speaking. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, if the distinguished Gentleman from Mandaluyong is acceptable to an amendment to the motion, I so move.

REP. GUINGONA. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order. There is a violation—the Presiding Officer is not legitimately authorized to preside. We have to decide.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I appeal. Under the Rules, you have to listen to my appeal. It is my constitutional right and of the highest constitutional privilege for the Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City to be heard. I was not declared out of order. Nobody declared this Gentleman out of order. There was no motion to declare this Gentleman out of order. Why is the mace brought before this Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City? To throw him out? This is my constitutional right. We should follow the rule of law. I object, I go back to the previous question. We go back to the nominal voting. Please do not distract, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I move that the Chair enforce his order.

REP. GUINGONA. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question on nominal voting.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Chair has ruled...

REP.. GUINGONA. Point of order.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question.

REP.. GUINGONA. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Chair has ruled that the motion of the Gentleman for nominal voting was shelved for the highest constitutional privilege.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question on nominal voting.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

REP. ABANTE. I second the motion.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Gentleman is ~~out of order~~. *(deleted by order of the Chair)*.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for the previous question. We have to follow the rules on parliamentary procedure.

REP. PADILLA. Point of order. Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, what happened to the appeal of the Gentleman from Shariff Kansuan?

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, parliamentary inquiry.

REP. CASIÑO. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. What happened to the appeal? The Chair wants this Gentleman thrown out. I think that we should throw out the presiding officer who is illegally presiding.

REP. PADILLA. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. CASIÑO. Parliamentary inquiry.

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

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, this is my parliamentary inquiry.

REP. CASIÑO. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Speaker, this is my parliamentary inquiry. While it is true that the Chair...

REP. GUINGONA. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, I have the floor.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I move for the previous question.

REP. PADILLA. While it is true that the Chair has ruled that the Gentleman from Mandaluyong has the floor ...

REP DILANGALEN. Why throw me out?

REP. GUINGONA. Mr. Presiding Officer, we should first address the question of legitimacy.

REP. PADILLA. I still have the floor.

REP. DILANGALEN. I have my constitutional right. I have not been declared out of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Chair has declared the Gentleman ~~out of order~~. *(deleted by order of the Chair)*

REP. DILANGALEN. I appealed. So we go again to nominal voting, the same question.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Congressman Padilla will please proceed.

REP. DILANGALEN. This is the rule. Then I appealed for a nominal voting.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, I am about to submit ...

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. So I move for nominal voting.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, I was recognized to rise on a parliamentary inquiry.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, the Sergeant-at-Arms should be directed to enforce the order of the Presiding Officer, and those in his way should give way to the Sergeant-at-Arms to enforce the order.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for a nominal voting. The parliamentary inquiry should be denied. If the appeal is denied, then I move for a nominal voting.

REP. GUINGONA. Mr. Presiding Officer, we do not want a delay. The Gentleman wants to railroad. That is what he is doing. He is railroading.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Congressman Padilla has been recognized and has the floor.

REP. GUINGONA. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, in view of the chaotic situation in the House, I move that we adjourn.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Objection.

REP. SOLIS. I second the motion.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Objection.

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Because the Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City has already been declared ~~out of order~~ (deleted by order of the Chair), I move that the Sergeant-at-Arms be directed to enforce the order in view of his refusal to yield to the Presiding Officer.

REP. ANTONINO-CUSTODIO. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DILANGALEN. We object.

REP. GUINGONA. Point of order.

REP. ANTONINO-CUSTODIO. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer. There is a motion for adjournment being objected to by the Acting Floor Leader.

We should vote on it.

REP. SOLIS. I second the motion. Let us divide the House.

REP. DILANGALEN. I move for a nominal voting.

REP. GUINGONA. Mr. Presiding Officer, we should vote on the Chair's legitimacy. He should not railroad the proceedings.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move for the suspension of session.

REP. GUINGONA. He has have no legitimacy.

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

It was 12:42 p.m..

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:15 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. ZAMORA (R.). Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno)). The Gentleman from Mandaluyong and San Juan is recognized.

REP. ZAMORA (R.). Thank you, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

Just to restate the parliamentary situation, my understanding is that we are now still in the process of disposing off the motion of our distinguished colleague, the Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City.

That being the case, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, is it possible that we will now vote by tellers to establish whether our distinguished colleague has in fact one-fifth of the required votes?

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno)). We shall vote by tellers to establish the one-fifth.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, parliamentary inquiry.

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

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, I submitted a motion earlier and I believe that that motion to adjourn has the highest priority. Therefore, whatever the parliamentary status we were in prior to my motion, should be set aside because of this pending motion.

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, may I know from the distinguished Gentleman if he is referring to his motion?

REP. PADILLA. Yes, a motion to adjourn.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). May I ask him to restate his motion?

REP. PADILLA. My motion is to adjourn and they objected to it.

DIVISION OF THE HOUSE

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). In that case, we have registered our objection to the motion to adjourn.

I move that we divide the House on the motion to adjourn.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). As many as are in favor of the motion to adjourn, say *aye*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). As many as are against, say *nay*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Nay*.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The *nays* have it; the motion is lost.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, may I call for a nominal voting. I believe we won the voting but it would seem that the ruling of the Chair

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader will please proceed.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). The motion to adjourn is not debatable, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. PADILLA. Yes, it is not debatable.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Therefore, a motion for nominal voting is out of order.

I move that the distinguished Gentleman be declared out of order.

REP. PADILLA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer. It is not the business of a fellow Congressman to make a ruling. Only the Chair can do that.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, there is a pending motion.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, even if the Gentleman has been designated as the Acting Floor Leader, a point of order is addressed to the Chair, never to the Gentleman on the floor.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). May I ask that the distinguished Gentleman be declared out of order?

I so move, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). There is a motion.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, a call for a nominal voting is not out of order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Without the motion of the Gentleman from Nueva Vizcaya calling for a nominal voting, considering that we are here on a constitutional duty to organize the House by the election of the Speaker, any motion, statement or manifestation which will tend to delay the consideration of this constitutional duty will not be entertained at this time.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, I appeal the decision of the Chair.

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

REP. PADILLA. If ever the proceedings are being delayed, it is not the fault of any Member of the House.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. PADILLA. It is because the Chair keeps on making faulty decisions and rulings. If only the Chair is not biased, it is very clear that it is the right of any member to call for a nominal voting.

REP. PADILLA. If there is a member who stands up here and whose position is not adversarial to the position of the Chair, the Chair recognizes him. We do not understand why the Chair appears so.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

REP. PADILLA. The Chair is supposed to be impartial. The motion that we have filed is in order.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader will please.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). There is a pending motion presented by the distinguished Gentleman from San Juan, I move that we consider the pending motion.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, I have an appeal. . .

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). And that should be given precedence.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, an appeal has precedence over that motion.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). The Chair has already ruled that the distinguished Gentleman is out of order.

