



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 14th CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Vol. 1

Monday, August 13, 2007

No. 10

## CALL TO ORDER

*At 4:00 p.m., the Deputy Speaker, Rep. Eric D. Singson, called the session to order.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The session is called to order.

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Everybody will please rise to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Everybody will please remain standing for the Invocation to be rendered by the Honorable Thomas L. Dumpit Jr. of La Union.

*Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.*

## INVOCATION

REP. DUMPIT. Heavenly Father, You say that when two or more people pray together, You will be in their midst. Today, we claim Your presence in this hall, for we believe You are a listening and loving God who never ceases to guide us in all our endeavors.

Father, above everything else, we thank You for the rain for the past few days. Truly, You are a God of wonder—the One who provides us with all our needs, even before we ask. I humbly pray, Father, that You allow the rain to continue pouring so we may have fertile lands and that we may have food on our table. I know You will grant us this petition, for You promised that all we need to do is ask and we shall receive.

Father, give all the people in this hall a listening and loving heart such as Yours, so we may never lose sight of Your purpose in putting us in this very place where we are now. We beseech You to remind us to do Your will at all times, for it is You who gives us this immense power, a power that could change the lives of so many people. Guide us, Father, that we may utilize this power for the good of those whose lives we touch.

All these we ask in Your name. Amen.

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The session is suspended for a few minutes.

*It was 4:03 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:07 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

## ROLL CALL

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Secretary General will call the roll.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, *reading:*

Abante .....	Present
Abaya .....	Present
Ablan .....	Present
Agbayani .....	Present
Aggabao .....	Present
Agyao .....	Present
Akbar .....	Present
Albano .....	Present
Alcala .....	Present*
Alfelor .....	Present
Almario .....	Present
Alvarez, Antonio C. ....	Present
Alvarez, Genaro Jr. M. ....	
Amante .....	Present
Amatong .....	Present
Angara .....	
Angping .....	Present
Antonino .....	Present*
Antonino-Custodio .....	Present
Apostol .....	Present
Aquino .....	Present
Arago .....	

\* Appeared before/after the roll call

Arbison .....	Present	Dilangalen .....	Present
Arenas .....	Present	Dimaporo .....	Present*
Arnaiz .....	Present	Dominguez .....	
Arroyo, Diosdado		Domogan .....	Present
Macapagal .....	Present	Duavit .....	
Arroyo, Ignacio "Iggy" T. ....	Present	Dueñas .....	Present
Asilo .....	Present	Dumarpa .....	Present
Bagatsing .....	Present	Dumpit .....	Present
Balindong .....	Present	Durano .....	
Barzaga .....	Present	Dy .....	Present
Bautista .....	Present	Ecleo .....	Present
Beltran .....	Present	Emano .....	Present
Biazon .....	Present*	Enverga .....	Present
Bichara .....	Present	Ermita-Buhain .....	Present
Binay .....	Present	Escudero .....	Present
Biron .....	Present*	Estrella, Conrado III M. ....	Present
Bondoc .....		Estrella, Robert	
Bonoan-David .....	Present	Raymund M. ....	Present
Bravo .....	Present	Fabian .....	Present
Briones .....	Present	Fernandez .....	Present
Bulut .....	Present*	Ferrer .....	
Cabilao .....	Present	Fua .....	Present
Cagas .....	Present	Fuentebella .....	Present
Cajayon .....	Present*	Garay .....	Present
Cajes .....	Present	Garcia, Albert S. ....	Present
Cari .....	Present	Garcia, Pablo John F. ....	Present
Casiño .....	Present	Garcia, Pablo P. ....	Present
Castelo-Daza .....		Garcia, Vincent J. ....	Present
Castro .....	Present	Garin .....	Present
Cayetano .....	Present	Gatchalian .....	Present
Celeste .....	Present	Gatlabayan .....	Present
Cerilles .....	Present	Go .....	Present
Chatto .....	Present	Golez .....	Present
Chavez .....	Present	Gonzales, Aurelio	
Chiongbian .....	Present	"Dong" Jr. D. ....	Present
Chipeco .....	Present	Gonzales, Neptali II M. ....	Present
Chong .....	Present	Gonzalez .....	
Chungalao .....	Present	Guingona .....	Present
Clarete .....	Present	Gullas .....	Present
Climaco .....		Gunigundo .....	Present
Codilla .....	Present	Hataman .....	Present
Cojuangco .....	Present	Hofer .....	Present
Coquilla .....	Present	Hontiveros-Baraquel .....	
Coscolluela .....		Ilagan .....	Present
Crisologo .....	Present	Jaafar .....	Present
Cua, Guillermo P. ....	Present	Jala .....	Present
Cua, Junie E. ....	Present	Jalosjos. ....	Present
Cuenco .....	Present	Jalosjos-Carreon .....	Present
Dangwa .....	Present	Javier .....	Present
Datumanong .....	Present	Jikiri .....	
Dayanghirang .....	Present*	Joson .....	Present
Daza .....	Present	Kho .....	Present
De Guzman .....	Present	Labadlabad .....	Present
De Venecia .....	Present*	Lacson .....	Present
Defensor, Arthur Sr. D. ....	Present	Lagbas .....	Present
Defensor, Matias Jr. V. ....	Present	Lagdameo .....	Present
Del Mar .....	Present	Lagman .....	Present
Del Rosario .....	Present	Lapus .....	Present
Diasnes .....	Present*	Lazatin .....	Present
Diaz .....	Present	Ledesma .....	Present

\* Appeared before/after the roll call

Lim .....	Present	Seares-Luna .....	Present*
Limkaichong .....	Present	Silverio .....	Present
Locsin .....	Present	Singson, Eric D. ....	Present
Lopez .....	Present*	Singson, Ronald V. ....	Present
Macapagal Arroyo .....	Present	Solis .....	Present*
Madrona .....	Present	Soon-Ruiz .....	
Magsaysay .....	Present	Suarez .....	Present
Malapitan .....	Present	Susano .....	Present
Mamba .....	Present	Sy-Alvarado .....	Present
Mandanas .....	Present	Syjuco .....	
Mangudadatu .....	Present	Taliño-Mendoza .....	Present
Marañon .....	Present	Tan .....	Present*
Marcos .....	Present	Tañada .....	Present
Matugas .....	Present	Teodoro .....	Present
Maza .....	Present	Teves .....	Present
Mendoza .....	Present	Tieng .....	Present
Mercado .....	Present	Tupas .....	Present
Miraflores .....	Present	Umali, Alfonso Jr. V. ....	Present
Mitra .....	Present	Umali, Czarina D. ....	Present
Nava .....	Present	Ungab .....	Present
Nicolas .....	Present	Uy, Edwin C. ....	Present
Nogralas .....	Present	Uy, Reynaldo S. ....	Present
Ocampo .....	Present	Uy, Rolando "Klarex" A. ....	Present
Olaño .....	Present	Valdez .....	Present
Ong .....	Present	Valencia .....	Present
Ortega .....	Present	Vargas .....	Present
Pablo .....	Present	Velarde .....	Present
Padilla .....	Present	Villafuerte .....	Present
Pancho .....	Present	Villanueva .....	Present
Pancrudo .....	Present	Villar .....	Present
Piamonte .....	Present	Villarosa .....	Present
Pichay .....	Present	Vinzons-Chato .....	Present
Pingoy .....	Present	Violago .....	Present
Piñol .....	Present	Yap .....	Present
Plaza .....	Present*	Yu .....	Present
Ponce-Enrile .....	Present	Zamora, Manuel	
Prieto-Teodoro .....	Present	"Way Kurat" E. ....	Present*
Puentevella .....	Present	Zamora, Ronaldo B. ....	Present
Puno .....	Present	Zialcita .....	Present
Ramiro .....	Present*	Zubiri .....	Present
Remulla .....	Present		
Reyes, Carmencita O. ....			
Reyes, Victoria			
Hernandez .....	Present		
Robes .....			
Rodriguez .....	Present		
Rodriguez-Zaldarriaga .....	Present		
Roman .....	Present		
Romarate .....	Present		
Romualdez .....	Present		
Romualdo .....	Present		
Romulo .....	Present		
Roxas .....	Present		
Salimbangon .....			
Salvacion .....	Present		
San Luis .....	Present		
Sandoval .....	Present		
Santiago, Joseph A. ....	Present		
Santiago, Narciso III D. ....	Present		
Seachon-Lanete .....	Present		

The House is in receipt of the official advice of absence of the following Members: Representatives Alvarez (G.), Angara, Bondoc, Castelo-Daza, Coscolluela, Dominguez, Duavit, Durano, Ferrer, Reyes (C.), Salimbangon, Soon-Ruiz and Syjuco.

Representative Jikiri is on official mission within the country.

Representatives Arago, Climaco, Gonzalez, Hontiveros-Baraquel and Robes are on official mission abroad.

The Speaker is present.

The roll call shows that 201 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). With 200 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 8 dated August 7, 2007 and Journal No. 9 dated August 8, 2007.

\* Appeared before/after the roll call

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Is there any objection?

REP. JOSON. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Honorable Joson of Nueva Ecija is recognized.

REP. JOSON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to move to correct Journal No. 8. On page 26, the name of "Rep. Rodriguez" was placed instead of my name, so I move to correct the same. I think three paragraphs are involved.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General will please make the corrections.

REP. JOSON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNALS

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I reiterate my previous motion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, before we proceed to the Reference of Business, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests in the gallery: delegates from the Bible Believers League for Morality and Democracy (BIBLEMODE); Alliance of Baptist Councils (ABC); Baptist Bible Fellowship of the Philippines (BBFPI); Association of Baptist Churches of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao (ABCLVM); National Outreach Worldwide (NOW); Independent Fundamental Baptist Association of the Philippines (IFBAP); Maranatha International Baptist Churches and Missions; Higher Ground Baptist Mission; members of the Presidential Council for Values Formation; and officers of the Philippine Bible Society, namely: Bishop Cesar Punzalan, Mrs. Flor Tarriela, Mr. Rene Cristobal, Mr. James Tioco, Mrs. Nora Lucero, Dr. Annie Del Corro, Dr. Medarlo Rivera, Mrs. Vilma Salvio, Rev. Edgar Elejo, Mr. Juliet Jimeno, Ms. France Torreja, Pastor Manny Cabardo, Ms. Elda Jabonero and last but not the least, Pastor Jun Ballesteros. They are the guests of the Honorable Bienvenido Abante Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E. ). May we ask our guests to stand up to be recognized. (*Applause*)

We welcome the guests of Congressman Abante to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). May we also acknowledge the presence of board member, Atty. Inocencio Pagalavan, guest of Congresswoman Marina Clarete from the First District of Misamis Occidental.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Likewise, may we request our guest to stand up to be recognized. (*Applause*)

We welcome him to the House of Representatives.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). May we also acknowledge the presence of the guests led by the honorable Mayor Balindong and members of the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Malabang, Lanao del Sur. They are the guests of the Honorable Balindong, Congressman representing the Second District of Lanao del Sur.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). May we request our guests to stand up to be recognized. (*Applause*)

We welcome the guests of Congressman Balindong to the House.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). 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 House Bills and Resolutions on First Reading, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:*

#### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 1540, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING A NATIONAL LAND USE CODE, PROVIDING IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Valencia

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 1541, entitled:

"AN ACT TO ENSURE SAFE AND ADEQUATE NUTRITION FOR INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN BY PROMOTING AND PROTECTING BREASTFEEDING AND BY REGULATING THE MARKETING OF CERTAIN FOODS FOR INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN AND OF FEEDING BOTTLES, TEATS AND PACIFIERS"

By Representative Hontiveros-Baraquel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 1542, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FIFTY-BED DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN BARANGAY LUMBIA IN THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, TO BE KNOWN AS LUMBIA DISTRICT HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Uy (R.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1543, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION BENEFITS FOR THE UNIFORMED PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8551, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Gonzalez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1544, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE ACADEMY (PAFA) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gonzalez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1545, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE COFFEE AND TROPICAL FRUITS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gonzalez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1546, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 286 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FOR THE AUTOMATIC APPROPRIATION AND RELEASE OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS”

By Representative Binay  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1547, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE EDUCATION AND LICENSURE OF PHYSICIANS AND THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2382, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 1548, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING INSURANCE BENEFITS TO BARANGAY TANODS AND INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF THE COVERAGE OF INSURANCE BENEFITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC

ACT NO. 6942 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Apostol  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1549, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARIGARA, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, TO BE KNOWN AS MUNICIPAL FOUNDATION DAY”

By Representative Apostol  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 1550, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING FREE BASIC MEDICINES PROGRAM IN ALL BARANGAY HEALTH CENTERS NATIONWIDE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Apostol  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1551, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE THE REVIVAL OF ARBOR DAY BY VESTING IN PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS WITH THEIR COMPONENT BARANGAYS THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CELEBRATING THE DAY FOR TREE PLANTING AS AN ANNUAL EVENT”

By Representative Apostol  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1552, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE MAGNA CARTA FOR DAY CARE WORKERS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Apostol  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1553, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING REGION XIV TO BE KNOWN AS THE MIMAROPA REGION”

By Representative Umali (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1554, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A YOUTH CENTER IN CALAPAN CITY AND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GLORIA, BOTH IN THE PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE ORIENTAL MINDORO CENTER FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Umali (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 1555, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE BUREAU OF