REP. PADILLA. That is why I am appealing the decision of the Chair. I am following procedure.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I move that the Chair reiterate its order that the distinguished Gentleman is out of order.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, an appeal is not out of order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Nazareno). The Chair would like to restate its ruling that we are gathered here to perform a constitutional duty. Any manifestation or motion which will intend to delay the performance of our duty is out of order.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). It is out of order because it is a motion to adjourn.

REP. PADILLA. Precisely, Mr. Presiding Officer, that is why I am appealing the decision of the Chair.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). The motion to adjourn is not debatable, Mr. Presiding Officer. And it has been clearly established that there is a quorum. So what are we going to appeal? That there is no quorum when the Chair has already disposed of the issue whether there is quorum or not because it denied the motion to adjourn? Because there is already a denial of the motion to adjourn, then this Body must proceed to do its business as mandated by the Constitution.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, precisely I support the ruling.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Chair has made its ruling and therefore, let us proceed to the consideration of the motion filed by the honorable Gentleman from San Juan, that the appeal of the Congressman from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City be considered by the Chair and by the House by tellers.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, I abide by the ruling of the Chair. Precisely, that is the reason why I am raising an appeal.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). We can no longer interrupt the voting because the motion has already been favorably considered by the Chair.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, there is an appeal. The appeal was properly heard by the Speaker. It is only the Floor Leader who refuses to listen to my appeal.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, the Chair has already ruled, I reiterate that.

REP. PADILLA. Yes, the Chair made a ruling. Precisely, I am making an appeal. I think the Gentleman does not understand his parliamentary procedure.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). The appeal is also out of order, I move that the appeal be declared out of order.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, a motion to appeal is in order after a ruling has been made by the Chair.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Not on this particular situation because the motion to adjourn has already been ruled upon.

REP. PADILLA. No, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). The motion was denied by the plenary, denied by this Body. It has been established that we are going to discharge the highest constitutional mandate as provided in the Constitution that we have to elect a Speaker before the President delivers her State of the Nation Address at four o'clock this afternoon. So, I move, that we proceed to consider the motion of the distinguished Gentleman from San Juan before...

REP. PADILLA. Point of order. I move for a recess until 4:00 o'clock p.m..

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Order please.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I move that we...

REP. PADILLA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer. My motion has not been finally disposed of.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). We shall proceed.

REP. PADILLA. Yes, there was a voting, but I called for a nominal voting, and that is now in order.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, it has already been denied.

REP. PADILLA. And when it was ruled out, I am appealing from the ruling of the Chair. So, the appeal is in order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I ask that the Sergeant-at-Arms be directed to enforce the order...

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, it is the Acting Floor Leader who is out of order.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 1:23 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:28 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we be permitted to withdraw our objection to the appeal of the distinguished Gentleman from Nueva Vizcaya to enable the distinguished Gentleman to pursue his appeal.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Gentleman from Nueva Vizcaya is given five minutes.

REP. PADILLA. Mr. Presiding Officer, I agree that there are other considerations at stake, national or otherwise. But the problem, is, it seems that we are being ignored and thus we have to fight for our rights. While the intention of parliamentary procedure is to determine the will of the majority, the interest of the minority must also be properly protected. The problem, is, even if there were points of order or parliamentary inquiries raised, the Chair seems to ignore these. Even my appeal, which is in order, it would seem the Chair is ignoring this. Now, I agree, that there are interests that must be upheld in this Body, but neither the Gentleman nor I should determine that. It should be the Body. That is the reason I am appealing from the decision of the Chair. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I move that we vote on the appeal of the distinguished Gentleman from Nueva Vizcaya. A vote of *aye* sustains the appeal of the distinguished Gentleman. A vote of *nay* defeats the appeal.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Body shall vote. As many as are in favor of the appeal of the Gentleman from Nueva Vizcaya, say *aye*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). As many as are against, say *nay*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Nay*.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The *nays* have it; the motion is lost.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I move that we proceed to consider the motion of the distinguished Gentleman from San Juan, the Honorable Ronaldo Zamora, that we vote on the motion of the distinguished Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan, with Cotabato City. In the interest of clarity, may we be permitted to restate the motion that we are being asked to vote upon.

The distinguished Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City presented a motion that the Presiding Officer has no authority to preside over this session, the first day of session of the House of Representatives. The Body will be voting by tellers. We will ask those who are in favor of the motion that the Secretary General has no authority to preside over this session of the Fourteenth Congress of the House of Representatives temporarily, to stand up first and we will count them.

After that, we will ask those who are against the motion to stand up and we will also count them. Their vote will mean that the Secretary General has the authority to preside over this session.

REP. ESCUDERO. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of clarification which is relevant to the issue to be voted upon.

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

REP. ESCUDERO. May we be informed of the reason that the term of the Presiding Officer was not clearly extended during the last Congress. His term was extended for three years without a mandate from the Thirteenth Congress. Why? Were they still doubting his capability, his loyalty, et cetera?

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). That particular question is the subject of this particular question we are being asked to resolve.

REP. ESCUDERO. It is an issue related to the subject. The same person is involved. We just want to be clarified. If we were the leadership of the House, we would have extended his term immediately. Why was he was frozen for three years? It becomes our problem. We are asking for a simple explanation. Was it an oversight?

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). The Thirteenth Congress has authorized by him, the Presiding Officer, now, allowing the Secretary General to continue discharging his duties and responsibilities as Secretary General by not electing any other person to serve as Secretary General. Nobody objected, and all the Members of the House did not repudiate that authority impliedly granted by the Members of the House. So, after the fact that the Thirteenth Congress has ended, all the Members of the House are now already estopped from questioning the authority of the Presiding Officer in discharging his powers, duties and responsibilities as Secretary General of the Thirteenth Congress.

REP. ESCUDERO. Yes, but in making a very simple motion giving him a direct mandate from the floor, that would prevented this situation. We simply want an explanation why that was not done. It is a very simple motion.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). It has already been answered, and a parliamentary inquiry is not debatable, Mr. Presiding Officer.

May I now move that we proceed...

REP. ESCUDERO. This Representation is not satisfied with the answer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). We now proceed with the clarificatory...

REP. ESCUDERO. It is no wonder that we are in a chaotic situation because of answers like these.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). We shall now proceed...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Body shall now proceed.

REP. CASIÑO. Clarificatory question, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). ...with the pending question.

REP. CASIÑO. Just a clarificatory question.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Voting cannot be interrupted, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. CASIÑO. This is just a clarificatory question.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Can we now assign the tellers?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). As many as are in favor...

REP. CASIÑO. Mr. Presiding Officer, clarificatory question.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). ...of the appeal...

REP. CASIÑO. Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). ...filed...

REP. CASIÑO. Mr. Presiding Officer, I have a clarificatory question.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). ...by the Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City, they will please rise.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I move that the distinguished Gentleman from San Juan, the movant, be designated to appoint tellers.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). He will please proceed.

REP. ZAMORA (R.). Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, may I name three tellers for the side of the proponent—Congresswomen Binay, Cayetano and Hontiveros-Baraquel.

COUNT BY TELLERS

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). They are so designated as tellers.

Those against the motion, please stand. (*Applause*)

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, may I...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). As can be seen from those who stood up as being against...

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I move that the distinguished Gentleman from Mandaluyong be authorized to designate the tellers.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Representatives Ortega, Zamora (M.), Zialcita and Guingona.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). They are so designated as tellers.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Do you have the result of the voting?

Those in favor of the motion, please stand.

Do we have the results of the voting?
The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). May the distinguished Gentleman from San Juan be recognized to announce the results of the voting for those who stood up in favor of the motion.

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

REP. ZAMORA. Thank you, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

The results of the voting show that, of the 206 Members of the House of Representatives who voted on this issue, 46 voted to sustain the position of our distinguished colleague, the Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City. Technically, we have the 20 percent.

May I ask that our distinguished colleague be recognized at this time to make a manifestation?

REP. DILANGALEN. Thank you very much.
Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City is now recognized.

REP. DILANGALEN. For almost three hours, we have been debating on this very simple issue and I have been insisting that we move for the previous question on nominal voting. I was declared out of order several times and then, there were even three attempts to force me out of this hall, thereby preventing me from performing my constitutional duty to appear here and represent my constituency in Shariff Kabunsuan Province with Cotabato City. And now, we have this spectacle and this proceeding of voting on my motion for nominal voting, and we succeeded. We garnered 20 percent. In other words, despite all attempts, the Representation from the Province of Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City was right after all from the very start, but I am not saying this with a heavy heart. I am just too happy. I am very happy. Had they listened to me, maybe we could have already elected the Speaker.

Who caused the delay? (*Applause*) I was invoking my constitutional right; I was invoking proper rules on parliamentary laws, but because of my name, Congressman Dilangalen, maybe there is that stigma that Digs Dilangalen will again derail everything? They must always remember I am for the rule of law. So under the circumstances, I hope it will be placed on record that Congressman Dilangalen from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City, was right, after all. And I move that all those rulings wherein Congressman Dilangalen or the Representation from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City was declared out of order be expunged from the records. By the way, is this recorded or not? (*Laughter*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Yes, it is recorded.

REP. DILANGALEN. Thank you very much.
If it is recorded, then I move that we expunge from the

Record the ruling that Congressman Dilangalen is out of order. After all, he has been proven to be right since he stood up this morning. (*Applause*)

Thank you very much.

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

As requested by the Congressman, this ruling is expunged from the record.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Mr. Acting Secretary General as Presiding Officer, I just would like to make a manifestation for the record.

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

REP. VILLAFUERTE. There is a case, SPA No. 07-247, that was decided by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) on a matter to disqualify Jocelyn Sy-Limkaichong from her candidacy as First District Representative of Negros Oriental. And the dispositive portion of the Commission on Elections on this case is as follows:

Wherefore, the petition is granted and Jocelyn Sy-Limkaichong is declared as disqualified from her candidacy for Representative of the First District of Negros Oriental,

This decision has been affirmed by the Comelec *en banc*.

I rise to make this manifestation for the record simply because of the pendency of this case and that this matter may have to be litigated even in the Supreme Court. So let it be noted that this has been manifested on the record.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Gentleman's remark is noted.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the distinguished Gentleman from Mandaluyong to announce the results of those who voted in the negative.

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

REP. GONZALES (N.). Per reports of the tellers appointed, Mr. Speaker, 160 Members voted against the appeal of the distinguished Gentleman from Maguindanao.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). With...

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I move that we now proceed to the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the table is now open for nomination.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Wait a minute.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Wait a minute. (*Applause*)

With 46 voting in favor of the appeal...

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I move, that the distinguished...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). ...and 160 against, the appeal of the Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City is lost.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I now move that we proceed to the nomination and that the distinguished Gentleman...

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City is recognized.

REP. DILANGALEN. There was more than 20 percent for the nominal voting.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). It is noted and it is recorded, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DILANGALEN. May I move for a 10-minute suspension?

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Mr. Speaker.

REP. DILANGALEN. Because under the Rules...

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 2:02 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 2:08 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I move that the distinguished Gentleman from Cagayan de Oro be recognized.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Gentleman from Cagayan de Oro is recognized.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Thank you.

Mr. Presiding Officer, before the election for Speaker, the minority, the genuine opposition in the House, is concerned with one very fundamental issue and that is on whether in the election of the Speaker, the person who gets the second highest number of votes will automatically become the Minority Floor Leader.

Although we do not have any rules at this point, Mr. Presiding Officer, under general parliamentary law, the Rules of the Thirteenth Congress applies and so do the other laws from the Eighth Congress and prior Congresses, and even the *Jefferson's Manual*.

So, we in the opposition believe that it will be an anomalous situation if person who gets the second number of votes for Speaker will automatically become the Minority Floor Leader as, in fact, what will probably transpire this morning is that two candidates may come from the majority.

REP. TUPAS. Point of order.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. And so, Mr. Presiding Officer,...

REP. TUPAS. Point of order, please.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). What is the point of order of the Gentleman from Iloilo?

REP. TUPAS. Mr. Presiding Officer, what happened to the pending motion for nominal voting? Before we proceed to the election of the Speaker, we should proceed to the nominal voting, because it was already announced that the appeal for nominal voting was sustained. So, what has happened to the motion for nominal voting? May we proceed with the nominal voting before we go to the election of the Speaker?

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, that particular motion has not been abandoned as per manifestation by the distinguished Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City.

REP. TUPAS. Mr. Presiding Officer, may we ask the Gentleman if the statement of the Acting Floor Leader is correct.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). He has already taken his seat.

REP. DILANGALEN. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Gentleman from Shariff Kabunsuan with Cotabato City will please proceed.

REP. DILANGALEN. Yes, I think my manifestation was very clear.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). The point raised...

REP. DILANGALEN. Am I recognized?

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Just a moment, Mr. Presiding Officer. May I just be...

REP. DILANGALEN. All right.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). The point raised by the

distinguished Gentleman is not a proper matter to be covered by a point of order. We all know what is covered by a point of order. A point of order means there is a violation of the Rules. But there is no violation of the Rules now.

REP. TUPAS. Mr. Presiding Officer, please.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). It is in the nature of a point of inquiry. So, I move, that the distinguished Gentleman from Cagayan de Oro, be recognized to pursue his motion.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. TUPAS. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer, please. I still have the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Congressman from Cagayan de Oro is recognized. He will please proceed.