CUSTOMS TO EXCLUSIVELY INVESTIGATE, PROSECUTE AND HANDLE CUSTOMS CASES AMENDING SECTION 2401 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1464, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AS AMENDED BY SECTION 6 OF R.A. 9135, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Umali (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 1556, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL MASS MEDIA FACILITIES TO ALLOCATE A CERTAIN PORTION OF THEIR AIRTIME OR SPACE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Umali (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 1557, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING THAT ELECTIVE OFFICIALS RUNNING FOR ANY OFFICE OTHER THAN THE ONE WHICH THEY ARE HOLDING SHALL BE CONSIDERED *IPSO FACTO* RESIGNED UPON THE FILING OF THEIR CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE”

By Representative Umali (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 1558, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A STAGGERED WORKING HOUR SCHEME IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Umali (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 1559, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE MAUJAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL EXTENSION IN BARANGAY MAUJAO, MUNICIPALITY OF BULALACAO, PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO, FROM THE BULALACAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (BNHS) IN BARANGAY POBLACION, CONVERTING THE SAME INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MAUJAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Umali (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1560, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY DANGAY, MUNICIPALITY OF ROXAS, PROVINCE OF

ORIENTAL MINDORO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE DANGAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Umali (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1561, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BONGABONG-SAGANA-ROXAS- SAN AQUILINO PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Umali (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1562, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE MALAMIG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL-MALUBAY EXTENSION IN BARANGAY MALUBAY, MUNICIPALITY OF GLORIA, PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO, FROM THE MALAMIG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MALAMIG, CONVERTING THE SAME INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MANUEL ADRIANO MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (MAMNHS) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Umali (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1563, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE DULY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN CONCERNED, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE ‘LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991’ AS AMENDED”

By Representative Umali (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1564, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING BARANGAY YUNOT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BULALACAO, PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO”

By Representative Umali (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1565, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGISTER OF DEEDS DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BONGABONG, PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Umali (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND THE  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1566, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LAND TRANSPORTATION  
OFFICE (LTO) DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF BONGABONG, PROVINCE OF  
ORIENTAL MINDORO, AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Umali (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1567, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING BARANGAY SIANGE IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF BONGABONG, PROVINCE  
OF ORIENTAL MINDORO”

By Representative Umali (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1568, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH  
SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SALCEDO,  
MUNICIPALITY OF BANSUD, PROVINCE OF  
ORIENTAL MINDORO, TO BE KNOWN AS  
FELIMON M. SALCEDO SR. MEMORIAL  
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (FMSSMNHS) AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Umali (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1569, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MALAMIG NATIONAL  
HIGH SCHOOL EXTENSION CLASSES IN BRGY.  
MALIGAYA, MUNICIPALITY OF GLORIA,  
PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO INTO AN  
INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO  
BE KNOWN AS PRESIDENT DIOSDADO  
MACAPAGAL MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH  
SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”

By Representative Umali (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1570, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH  
SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SAN ROQUE,  
MUNICIPALITY OF BULALACAO, PROVINCE  
OF ORIENTAL MINDORO TO BE KNOWN AS  
SAN ROQUE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Umali (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1571, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE DAYHAGAN NATIONAL

HIGH SCHOOL-CARMUNDO EXTENSION IN  
BARANGAY CARMUNDO, MUNICIPALITY OF  
BONGABONG, PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL  
MINDORO, FROM THE DAYHAGAN NATIONAL  
HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY DAYHAGAN,  
CONVERTING THE SAME INTO AN  
INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO  
BE KNOWN AS CARMUNDO NATIONAL HIGH  
SCHOOL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Umali (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1572, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE ORIENTAL MINDORO  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM (OMSUC)  
THROUGH THE INTEGRATION OF THE  
POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE OF CALAPAN (PCC)  
IN CALAPAN CITY, THE MINDORO STATE  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND  
TECHNOLOGY (MINS CAT) IN VICTORIA,  
AND THE BONGABONG COLLEGE OF  
FISHERIES (BCF) IN BONGABONG AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Umali (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 1573, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF  
COSMETOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cari

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND  
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 1574, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION  
OF BARANGAY HALL IN BARANGAY  
MASULOG, MUNICIPALITY OF LA  
CASTELLANA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS  
OCCIDENTAL, PROVIDING FUNDS  
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1575, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NONFORMAL  
EDUCATION LEARNING CENTER FOR THE  
ADULTS AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH IN  
ALL TOWNS COMPRISING THE FIFTH  
DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS  
OCCIDENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1576, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CENTER FOR THE

TEACHER'S EXCELLENCE IN ALL THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1577, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN BARANGAY MAKILIGNIT, MUNICIPALITY OF ISABELA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1578, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN BARANGAY MASULOG, MUNICIPALITY OF LA CASTELLANA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1579, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN BARANGAY PAGLAUM, MUNICIPALITY OF BINALBAGAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1580, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN BARANGAY MONTILLA, MUNICIPALITY OF MOISES PADILLA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1581, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF BARANGAY HALL IN BARANGAY PROGRESO, MUNICIPALITY OF BINALBAGAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1582, entitled:

"AN ACT GRANTING CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY TO CONTRACTUAL AND COTERMINOUS GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE RENDERED A TOTAL OF FIVE YEARS OF EFFICIENT SERVICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 1583, entitled:

"AN ACT CREATING A SECONDARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY ENCLARO, BINALBAGAN, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AS AN EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING PAGLAUM NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, PAGLAUM, BINALBAGAN, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1584, entitled:

"AN ACT INCREASING THE SALARY GRADE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM SALARY GRADE 10 TO 20 AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1585, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SCHOOL SITES AND THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, REHABILITATION, AND REPAIR OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN THE PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 1586, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF BARANGAY HALL IN BARANGAY MASULOG, MUNICIPALITY OF LA CASTELLANA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1587, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN BARANGAY MAYTUBIG, MUNICIPALITY OF ISABELA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1588, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN BARANGAY MANSABLAY, MUNICIPALITY OF ISABELA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1589, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF BARANGAY HALL IN BARANGAY SIKATUNA, MUNICIPALITY OF ISABELA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1590, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE ACADEMY (PAFA) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1591, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO ARE ASSIGNED OUTSIDE OF THEIR TOWNS AND PROVINCES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 1592, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF PAGLAUM NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PAGLAUM, MUNICIPALITY OF BINALBAGAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, TO THE BINALBAGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 1593, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE LEGITIMATION OF CHILDREN BORN TO PARENTS BELOW MARRYING AGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 1594, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF BAGROY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BAGROY, MUNICIPALITY OF BINALBAGAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL TO DON PEDRO Y. DITCHING SR. MEMORIAL SCHOOL”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 1595, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE MAGNA CARTA FOR DAY CARE WORKERS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1596, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LA CASTELLANA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LA CASTELLANA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL INTO A COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS LA CASTELLANA AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1597, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BENEFITS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 39 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, CREATING A NATIONAL AUGMENTATION FUND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1598, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER IN EVERY REGION OF THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 1599, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVINCIAL, CITY, MUNICIPAL AND BARANGAY LIBRARIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1600, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING INCENTIVES AND