REP. TUPAS. Mr. Presiding Officer, I still have the floor.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Presiding Officer, I therefore move that. . .

REP. TUPAS. The point of order is in order, Mr. Presiding Officer, and I still have the floor.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. The election for the Speaker. . .

REP. TUPAS. Will Mr. Presiding Officer please recognize this Representation?

REP. RODRIGUEZ. May I proceed, Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

REP. RODRIGUEZ. I move that in the election for Speaker, the person who gets the second highest number of votes will not automatically become the Minority Floor Leader.

REP. TUPAS. Point of order.

REP. RODRIGUEZ. And that the Minority Floor Leader will be elected by the minority.

REP. TAÑADA. Point of order, Mr. Presiding Officer.

VOICE. The motion is accepted, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). There is a motion by the Gentleman from Cagayan de Oro.

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

REP. GOLEZ. Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

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

In connection with that amendment coming from the Gentleman from Cagayan de Oro, this Representation would like to manifest for the cognizance of the House and for the record, that the Minority has already decided in caucus, that our Minority Leader is the Gentleman from San Juan, the Honorable Ronaldo Zamora. *(Applause)*

Thank you very much, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Gentleman's remark is noted.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.) Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

REP. TAÑADA. Mr. Presiding Officer, parliamentary inquiry.

REP. DEFENSOR. I move that the Gentleman from the Second District of Cebu City, the Honorable Antonio V. Cuenco, be recognized to nominate his candidate for Speaker.

REP. TAÑADA. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Honorable Antonio V. Cuenco is recognized to make his nomination.

REP. CUENCO. Mr. Presiding Officer, may I please be allowed to proceed without any interruption. The circus has ended.

REP. TAÑADA. Mr. Presiding Officer, parliamentary inquiry.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

REP. TAÑADA. Parliamentary inquiry.

NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. CUENCO

REP. CUENCO. Mr. Presiding Officer, in our time, interdependence among nations has so progressed that no national parliament can work in isolation from its fellow legislatures.

Individual states must align their policies with those of neighboring states if they are to deal effectively with problems that transcend national boundaries.

For this reason, we need a Speaker able to deal with foreign parliaments just as skillfully as he leads his own House of Representatives.

My nominee, is respected and admired by parliamentarians not only in Asia not only in Asia but also in Europe and in the Americas—to a degree no one among us could approximate.

My work in the Committee on Foreign Affairs has shown me how adept he is at parliamentary diplomacy. I should know.

I have watched him for several years—30 years in action—and he is our best diplomat, the best diplomat that the Philippines has ever produced.

His foreign accomplishments have brought this House honor and prestige. Even now, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) or the AIPO and the All-Asia assembly are intent on implementing two of my nominee's suggestions: One, an Asian monetary fund to complement the regional work of the International Monetary Fund (IMF); and two, an Asian anti-poverty fund that will provide seed capital for microlending banks—on the model of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Grameen Bank of Bangladesh.

Nor do my nominee's activities stop at the regional level.

He has invigorated Philippine diplomacy with two brilliant proposals—one, to help the global anti-terrorism campaign, and the other, the global war on poverty.

The first is for an inter-faith Dialogue, to isolate extremists who commit terrorism in the name of religion; and the other is a debt-for-equity program that would enable the hundred poorest countries—with the consent of their creditors—to divert a portion of their debt-service payments into anti-poverty and development programs under the United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals.

Last December, the General Assembly unanimously endorsed the Philippine debt-for-equity program to the G-8 and the Paris Club countries.

The UN already holds inter-faith dialogues in key regions all over the world. *(Applause)*

We must, enable our colleague to carry on his good work during his last term.

And this is why I am pleased and deeply honored to nominate for Speaker of this House an outstanding diplomat and parliamentarian par excellence, a rare combination of velvet and steel, the Gentleman from Pangasinan, Jose De Venecia. *(Applause)*

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I ask that the Lady from the Second District of Western Samar, the Honorable Sharee Ann Tan, be recognized to second the nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Lady is recognized.

REP. TAN. Mr. Presiding Officer, I second the nomination for the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Jose C. De Venecia. *(Applause)*

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I move that we close the nomination of Congressman Jose De Venecia as Speaker. I move that we close the nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The nomination of the Honorable Jose De Venecia as Speaker is closed.

REP. SOLIS. I object because I have a nominee.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I move that we close the nomination.

REP. SOLIS. I object.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Point of order.

REP. SOLIS. Mr. Presiding Officer, there are other nominees. Give a chance to other Members to nominate and be heard.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). What we only closed was the nomination for Speaker Jose De Venecia, not for any other nomination. *(Applause)*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). Not for all. For Speaker De Venecia only.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I move that the Gentleman from Camarines Norte be recognized.

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

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Can the Secretariat please turn on my microphone.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). It is working, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. It is working only now. Before we enter into any sham election, I would like to raise a point of order. What rules will govern the election of the Speaker this afternoon? I think that is very important. We cannot proceed with nominations without being subjected to specific rules that will govern us. It is admitted that the Rules of the Thirteenth Congress have lapsed. They are no longer effective. And unless we consider the rules under which this election will be governed, we will be producing a Speaker under a sham election. I think that even the attempt to close the nomination was also irregular, although it was clarified that it was to close the nomination of one person. That is not in accord with parliamentary practice. When there is a nomination, we do not close it. So, can the Acting Presiding Officer please clarify under what rules will this nomination, election, canvassing and proclamation will be governed?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Acting Floor Leader will reply.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, this House has consistently adopted a parliamentary practice that has been honored time and again and has become a tradition and an established precedent. Since the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Congress of the House of Representatives, this House has consistently elected a Speaker before adoption of any rules for that matter, because the election of the Speaker is of the highest constitutional priority.

It is a constitutional mandate that must be discharged and accomplished by the House of Representatives on the opening day of the session to enable the House of Representatives to be considered as organized and that only if organized, it would be able already to receive the President of the Philippines for her to deliver her State of the Nation address.

And so, the practice and tradition is that we elect the Speaker first and then we adopt a set of rules for further proceedings after we have elected the Speaker and after he has been sworn in. That has been the rule since the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Congress, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, it has already been admitted that the Rules of the Thirteenth Congress will not be applicable here. In fact, in the Order of Business that was prepared, it says thereat that there shall first be a provisional adoption of the Rules of the House of Representatives, which can be subject to amendment.

The proceeding here has become very irregular because, in fact, the Acting Floor Leader, with the concurrence of the Acting Presiding Officer, even admitted a proposed amendment to the provisional rules that has not even been presented here for consideration.

We cannot keep invoking tradition. That is why this House is called “trapo” because we invoke tradition all the time. Let us be fair.

REP. GONZALES (N.). I have a point of order.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Let us have an orderly procedure here.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Point of order.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. I think the other aspirant will be willing...

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I have a point of order.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. ...will be willing to abide by the rules...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). What is the point of order of the Gentleman from Mandaluyong?

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Presiding Officer, the distinguished Gentleman from Camarines Sur has risen on a point of inquiry.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. No, it is a point of order.

REP. GONZALES (N.). And the distinguished Acting Floor Leader has already sufficiently answered him. And a parliamentary inquiry is not debatable.

Mr. Presiding Officer, we have already...

REP. VILLAFUERTE. No, I did not raise a parliamentary inquiry...

REP. GONZALES (N.). ...opened the period for the nomination for the Speaker...

REP. VILLAFUERTE. ...Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, I raised a point of order,

REP. GONZALES (N.). ...which under our Rules,...

REP. VILLAFUERTE. ...which is, under what rule are we going to be governed?

REP. GONZALES (N.). ... occupies the highest precedent, Mr. Presiding Officer. Unless there is anybody else who will be nominated for the position of the Speaker, I move that the Secretary General direct the Secretariat to call the roll for nominal voting.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer...

REP. GONZALES (N.). Roll call vote, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, here you are, indirectly again closing the nomination. I did not raise a point of inquiry. I did not raise a parliamentary inquiry. I raised a point of order. Under what rules of procedure this nomination, election...

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, point of order.

We have sufficiently replied to the question raised by the distinguished Gentleman from Camarines Sur that the rules that we are governed by include precedents, time-honored traditions and parliamentary practices, precedents starting from the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Congress and that the Rules of the House...

REP. VILLAFUERTE. Those are not applicable, those are all irrelevant. In fact...

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, may I therefore request that we proceed. If there are any other nomination...

REP. VILLAFUERTE. ...Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, the pending motion here—as was articulated by the Representative from Mandaluyong—was to the following effect: that in the exercise of the highest constitutional privilege, he earlier said, “I move that Jose De Venecia be elected as Speaker.” There has never been an election by motion.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Chair thinks that the matter has been sufficiently discussed, and if there are no other nominees for the position of Speaker, the Secretary General now...

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). No. That particular motion has been deemed abandoned.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Chair now directs the Deputy Secretary General for Operations to call the roll and record the vote of the Members which shall be cast without explanation.

REP. VILLAFUERTE. You know, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer, under the circumstances which I consider a sham election, we are not going to nominate and let the cloud of doubt hang over whoever will be elected here.

REP. LOCSIN. Mr. Presiding Officer.

ROLL CALL

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Adaza), *reading*:

Abante	<i>De Venecia</i>
Abaya	
Ablan	<i>De Venecia</i>
Agbayani	<i>De Venecia</i>
Aggabao	<i>De Venecia</i>
Agyao	<i>De Venecia</i>
Akbar	
Albano	<i>De Venecia</i>
Alcala	
Alfelor	<i>De Venecia</i>
Almario	<i>De Venecia</i>
Alvarez, Antonio C.	<i>De Venecia</i>
Alvarez, Genaro Jr. M.	<i>De Venecia</i>
Amante	<i>De Venecia</i>
Amatong	<i>De Venecia</i>
Angara	
Angping	<i>De Venecia</i>
Antonino	<i>De Venecia</i>
Antonino-Custodio	<i>Abstain</i>
Apostol	<i>De Venecia</i>
Aquino	<i>De Venecia</i>
Arago	
Arbison	<i>De Venecia</i>
Arenas	<i>De Venecia</i>
Arnaiz	<i>De Venecia</i>
Arroyo, Diosdado	
“Dato” Macapagal	<i>De Venecia</i>
Arroyo, Ignacio “Iggy” T. ..	<i>De Venecia</i>
Asilo	
Bagatsing	<i>Abstain</i>
Balindong	<i>De Venecia</i>
Barzaga	<i>De Venecia</i>
Bautista	<i>De Venecia</i>
Beltran	<i>Abstain</i>
Biazon	<i>De Venecia</i>
Bichara	
Binay	<i>Abstain</i>
Biron	<i>De Venecia</i>
Bondoc	<i>De Venecia</i>
Bonoan-David	
Bravo	<i>De Venecia</i>
Briones	<i>De Venecia</i>
Bulut	<i>De Venecia</i>
Cabilao	<i>De Venecia</i>
Cagas	<i>De Venecia</i>
Cajayon	<i>De Venecia</i>
Cajes	<i>De Venecia</i>
Cari	<i>De Venecia</i>
Casiño	<i>Abstain</i>
Castelo-Daza	<i>De Venecia</i>