BENEFITS TO RURAL HEALTH UNIT DOCTORS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1601, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SOUTHERN LEYTE SPORTS ACADEMY IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF MAASIN IN SOUTHERN LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Mercado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1602, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF ‘SOUTHERN LEYTE’ PROVINCE INTO ‘LEYTE DEL SUR’”

By Representative Mercado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1603, entitled:

“AN ACT LIFTING THE RESTRICTIONS ON ELECTRICITY GENERATING COMPANIES TO BUILD ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001”

By Representative Mercado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 1604, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE SOUTHERN LEYTE *BAMBUSETUM* THAT SHALL CONTRIBUTE TO THE *EX SITU* CONSERVATION OF PHILIPPINE BAMBOO SPECIES AND TO ASSEMBLE IN A SELECTED SITE OR SITES IN THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE A COLLECTION OF TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL BAMBOO TAXONS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD AND, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, TO ADAPT TO THE PHILIPPINE CLIMATE SOME TEMPERATE BAMBOO TAXONS THAT CAN SURVIVE AND BE PROPAGATED IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Mercado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 1605, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CAPITAL TOWN OF MAASIN CITY, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE ICT HIGH SCHOOL OF SOUTHERN LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Mercado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1606, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PRAWN, CRAB AND INLAND FISHING NURSERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALAMANSIG, SULTAN KUDARAT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Go  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1607, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING PROVINCES A SHARE IN THE PROCEEDS OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES IMPOSED BY COMPONENT CITIES, AMENDING SECTION 271 OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Garcia (P.J.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1608, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE MATERNITY BENEFITS OF WOMEN WORKERS IN GOVERNMENT AND IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo-Daza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 1609, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE PENSION OF TEACHERS RETIRED UNDER ACT NO. 3050 AS AMENDED BY P.D. NO. 1148, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo-Daza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1610, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING OLD-AGE PENSION BENEFIT TO RETIREES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1616, AS AMENDED, AGED 70 YEARS OR OVER, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Castelo-Daza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1611, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL TOURISM FACILITY INSIDE THE CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Lazatin  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 1612, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR BARANGAY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING BARANGAY TANODS AND MEMBERS OF THE LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA AND OTHER

BARANGAY EMPLOYEES, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lazatin  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1613, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MOUNT PINATUBO AS AN  
OFFICIAL TOURIST DESTINATION”

By Representative Lazatin  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 1614, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE  
KNOWN AS BARANGAY BUTAC IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF SUYO, PROVINCE OF  
ILOCOS SUR”

By Representative Singson (E.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1615, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE  
KNOWN AS BARANGAY PALASIPAS IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF ALILEM, PROVINCE OF  
ILOCOS SUR”

By Representative Singson (E.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1616, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LIDLIDDA-BURGOS  
ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR  
INTO A NATIONAL ROAD, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Singson (E.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND  
HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1617, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE  
KNOWN AS BARANGAY MASIOSIOAY IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF SAN EMILIO, PROVINCE  
OF ILOCOS SUR”

By Representative Singson (E.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1618, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE  
KNOWN AS BARANGAY KEMPATUBBOG IN  
THE MUNICIPALITY OF SUYO, PROVINCE OF  
ILOCOS SUR”

By Representative Singson (E.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1619, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE BESSANG PASS  
NATURAL MONUMENT/LANDMARK AS A  
PROTECTED AREA AND ITS PERIPHERAL  
AREAS AS BUFFER ZONE PROVIDING FOR ITS  
MANAGEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES  
PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT 7586”

By Representative Singson (E.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 1620, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING FROM INCOME TAX THE  
OVERTIME PAY OF EMPLOYEES EARNING  
NOT MORE THAN TWENTY THOUSAND  
PESOS (P20,000) IN MONTHLY WAGE OR  
COMPENSATION”

By Representative Romulo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 1621, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JULY 27 AS A NATIONAL  
HOLIDAY FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF THE  
IGLESIA NI CRISTO’S PHILIPPINE FOUNDING  
ANNIVERSARY, AMENDING FOR THE  
PURPOSE SECTION 26, CHAPTER 7 OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF  
1987, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Singson (R.) and Romulo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 1622, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SECONDARY SCHOOL  
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PADADA,  
PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN  
AS PADADA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cagas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1623, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION  
OF THE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Gonzales (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1624, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL FUND FOR  
THE REHABILITATION OF BACOLOR,  
PAMPANGA AND MANDATING THE  
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND SELECTED  
GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS TO  
ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR SUCH PURPOSE”

By Representative Gonzales (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1625, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE USE OF HAND-HELD  
CELL PHONES BY MOTORISTS”

By Representative Gonzales (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 1626, entitled:

“THE NATIONAL LAND TRANSPORTATION  
AUTHORITY ACT OF 2007”

By Representative Gonzales (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 1627, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING TO RESIDENTS OF THE REGION WHERE A GEOTHERMAL ENERGY PLANT IS LOCATED A THIRTY PERCENT (30%) DISCOUNT ON THEIR POWER RATE CONSUMPTION”

By Representative Gonzales (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAY, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Chipeco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1628, entitled:

“AN ACT ORDAINING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DOWNSTREAM NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY AND CONSOLIDATING FOR THAT PURPOSE ALL LAWS RELATING TO THE TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION AND SUPPLY OF NATURAL GAS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Gonzales (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 1634, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PULO-DIEZMO ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CABUYAO, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Chipeco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1629, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE PROVINCE OF ROMBLON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Madrona  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1635, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BARANGAY BAMBANG-BAYOG ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LOS BAÑOS, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Chipeco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1630, entitled:

“AN ACT POSTPONING THE BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS AND SYNCHRONIZING IT WITH THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON THE SECOND MONDAY OF MAY 2010 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Madrona  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 1636, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BUCAL BYPASS ROAD IN THE CITY OF CALAMBA, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Chipeco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1631, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER AS MAJAYJAY DAY AND DESIGNATING IT AS AN OFFICIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN ALL THE BARANGAYS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MAJAYJAY, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA”

By Representative San Luis  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 1637, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE KABARITAN STO. DOMINGO ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAY, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Chipeco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1632, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BARANGAY HALANG-REAL ROAD IN THE CITY OF CALAMBA, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Chipeco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1638, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ORIENTAL MINDORO SCIENCE AND SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Umali (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1633, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PUYPUY-BITIN

House Bill No. 1639, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FLORICULTURE GARDEN IN EVERY MUNICIPALITY OF THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR,

ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Villafuerte and Arroyo (D.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1640, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY ORCHARD IN EVERY CITY OR MUNICIPALITY OF EVERY PROVINCE OF THE PHILIPPINES, ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Villafuerte, Arroyo (D.) and Romualdez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1641, entitled:

“AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR THEFT OR ROBBERY COMMITTED WITHIN THE PREMISES OF CHURCHES, TEMPLES AND MUSEUMS”

By Representatives Villafuerte, Arroyo (D.) and Romualdez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 1642, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PRESCRIBE, AS A PRIORITY PROGRAM, THE SCIENTIFIC PROPAGATION, CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS RAW MATERIALS FOR HOMECRAFTS AND OTHER INDUSTRIES AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES”

By Representatives Villafuerte, Arroyo (D.) and Romualdez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 1643, entitled:

“AN ACT MAKING DONATIONS OR CONTRIBUTIONS IN CASH OR IN KIND FOR VICTIMS OF TYPHOONS, FLOODS, LANDSLIDES, EARTHQUAKES, STORM SURGES, TIDAL WAVES OR OTHER NATURAL CALAMITIES, DEDUCTIBLE FROM TAXABLE INCOME WITHIN PRESCRIBED LIMITS”

By Representatives Villafuerte, Arroyo (D.) and Romualdez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 1644, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FLORICULTURE GARDEN IN EVERY MUNICIPALITY OF THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE, ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romualdez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1645, entitled:

“AN ACT NAMING THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BUILDING IN THE CITY OF KABANKALAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AS

JUSTICE JESUS Y. PEREZ MEMORIAL HALL OF JUSTICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alvarez (G.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 1646, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SEPARATION OF THE CANDONI (POBLACION) EXTENSION CLASS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CANDONI, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, FROM THE CANIGAY BARANGAY HIGH SCHOOL, AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE QUERICO G. MANZANO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Alvarez (G.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1647, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN ILOG PROPER, MUNICIPALITY OF ILOG, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE ILOG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Alvarez (G.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1648, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING NOISE AND ITS SOURCES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR ITS VIOLATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Syjuco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 1649, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 27 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992’ ”

By Representative Bagatsing  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 1650, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN LAND ADMINISTRATION”

By Representative Romualdez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 1651, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF EASTERN VISAYAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER IN TACLOBAN CITY FROM TWO HUNDRED FIFTY (250) TO SEVEN HUNDRED (700), UPGRADING ITS SERVICE

AND FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Romualdez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1652, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING HARBOR PILOTAGE SERVICES AND THE CONDUCT OF HARBOR PILOTS IN THE PHILIPPINE PORTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romualdo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 1653, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION OFFICE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TALIBON, BOHOL INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cajes  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1654, entitled:

“AN ACT TO MAKE THE LAWS ON PATENTS, TRADE NAMES AND TRADEMARKS MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE BY CLARIFYING NON-PATENTABLE INVENTIONS, ALLOWING THE IMPORTATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF PATENTED MEDICINES, AND MODIFYING GOVERNMENT USE PROVISIONS FOR DRUGS OR MEDICINES, TO LOWER PRICES AND INCREASE ACCESS TO AND SUPPLY OF QUALITY DRUGS OR MEDICINES, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8293 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Roxas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 1655, entitled:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF TWO MILLION PESOS (₱2,000,000.00) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MUNICIPAL BUILDING FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF MAMBURAO, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO”

By Representative Villarosa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1656, entitled:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF TWO MILLION PESOS (₱2,000,000.00) FOR THE IMMEDIATE REPAIR OF MALISBONG BARANGAY ROAD AND THE KAMBINGAN SECTION OF THE NATIONAL ROAD IN

BARANGAY SAN AGUSTIN, MUNICIPALITY OF SABLAYAN, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO”

By Representative Villarosa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1657, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE PAWICAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PAWICAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, FROM THE ILING NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Villarosa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1658, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE JOSE RIZAL MEMORIAL STATE COLLEGE (JRMSC) AT DAPITAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE DR. JOSE RIZAL MEMORIAL STATE UNIVERSITY (DJRMSU) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Jalosjos-Carreon and Jalosjos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1659, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN BARANGAY NATO, MUNICIPALITY OF LA CASTELLANA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1660, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN BARANGAY PUSO, MUNICIPALITY OF LA CASTELLANA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1661, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN BARANGAY CABAGNAAN, MUNICIPALITY OF LA CASTELLANA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1662, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTER IN BARANGAY SAN TEODORO, MUNICIPALITY OF BINALBAGAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1663, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BINALBAGAN, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF BINALBAGAN”

By Representative Arroyo (I.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 1664, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STARTUP COMPANIES BY PROVIDING AN IT VENTURE CAPITAL FUND AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Golez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 1665, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Abaya  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 1666, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AT BARANGAY GUINOMAN, MUNICIPALITY OF DIPLAHAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY TO BE KNOWN AS THE GUINOMAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cabilao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1667, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE PAYAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL-BALUNGISAN ANNEX IN BARANGAY BALUNGISAN, MUNICIPALITY OF PAYAO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY FROM THE PAYAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING THE SAME INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE BALUNGISAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cabilao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1668, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE BULAWAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY BULAWAN, MUNICIPALITY OF PAYAO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY FROM THE PAYAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE BULAWAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cabilao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1669, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BATERIA, MUNICIPALITY OF OLUTANGA, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY TO BE KNOWN AS THE PANTALEON CUDIERA MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cabilao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1670, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MABUHAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX OF THE OLUTANGA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MABUHAY, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY INTO A DISTINCT AND SEPARATE HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE MABUHAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cabilao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1671, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE KAWAYAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX OF THE ALICIA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY KAWAYAN, MUNICIPALITY OF ALICIA, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY INTO A DISTINCT AND SEPARATE HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS KAWAYAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cabilao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1672, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Apostol

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 1673, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE LEGITIMATION OF CHILDREN BORN TO PARENTS BELOW MARRYING AGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Apostol

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 1674, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARUGO, PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE BARUGO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Apostol

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1675, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT A RE-SURVEY OF CADASTRAL LOTS IN LAHAR-AFFECTED AREAS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lapus

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 1676, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives De Venecia and Fernandez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 1677, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative De Venecia

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 1678, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING A FAIR COMPETITION LAW, AND THE CREATION OF A FAIR TRADE COMMISSION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative De Venecia

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 1679, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PLACE SAFETY NETS FOR FILIPINO RICE PRODUCERS BY IMPOSING TARIFFS IN LIEU OF QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON RICE IMPORTS, DIRECTING TARIFF COLLECTIONS FROM RICE IMPORTS TO PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS THAT ENHANCE RICE PRODUCTIVITY AND INCREASE FARMERS’ INCOMES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative De Venecia

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 1680, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PRODUCTIVITY AND PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES AND GAINSHARING PROGRAM, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6971, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PRODUCTIVITY INCENTIVES ACT OF 1990’ ”

By Representative De Venecia

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 1681, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE PHILIPPINE HALAL SYSTEM, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE PHILIPPINE HALAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND CONVERTING THE SAME INTO A BOARD AFTER THE TRANSITION PERIOD, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative De Venecia