Castro	<i>De Venecia</i>	Gatlabayan	<i>De Venecia</i>
Cayetano	<i>Abstain</i>	Go	<i>De Venecia</i>
Celeste	<i>De Venecia</i>	Golez	<i>Abstain</i>
Cerilles	<i>De Venecia</i>	Gonzales, Aurelio	
Chatto	<i>De Venecia</i>	"Dong" Jr. D.	
Chavez	<i>De Venecia</i>	Gonzales, Neptali II M.	<i>De Venecia</i>
Chiongbian	<i>De Venecia</i>	Gonzalez	<i>De Venecia</i>
Chipeco	<i>Abstain</i>	Guingona	<i>Abstain</i>
Chong	<i>De Venecia</i>	Gullas	<i>De Venecia</i>
Chungalao	<i>De Venecia</i>	Gunigundo	<i>De Venecia</i>
Clarete	<i>De Venecia</i>	Hofer	
Climaco	<i>De Venecia</i>	Hontiveros-Baraquel	<i>Abstain</i>
Codilla	<i>De Venecia</i>	Ilagan	<i>Abstain</i>
Cojuangco	<i>De Venecia</i>	Jaafar	<i>De Venecia</i>
Coquilla	<i>Abstain</i>	Jala	<i>De Venecia</i>
Coscolluela	<i>De Venecia</i>	Jalosjos.	<i>De Venecia</i>
Crisologo	<i>De Venecia</i>	Jalosjos-Carreon	<i>De Venecia</i>
Cua, Guillermo P.	<i>De Venecia</i>	Javier	<i>De Venecia</i>
Cua, Junie E.	<i>De Venecia</i>	Jikiri	<i>De Venecia</i>
Cuenco	<i>De Venecia</i>	Joson	<i>Agaisnt</i>
Dangwa	<i>De Venecia</i>	Kho	<i>De Venecia</i>
Datumanong	<i>De Venecia</i>	Labadlabad	<i>De Venecia</i>
Dayanghirang	<i>De Venecia</i>	Lacson	<i>De Venecia</i>
Daza	<i>De Venecia</i>	Lagbas	<i>De Venecia</i>
De Guzman	<i>De Venecia</i>	Lagdameo	<i>De Venecia</i>
De Venecia	<i>De Venecia</i>	Lagman	<i>De Venecia</i>
Defensor, Arthur Sr. D.	<i>De Venecia</i>	Lapus	<i>De Venecia</i>
Defensor, Matias Jr. V.	<i>De Venecia</i>	Lazatin	<i>De Venecia</i>
Del Mar	<i>De Venecia</i>	Ledesma	<i>De Venecia</i>
Del Rosario	<i>De Venecia</i>	Lim	<i>De Venecia</i>
Diasnes		Limkaichong	<i>De Venecia</i>
Diaz		Locsin	<i>De Venecia</i>
Dilangalen	<i>Abstain</i>	Lopez	<i>De Venecia</i>
Dimaporo		Macapagal Arroyo	<i>De Venecia</i>
Dominguez	<i>De Venecia</i>	Madrona	<i>De Venecia</i>
Domogan	<i>De Venecia</i>	Magsaysay	<i>De Venecia</i>
Duavit	<i>De Venecia</i>	Malapitan	<i>De Venecia</i>
Dueñas	<i>De Venecia</i>	Mamba	<i>De Venecia</i>
Dumarpa	<i>De Venecia</i>	Mandanas	<i>De Venecia</i>
Dumpit		Mangudadatu	<i>De Venecia</i>
Durano	<i>De Venecia</i>	Marañon	<i>De Venecia</i>
Dy	<i>De Venecia</i>	Marcos	<i>Abstain</i>
Ecleo	<i>De Venecia</i>	Matugas	<i>Abstain</i>
Emano	<i>De Venecia</i>	Maza	<i>Abstain</i>
Enverga	<i>De Venecia</i>	Mendoza	<i>De Venecia</i>
Ermite-Buhain	<i>De Venecia</i>	Mercado	<i>De Venecia</i>
Escudero	<i>Abstain</i>	Miraflores	<i>De Venecia</i>
Estrella, Conrado III M.	<i>De Venecia</i>	Mitra	<i>De Venecia</i>
Estrella, Robert		Nava	<i>De Venecia</i>
Raymund M.	<i>De Venecia</i>	Nicolas	<i>De Venecia</i>
Fabian	<i>De Venecia</i>	Nogralas	<i>De Venecia</i>
Fernandez	<i>De Venecia</i>	Ocampo	<i>Abstain</i>
Ferrer	<i>De Venecia</i>	Olaño	<i>De Venecia</i>
Fua	<i>De Venecia</i>	Ong	<i>De Venecia</i>
Fuentebella	<i>De Venecia</i>	Ortega	<i>De Venecia</i>
Garay	<i>De Venecia</i>	Pablo	<i>De Venecia</i>
Garcia, Albert S.	<i>De Venecia</i>	Padilla	<i>Abstain</i>
Garcia, Pablo John F.	<i>Abstain</i>	Pancho	<i>De Venecia</i>
Garcia, Pablo P.	<i>De Venecia</i>	Pancrudo	<i>De Venecia</i>
Garcia, Vincent J.		Piamonte	<i>De Venecia</i>
Garin	<i>De Venecia</i>	Pichay	<i>De Venecia</i>
Gatchalian	<i>De Venecia</i>	Pingoy	<i>De Venecia</i>

Piñol *De Venecia*
 Plaza *De Venecia*
 Ponce-Enrile
 Prieto-Teodoro *De Venecia*
 Puentevella *De Venecia*
 Puno *De Venecia*
 Ramiro *De Venecia*
 Remulla *De Venecia*
 Reyes, Carmencita O. *De Venecia*
 Reyes, Victoria
 Hernandez. *De Venecia*
 Robes *De Venecia*
 Rodriguez *Abstain*
 Rodriguez-Zaldarriaga *De Venecia*
 Roman *De Venecia*
 Romarate *De Venecia*
 Romualdez *De Venecia*
 Romualdo *De Venecia*
 Romulo *De Venecia*
 Roxas *De Venecia*
 Salimbangan
 Salvacion *De Venecia*
 San Luis *De Venecia*
 Sandoval *De Venecia*
 Santiago, Joseph A. *De Venecia*
 Santiago, Narciso III D. *De Venecia*
 Seachon-Lanete *De Venecia*
 Seares-Luna *De Venecia*
 Silverio *De Venecia*
 Singson, Eric D. *De Venecia*
 Singson, Ronald V. *De Venecia*
 Solis
 Soon-Ruiz *De Venecia*
 Suarez *De Venecia*
 Susano *De Venecia*
 Sy-Alvarado *De Venecia*
 Syjuco *De Venecia*
 Taliño-Mendoza *De Venecia*
 Tan *De Venecia*
 Tañada
 Teodoro *De Venecia*
 Teves *De Venecia*
 Tieng *De Venecia*
 Tupas
 Umali, Alfonso Jr. V. *De Venecia*
 Umali, Czarina D. *De Venecia*
 Ungab *De Venecia*
 Uy, Edwin C. *De Venecia*
 Uy, Reynaldo S. *De Venecia*
 Uy, Rolando "Klarex" A. ...
 Valdez *De Venecia*
 Valencia *De Venecia*
 Vargas *De Venecia*
 Velarde *De Venecia*
 Villafuerte
 Villanueva *Abstain*
 Villar
 Villarosa *De Venecia*
 Vinzons-Chato *Abstain*
 Violago *De Venecia*
 Yap *De Venecia*
 Yu

Zamora, Manuel
 "Way Kurat" E. *De Venecia*
 Zamora, Ronaldo B. *Abstain*
 Zialcita *De Venecia*
 Zubiri *De Venecia*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The results of the voting show 186 votes for De Venecia, one vote against and 24 abstentions.

On the basis of the result of the voting, the Chair declares the honorable Gentleman from Pangasinan the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. SOLIS. Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

The Gentleman from Sorsogon is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I move that...

REP. SOLIS. Mr. Presiding Officer, I would like to know how my vote was...

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I move that a committee of five Members composed...

REP. SOLIS. I was recognized, Mr. Presiding Officer.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer, I move that a committee of five Members composed of Representatives Villarosa, Ramiro, Garin, Arenas and Dumarpa be constituted to notify the Honorable Jose De Venecia of his election as Speaker of the House of Representatives and thereafter, to escort the Speaker-elect to the rostrum for his oath-taking.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). The Ladies named are so designated.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Nazareno). In the meantime, the session is suspended.

It was 2:46 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 2:49 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

Upon the express wish of the Speaker-elect, the Lady from the Second District of Samar, the Honorable Sharee Tan, will administer the oath of office to the Speaker-elect.

The Honorable Tan will please do so.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Presiding Officer.

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I ask that we now proceed with the oath-taking of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

REP. TAN. The family, will please ascend the rostrum.

At this juncture, the family of Speaker-elect Jose De Venecia Jr. ascended the rostrum.

OATH-TAKING

At this juncture, the Hon. Jose De Venecia Jr. took his oath of office as Speaker of the House of Representatives before the Hon. Sharee Ann T. Tan, to wit:

I, Jose De Venecia Jr., 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.