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND THE COMMITTEE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 1682, entitled:

“AN ACT MODIFYING THE DEFINITION OF A CONDOMINIUM UNIT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4726, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CONDOMINIUM LAW TO APPLY TO INDUSTRIAL ESTATES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative De Venecia

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 1683, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE MANDATE ON THE INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN AND AMONG PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR ITS VIOLATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative De Venecia

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 1684, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REGULATE THE CABLE TELEVISION

INDUSTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative De Venecia  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 1685, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVIDENT PERSONAL SAVINGS PLAN, KNOWN AS THE PERSONAL EQUITY AND RETIREMENT ACCOUNT (PERA)”

By Representative De Venecia  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

#### RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 66, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE TO LOOK INTO THE HIGH COST OF REPAIRS AND SPARE PARTS BY MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS’ SERVICE CENTERS, POPULARLY KNOWN AS ‘CASAS’, TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF VEHICLE OWNERS”

By Representative Romualdo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 67, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PHILIPPINE TEXTILE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PTRI), AN ATTACHED AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DOST), IN COOPERATION WITH THE FIBER INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FIDA), AN ATTACHED AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA), TO SUBMIT TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES A COMPREHENSIVE PHILIPPINE TROPICAL FABRICS INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PLAN, AS BASIS FOR ITS CONSIDERATION, INQUIRY AND EVALUATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO ENHANCE THE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE AND COMPETITIVE EDGE OF THE PHILIPPINE TROPICAL FABRIC INDUSTRY”

By Representatives Villafuerte, Arroyo (D.) and Romualdez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Resolution No. 69, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE OUTCOME OF THE ARBITRATION CASES OVER THE NAI A 3 ROW AND EVALUATE THE EXPENDITURES ALREADY INCURRED AND WILL BE INCURRED BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO THESE CASES”

By Representative Suarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 70, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MALEVOLENT PRACTICE OF USING THE INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT (IRA) SHARES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AS COLLATERAL FOR BANK LOANS AND TO PROVIDE LEGAL REMEDIES TO CURB SUCH PRACTICE”

By Representative Fuentebella  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Thelma Z. Almario for House Bills No. 357, 364, 387, 405, 414, 440, 444 and 473;

Rep. Reno G. Lim for House Bill No. 307;

Rep. Edgar M. Chatto for House Bills No. 718, 727, and 769;

Rep. Judy J. Syjuco for House Bill No. 753;

Rep. Raul T. Gonzalez Jr. for House Bill No. 764;

Rep. Roilo Golez for House Bills No. 1330 and 1356; and

Reps. William Irwin C. Tieng and Ma. Carissa O. Coscolluela for House Bill No. 1772.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Sr. Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we amend the first paragraph of Section 10 of Rule III of our provisional Rules by deleting the word and number “four (4)” and replacing it with the word and number FIVE (5). Hence, the first paragraph shall read as follows:

Section 10. *Election of Officers.*—The officers of the House namely the Speaker, the FIVE (5) Deputy Speakers, the Secretary-General and the Sergeant-at-Arms shall be elected at the commencement of each Congress and whenever there is a vacancy.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

#### ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we elect the distinguished Lady from Occidental Mindoro, the Honorable Ma. Amelita C. Villarosa, as the fifth Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, may I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.).  
 Congratulations to our new Deputy Speaker, Rep. Amelita C. Villarosa.

The session is suspended.

*It was 4:49 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:50 p.m., the session was resumed with the Speaker presiding.*

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

In light of the unanimous election of Congresswoman Amelita Villarosa as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, we have now achieved due political balance and gender balance in the House of Representatives. May the Chair invite the members of the family of Congresswoman Villarosa, and all the women Members of the House of Representatives, to please join us at the rostrum for this historic oath-taking.

May the Chair also invite the distinguished Majority and Minority Leaders, and the Sponsor of the amendment of the Rules of the House, to please join us.

*At this juncture, Rep. Ma. Amelita C. Villarosa, together with the members of her family, the women Members of the House of Representatives, and the Majority and Minority Leaders, ascended the rostrum and took her oath of office as the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

#### OATH-TAKING

THE SPEAKER. May I ask the Members of the House to please rise to honor our women legislators and our lady Deputy Speaker.

Please raise your right hand and repeat after me:

I, MA. AMELITA C. VILLAROSA, of Occidental Mindoro, having been elected to the position of Deputy 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.

THE SPEAKER. Congratulations. *(Applause)*

May we ask the other Deputy Speakers of the House to join us at the rostrum: Deputy Speaker Eric Singson; Deputy Speaker Noli Fuentebella; Deputy Speaker Simeon Datumanong; and Deputy Speaker Raul Del Mar.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Eric Singson, Deputy Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella, Deputy Speaker Simeon Datumanong, and Deputy Speaker Raul Del Mar, ascended the rostrum.*

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended to allow the other Members of the House to congratulate the new Deputy Speaker of the House.

*It was 4:58 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:03 p.m., the session was resumed with the Deputy Speaker, Rep. Eric D. Singson, presiding.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The session is resumed.

REP. CASTRO. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Honorable Castro is recognized.

REP. CASTRO. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). What is the pleasure of the Gentleman from Capiz?

REP. CASTRO. Before the new Deputy Speaker representing women Members of the House was installed, the Speaker made a very clear statement that one of the primary reasons why a woman or lady Deputy Speaker was provided for in the Fourteenth Congress is to maintain "gender balance." My parliamentary question or inquiry is: Suppose the Members of the House belonging to the third sex would come out and identify themselves and demand that a Deputy Speaker be also provided for to represent their group, may I know from the leadership of the House what would then be the position of the Chamber.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Will the Majority Leader answer the query of the Gentleman?

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, I would have welcomed the idea that it is the Chair, the Deputy Speaker, who should reply because frankly, I cannot plead competence insofar as that matter is concerned. But if it is a serious proposal on the part of the distinguished Gentleman from Capiz, if there is any Member of the House who shall wholeheartedly and voluntarily manifest to the leadership that he is of such status, then we would strongly recommend to the Speaker of the House the election of that particular Member of the House representing that particular sector.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Is the Gentleman now satisfied with the answer?

REP. CASTRO. Mr. Speaker, there is no reason that this Representation would not be justified by the reply of the distinguished Majority Leader. But I assure the Majority Leader that, sooner or later, the members of the third sex who are Members of the House will come out and identify themselves and also demand that they be represented by a Deputy Speaker.

That is all, Mr. Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The session is suspended.

*It was 5:06 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:12 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, may I reply to the remarks of the distinguished Gentleman from Capiz. It was not the intent of the leadership that the election as Deputy Speaker of the Honorable Villarosa is to ensure gender balance, because we elected only one. But it is more of an intent to give due recognition to the women, the distinguished lady Members of the House of Representatives, that they should also have a representation in the Office of the Deputy Speaker. That is the very reason.

REP. DIAZ. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ALFELOR. Mr. Speaker.

REP. MAZA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Honorable Antonio Diaz of Zambales is recognized.

REP. MAZA. Mr. Speaker, just a manifestation on this issue.

REP. DIAZ. Mr. Speaker, I have the floor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Chair already recognized the Gentleman who was standing there for a while.

REP. MAZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
I would wish to speak after the Gentleman.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Yes, after Congressman Diaz, the Chair will recognize Congresswoman Largoza-Maza.

REP. DIAZ. After the Gentleman from Capiz made his remarks on "gender balance," quoting the Speaker, I was sitting down in front of Congresswoman Susano and she requested that I stand and make a manifestation that she also be considered to represent the third sex to achieve gender balance.

And so, if that is proper, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Rules be further amended to include a perfect gender balance.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ALFELOR. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABLAN. Mr. Speaker.

REP. MAZA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Honorable Largoza-Maza is recognized.

REP. MAZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As a feminist legislator in this House, my understanding is that the election of Congresswoman Villarosa is that, aside from recognizing that in the history of Congress this is the first time that we have about 20 to 22 percent of the Members of Congress who are women and not only that, it is a recognition that indeed women have a place in the different levels of governance, and in this case, governance within this House. Congresswoman Villarosa is not just representing women but she is representing the whole of Congress. So it is not just a token representation but it is also a recognition of her ability to be in that position.

And to comment on the third sex, I think if there is a gay or lesbian who is capable to be in that position, then that member of the third sex has the right not to be discriminated against and also be in that level of governance. This is not just a mere representation but a recognition, without discrimination, of the ability and work record of the Members of this House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ALFELOR. Mr. Speaker, point of information.

REP. SUSANO. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Honorable Susano of Quezon City is recognized.

REP. SUSANO. Mr. Speaker, for clarification of the manifestation, I did not ask Congressman Diaz to represent a gender of this Representation in the House, but I am just concerned that, with the selection for Deputy Speaker for Women, it should be selected to represent women in the House. Because if that was a political accommodation, that is unfair to us because, for me, the four Deputy Speakers are enough. We can create Deputy Speakers each for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; there is no distinction as to whom they represent. But if a woman will be included to us, for example, to represent Kampi, we have Congresswoman Soon-Ruiz. Maybe, we can hold a discussion among us women as to who can represent us as Deputy Speaker, considering that there are women lawyers here who are capable of becoming a Deputy Speaker.

Thank you very much.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ALFELOR. Mr. Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The session is suspended.

*It was 5:18 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:22 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The session is resumed.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker.

REP. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, point of information.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Honorable Abante is recognized.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker, can we proceed to the Privilege Hour?

REP. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, point of information.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). That is the best suggestion that I have heard this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. We put behind us the election of the Deputy Speaker and we proceed to the Privilege Hour.

REP. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Honorable Solis is recognized.

What is his pleasure?

REP. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, we cannot just railroad anything that is going on here in this Body. The election of the Speaker has been railroaded. We did not follow the rules because there were no rules. Now, we elect a woman as a Deputy Speaker. Who nominated her? Was the election of such discussed?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). For the information of the Gentleman, she was nominated a while ago, and the Chair asked if there was any objection. Since there was no objection, the motion was approved and thus, the election is valid. In fact, she has taken her oath in front of all of us.

REP. SOLIS. I think nobody listened. I am not against giving her that chance as a the Deputy Speaker. But I would like to appeal the procedure by which the election was done.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). May I invite the kind attention of the distinguished Gentleman from Sorsogon that what we did this afternoon relative to the election of the Honorable Villarosa as a Deputy Speaker, is strictly in accordance with the Rules. The first act done was an amendment of the Rules.

It was proposed by the distinguished Sr. Dep. Majority Leader that we amend Section 10 of the Provisional Rules of the Thirteenth Congress by changing the number of Deputy Speakers from four to five, and there was no objection. In short, the amendment was approved unanimously by the plenary. And then, there was a motion to elect or nominate the distinguished Lady from Mindoro by the Sr. Dep. Majority Leader, and there was no objection. Thus, her election as Deputy Speaker was considered unanimously; she was unanimously elected. She was allowed to take her oath, everybody manifested their elation over the election, and the great majority of the Members of the House congratulated the honorable Lady from Occidental Mindoro. So, I ask the distinguished Gentleman from Sorsogon to let us put this behind us.

REP. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Instead of leaving a bitter memory or a sour note on this election, let us leave it with pleasure and elation.

REP. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I am just putting this in the proper perspective. I was informed by the Majority Leader that the Provisional Rules of the Fourteenth Congress were approved. I do not know when it was approved.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, may I invite the kind attention of the distinguished Gentleman to the Journal and the Record of the House of Representatives. On the first morning session of the Fourteenth Congress after the election of the Speaker and before the election of the other officers like the Deputy Speakers, we moved for the adoption of the Rules of the Thirteenth Congress as the provisional Rules of the Fourteenth Congress and it was unanimously adopted by the House of Representatives.

REP. SISON. As far as I can remember, Mr. Speaker, the provisional Rules were adopted after the election of all these officers—the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers for that matter. And since we have the provisional Rules, can we not wait to have the permanent Rules of the Fourteenth Congress before we amend such rule?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the long standing parliamentary practice and tradition, honored for many, many years and observed by many Congresses of the Philippine legislature, it has been a tradition that we adopt the Rules after the election of the Speaker. That has been a consistent practice. And we are not violating any rule for that matter, because we have been electing Speakers in past Congresses without a set of rules but only in accordance with parliamentary tradition, and that particular matter is well established in the records and history of Philippine Congresses.

REP. SOLIS. Their parliamentary practices can supplement the Rules or can replace? It can only supplement, but it cannot replace the Rules.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, we are not saying it can supplement but, in accordance with parliamentary practice, once a new Congress convenes and there is still no set of rules, we elect the Speaker and we designate a Presiding Officer and an acting Floor Leader in accordance with accepted parliamentary practices and procedures. That has been well-established. That has always been questioned, but the House of Representatives has consistently upheld that particular practice and tradition.

REP. VILLANUEVA. Mr. Speaker, point of order.

REP. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I still have the floor.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The honorable Representative from Party-List Cibac is recognized.

REP. VILLANUEVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the matter of highest constitutional order. According to our Constitution, Article IV on the Legislative Department, Section 6 thereof states, and I quote:

No person shall be a Member of the House of Representative unless he is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines and, on the day of the election, is at least twenty-five years of age, able to read and write, and, except the party-list representatives, a registered voter in the district in which he shall be elected, and a resident thereof for a period of not less than one year preceding the day of the election.