Congratulations! (*Applause*)

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). May we request the distinguished Members of the House of Representatives to go back to their respective places because we will hear the inaugural statement of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and thereafter, there will be an oath-taking of all the Members of the House of Representatives to be administered by the Speaker. (*Applause*)

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF SPEAKER DE VENECIA

THE SPEAKER. My dear friends and colleagues:

You have bestowed upon me a great honor today. You have asked me to lead this great Chamber of our democracy for an unprecedented fifth term.

I accept the immense challenge of leading this Chamber to be a chamber of statesmen during this tough and demanding time. I can only repay the confidence you have invested in my leadership by continuing to do my utmost so that together, you and I, can transform this House into the epicenter of our robust Philippine democracy.

In these 100 years, in this centennial of our legislature, this Congress must be nothing less than the repository of our people's best leaders, the seat of our highest idealism and the vanguard of our audacious vision.

This is a crucial time—a point of no return, and we stand at the cusp of a national renaissance. But before I go further, let me extend a hand of reconciliation and friendship to those who were voluntarily our rivals. (*Applause*) Let me congratulate Manong Pabling Garcia, a worthy rival. (*Applause*) One of the most brilliant Members of this House,

including his distinguished campaign manager, my other equally outstanding friend, Congressman Luis Villafuerte. (*Applause*)

We saw things differently. Now our views must begin to converge as we buckle down to our legislative work. We have former resolutions to approve, and the President of the Philippines is coming pursuant to the mandate of the Constitution to address the Joint Session of the House of Representatives and of the Senate. I just saw at the corridor the newly-elected President of the Senate, Senator Manuel Villar. Congratulations to Manny Villar! (*Applause*)

I have a very long speech and therefore, I will submit it to the Secretary General so that each and every Member of the House, those who are desirous, would have a copy of this statement.

Let me just say that the challenge of the 21st century to you and I will be how to defeat poverty—how you and I will win the battle against poverty in our country. The challenge that faces us now is how to complete the peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Mindanao. The challenge that faces us now is how to complete the peace agreement with the New People's Army (NPA). The challenge that faces us now is how to modernize our infrastructure, health care system, our public school system and private school system. The challenge before us now is how to maintain rates of growth at seven percent gross domestic product (GDP), maybe climbing to eight or nine percent in order that we can lift our people from poverty to join the ranks of the middle class. If we are able to achieve this in the next three years, then this will be the greatest House of Representatives in the history of the Filipino people.

I therefore call upon each and everyone from the LAKAS-CMD, KAMPI, Nationalist People's Coalition, PDP-LABAN, Nacionalista Party, Liberal Party, Social Democrats, and LDP, and all the party-list organizations represented in this House, that they and us—we—together combined, must join forces in order that we can achieve and conquer the challenges that we now face in the first years of the 21st century.

My friends, ladies and gentlemen, united we stand, divided we fall. I call on each and everyone that we must now stand together, shoulder to shoulder, arm in arm, to help our beloved Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and to move in tandem with the other leaders in Asia—Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia—to create the East Asian community, the East Asian common market and the united Southeast Asia of our dreams.

Thank you and good afternoon. (*Applause*)

The distinguished Majority Leader.

A HOUSE OF STATESMEN

Opening Statement by Speaker Jose de Venecia

Dear friends and colleagues:

You have bestowed upon me a great honor today. You have asked me to lead this great Chamber of our democracy for an unprecedented fifth term.

I accept the immense challenge of leading this chamber of statesmen during this tough and demanding time.

I can only repay the confidence you have invested in my leadership by committing to do my utmost, so that together,

you and I can transform this chamber into the epicenter of our robust democracy.

In this centennial of our legislature, this Congress must be nothing less than the repository of our people's best leaders, the seat of our highest idealism, and the vanguard of our audacious vision.

At the cusp of our national renaissance

This is a crucial time—a point of no return. We stand at the cusp of a national renaissance.

Our economy is poised to expand at an unprecedented rate, meet the expectations for progress we have held for generations, and create the quantity of wealth that will begin to erase decades of grinding poverty from our midst.

This is a vital time. When markets are strong, the government needs to be stronger. The institutions of national leadership ought to ensure that these opportunities are seized, not lost.

We must ensure that investments are made, not squandered. Our resources must be nourished, not depleted.

In the era of heady growth that we anticipate, public institutions need to be transformed into more effective and reliable instruments of progress.

The public welfare must be guaranteed, not ignored. Most important of all, the consensus that underpins our national achievement at this time must be further consolidated.

This is a task entrusted to us; it is the task of politicians at their best and politics at its finest.

Despite the whirlwind, a House united

There were whirlwind challenges and debate during the past few weeks as we contemplated the leadership that our House needs at this time.

That process was unprecedented in its ferocity. It was unmatched in its lack of consensus that politics—which is the art of the possible—traditionally guarantees.

Now I extend my hand of reconciliation and friendship to those who were, only momentarily, my rivals. We saw things differently—now our views must begin converge as we buckle down to our legislative work.

For we have urgent tasks that are larger than personal motives—and patriotic goals that overshadow ambition.

These tasks now compel us to work even harder together, so that this Centennial Congress—the embodiment of representative democracy—will be the greatest one this nation has ever seen.

A strong coalition and partnership

In the multiparty system we work in, we have a strong multiparty expanded Rainbow Coalition in place that counts in its fold the eight major political parties and as many party-list organizations which are the moderates.

This is more than a coalition of convenience. This is a partnership of good faith, a principled alliance premised on the politics of the middle—the politics and values of the center that are the great stabilizing forces of our democracy.

The politics of the center has embraced the principles of freedom, free markets, free elections, a free press and a sustainable environment.

This is politics that speak from the core of our convictions—not from special interests. And this is politics that expresses and reflects the best in the Filipino nation.

Our Urgent Tasks in this Centennial Congress

Our is *exceptionally* high: well over a third of this Centennial House.

Over these last three, we were able to do quite a bit.

The reforms we initiated—in spite of caustic opposition from the Left and the Right—achieved their intended objectives.

With the passage of the controversial expanded value added tax (EVAT) and a package of other financial reform measures, we stabilized the State's finances and regained a measure of investor confidence in the quality of our economic management.

The EVAT was politically unpopular, but our legislature caused its enactment—because it was necessary and it was the correct thing to do.

The benefits derived from it enabled us to control our chronic deficits, improve revenue performance and reduce borrowing to finance government operations. In turn, our ability to control public sector deficits has helped the peso recover, brought down inflation and brought about the a low-interest rate regime. All these have made life better for all our people.

Our greatest challenge is to *sustain* the economic and political gains the Arroyo administration has achieved—*against all odds*—in 2004-2007.

We must generate a *new wave* of reform that will open up the economy, restructure our politics, and *raise* our country's *competitiveness* in global markets.

Our economy we *must focus* on its *core strengths*.

We should strive to become a hub of global business-process outsourcing, logistics and information technology.

Our young people must equip for life in the "Knowledge Society" by modernizing both basic and tertiary education, and emphasizing mathematics and the sciences.

And if we are to *root out* poverty from among our people once and for all, we must make the modernization of agriculture and of the rural sector—which still accounts for over two-thirds of all our poor—the focus of our efforts to develop.

We Must Make the State Stronger, More Effective

Because the quality of government is crucial to modernization, we must take the Philippine State more efficient and more effective.

We must restore political stability—because its lack inflicts heavy *collateral damage* on the economy.

Toward this goal, we should conclude our protracted talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and seek a resumption of negotiations with the insurgent communist party.

Of course, an honorable resolution of the insurgency must include the phasing out of the New People's Army (NPA) and the integration of the communist parties into the democratic mainstream as were done successfully by the communist parties in Europe, some of which are now in power.

The resumption of talks of the National Democratic Front (NDF)-Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)-New People's Army (NPA) should include a nationwide ceasefire so that violence can come to an end as we negotiate the peace.

I *challenge* our leftwing party-list Representatives to *help* the government get these negotiations restarted, so that we

can secure this stability our economy—and national society—*need* so urgently.

Creating a Strong Republic

Among the key political reforms that will create a “Strong Republic,” we must count the vital process of *creating a professional bureaucracy*.

Our civil service we must insulate from political influences that subvert its purposes and divert it from its civic goals. Let the bureaucracy lead rather than impede development:

The *tax effort* we need to raise—not by imposing yet more taxes—but by *extracting greater zeal and efficiency* from our revenue agencies, and by tightening up on *stand-alone* incentives to business.

The *electoral process* we must raise beyond the reach of partisan politics.

Our political parties we must strengthen—to make them *efficient channels* of popular *expression*, and *effective* agencies of *responsive* government.

For mainstream political parties, we have proposed a measure of public financing—in the context of their thoroughgoing reform, among other things, to end promiscuous *party-switching*.

The strategic choice is ours to make.

Together—above the din of personal ambition—our Centennial Congress can prove once and for all that politicians are assets to democratic progress rather than bickering impediments to the sustainability of a national consensus.

Personal Commitment

In this Fourteenth Congress, I am unencumbered by personal ambition of any sort. This will be the hardest working House of all time. I commit to exercise fair and decisive leadership over the next three years.

Many years from today, I wish my grandchildren to stand proud and remember me as a statesman who wished only the best for his country. This is my personal guiding light as I assume the daunting responsibilities you have entrusted to me.

I will lead. And I will lead well. That is the only promise I make.

I *declare* this Centennial Session of the Fourteenth House of Representatives *open*.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I ask that we now proceed with the oath-taking of all Members of the House and they are kindly requested to return to their respective places.

OATH-TAKING OF MEMBERS

At this juncture, all Members of the House of Representatives took their oath of office before the Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. I call on the Members of the House to rise so that together we can administer the oath. Therefore I ask that you please raise your right hand 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! (*Applause*)

The distinguished Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move for the consideration of House Resolution No. 45, and I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read the same.

THE SPEAKER. Is it not the adoption of the Rules?

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker. I am sorry.

I move that we adopt the Rules of the House of Representatives, as amended, of the Thirteenth Congress, as the provisional Rules of the House of Representatives of the Fourteenth Congress.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 45

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 45.

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, since copies of the resolution have been previously distributed, I move that we dispense 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. 45 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. 45, entitled: RESOLUTION INFORMING THE SENATE THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS BEEN ORGANIZED AND HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS.

The following is the text of the resolution

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 45

“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.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 45

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 45.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.
House Resolution No. 45 is adopted.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 46

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I move for the consideration of House Resolution No. 46.

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, since copies of the resolution have been previously distributed, I move that we dispense 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. 45 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 text thereof.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 46, entitled: RESOLUTION INFORMING HER EXCELLENCY, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS BEEN ORGANIZED AND HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 46

RESOLUTION INFORMING HER EXCELLENCY, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, 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 Her Excellency, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines be informed that the House of Representatives has been organized and has entered upon the exercise of its functions.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 46

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 46.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.
House Resolution No. 46 is adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. CT. RES. NO. 4

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Concurrent Resolution No. 4.

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, since copies of the concurrent resolution have been previously distributed, I move that we dispense 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. 4 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 text thereof.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Concurrent Resolution No. 4, 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

The following is the text of the concurrent resolution:

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

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

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 Monday, July Twenty-three, Year Two Thousand and Seven, 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.

ADOPTION OF H. CT. RES. NO. 4

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution No. 4.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 4 is adopted.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following Message from the Senate, and the Speaker made the corresponding reference:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CREATING A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT THE CONGRESS IS NOW CONVENED FOR ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE 14TH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND IS READY TO HEAR HER STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS IN A JOINT SESSION OF BOTH HOUSES

To the Business for the Day.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF S. CT. RES. NO. 1

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1.

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). 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 Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1 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 text thereof.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4, entitled: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CREATING A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT THE CONGRESS IS NOW CONVENED FOR ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND IS READY TO HEAR HER

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS IN A JOINT SESSION OF BOTH HOUSES

The following is the text of the concurrent resolution

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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 THE CONGRESS IS NOW CONVENED FOR ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND 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 (5) to be appointed by the President of the Senate and five (5) 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 Fourteenth Congress of the Philippines is ready to hear her State of the Nation Address in a Joint Session of both Houses.

ADOPTION OF S. CT. RES. NO. 1

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I move that we adopt the Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1.

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

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1 is adopted.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, in view of the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1 authorizing the creation 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 the House, I move that the following be appointed to the joint committee: the Representatives Trinidad Apostol, Rizalina Seachon-Lanete, Nanette Castelo-Daza, Monica Louise Prieto-Teodoro, Sharee Ann Tan, Czarina Umali, Maria Ritzi Cajayon and Janette Garin.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). In order to give the members of the joint committee time to perform their assigned task, and until the House counterparts are ready to report back their accomplishment to the House, I move for the suspension of the session.

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

It was 3:08 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:09 p.m., the session was resumed

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, we have just received a report from the joint committee that the President has been informed and that the Congress will convene in joint session at four o'clock this afternoon to hear her State of the Nation Address. For the occasion, we wish to remind the Members of this Chamber that all of us must be here an hour before the start of the joint session at 4:00 p.m. today.

THE SPEAKER. The remarks of the Acting Floor Leader are duly noted.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, to give way to the joint session at four o'clock this afternoon, I move that we adjourn the regular session until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the regular session is adjourned until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon, to give way for the joint session at four o'clock this afternoon.

Congratulations! (*Applause*)

It was 3:10 p.m.