Mr. Speaker, a while ago, I heard some Members of the House of Representatives trivializing the idea of putting a member of the third sex as a Deputy Speaker. At this time, we do not even recognize a member of the third sex in the august Chamber. And I wanted to know if we have, indeed, Members of the House of Representatives acknowledging themselves as members of the third sex. This is ridiculous. We are trivializing the idea of opening the floodgates for Deputy Speakers. Maybe next week, we will amend again the Rules. We will again put up another set of Deputy Speakers for Regions I to XIII.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Majority Leader will respond.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, in the event that there is a clear identification or manifestation of that particular gender, we have always welcomed the third sex in Philippine society. And we give our best effort to give due recognition to and apply the principle of equality with members of the third sex. We have not discriminated and we do not intend to discriminate any Member of the House of Representatives who enjoys such status, because we always welcome their presence in the House of Representatives.

REP. ABANTE. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLANUEVA. Mr. Speaker, may I just clarify this Representation's stand. I am not discriminating anybody or even the Members of this august Chamber trying to hide themselves as part of the third sex because...

REP. ABANTE. Out of order.

REP. VILLANUEVA. ...we respect the...

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

REP. VILLANUEVA. ...members of the third sex. I just want to make sure and make it clear that this institution is not electing again another Deputy Speaker coming from the third sex. Because, why do we not have a Representative from the party-list sector for Deputy Speaker? So, these are the things that I just wanted to clarify, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Honorable Abante of Manila is recognized.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker, there is much debate now on the issue, but that is not the issue anymore. May I just ask if, since this is a Monday, this ought to be the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Gentleman is right.

REP. ABANTE. Then I would like to move that we proceed to the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I likewise move, Mr. Speaker, and I join the distinguished Gentleman.

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. We now proceed to the Privilege Hour.

REP. TUPAS. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Honorable Tupas is recognized.

REP. TUPAS. Mr. Speaker, I observed in the Calendar of Business that there is an item here, Unfinished Business, and that this item has been in the Order of Business for two weeks already. This is the continuation of the interpellation of the privilege speech of the distinguished Minority Leader.

My parliamentary inquiry is: Is it not correct that we dispose first of this Unfinished Business before we declare the Privilege Hour?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). We hold the Privilege Hour on Mondays, so we are giving this the priority in our agenda.

REP. TUPAS. So after the Privilege Hour, we will take up this Unfinished Business. Is that the sequence, Mr. Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). We will go to the Unfinished Business.

REP. TUPAS. After the Privilege Hour?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Yes.

REP. TUPAS. Thank you.

REP. CERILLES. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Yes. The honorable Gentleman from Zamboanga del Sur is recognized.

REP. CERILLES. Mr. Speaker, I respect the wise judgment of my good friend from Capiz, being a former professor of law in the San Beda College of Law and one of the stalwarts of the administration in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Congresses. My inquiry is: Suppose his bright idea will be accepted by the Body, how do we address her or him because a man is addressed as "Gentleman" and the woman is addressed as "Lady"? Will it be "she" or "he"? Will the distinguished bright author of the idea stand up to answer my question?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Will the Majority Leader respond.

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

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, there is a pending motion but very briefly, may I reply to the distinguished Gentleman from Zamboanga del Sur that, when the circumstances demand that we should come up with how we can appropriately address that particular person, we will seek the wise suggestion and recommendation of the distinguished Gentleman from Zamboanga del Sur.

REP. CERILLES. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). May I, therefore, proceed to....

REP. CERILLES. My other inquiry is: Why are there three Deputy Speakers from Luzon and there is only one from Visayas and Mindanao?

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). There is no such thing relative to the position of Deputy Speaker anymore.

REP. CERILLES. Does it have something to do with imperial Luzon?

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). No.

REP. CERILLES. The Visayas and Mindanao are considered inferior.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Luzon has long ceased to be

imperial. There is a strong possibility that Mindanao may become the imperial region of the Philippines.

REP. CERILLES. Is the Gentleman suggesting that Mindanao should secede from the Philippines?

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). No, I am not, Mr. Speaker. We will do everything to save Mindanao because we do not want to see the secession of Mindanao because it is an integral part of Philippine territory.

REP. CERILLES. Mr. Speaker, I notice that in the hierarchy of this House, there is one Deputy Speaker for the Ilocos Region, one Deputy Speaker for the Tagalog-speaking area, and one Deputy Speaker for the Bicolanos or Southern Luzon area.

Unlike in Visayas, but of course, we have the Gentleman from Cebu City as Deputy Speaker but I am wondering, maybe some of my friends from Western or Eastern Visayas are complaining. Why only the Cebuanos or the Cebuano-speaking people from Visayas and Mindanao?

My good friend, my Deputy Speaker is representing the ARMM or Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. What happened to the Christian Mindanao or Christian area of Mindanao?

These are queries that I think the leadership and the Majority Leader have to reckon with.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Yes.

REP. CERILLES. It may not be today, it might happen tomorrow.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). That will be immediately brought to the kind attention of the leadership, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, may we now proceed to the Privilege Hour.

REP. TUPAS. Mr. Speaker, just a manifestation.

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

REP. TUPAS. Mr. Speaker, this is with respect to my parliamentary inquiry.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker, point of order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). What is the point of order of Congressman Abante?

REP. ABANTE. We have already made a motion. It has been seconded without any objection that we proceed with the Privilege Hour. I think that ought to take precedence right now, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Yes. Shall we proceed now to the Privilege Hour?

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). With leave of the House, Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up very brief administrative matters.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

ELECTION OF REP. GONZALES (R.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE  
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I move that we elect the Honorable Raul T. Gonzalez Jr. as Chairperson of the Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation vice the Honorable Erico Basilio A. Fabian.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

ELECTION OF REP. FABIAN  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). I move that we elect the Honorable Erico Basilio A. Fabian as Chairperson of the Committee on Government Reorganization.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, considering that today is a Monday, I move that we proceed to the Privilege Hour.

REP. VALENCIA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Honorable Valencia is recognized.

REP. VALENCIA. Can I now deliver my privilege speech?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, may we ask for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Chair declares a suspension of the session.

*It was 5:39 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:40 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The session is resumed.

REP. DEFENSOR (A.). Mr. Speaker, the first to avail of the Privilege Hour is the distinguished Gentleman from the Second District of Cebu, the Honorable Pablo P. Garcia.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Honorable Pablo P. Garcia is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. GARCIA (P.)

REP. GARCIA (P.). Mr. Speaker and my esteemed colleagues in this Chamber.

One highly controversial and hotly debated piece of legislation that was passed by the Thirteenth Congress is Republic Act No. 9372, otherwise known as the Human Security Act of 2007 which, as its title indicates, is AN ACT TO SECURE THE STATE AND PROTECT OUR PEOPLE FROM TERRORISM. It is also popularly known as the Anti-Terrorism Law. By any measure, this law is a legislative super production. It took two Congresses—the Twelfth and the Thirteenth—and so much discussion and debate in both Houses of Congress to produce, after six years, this celebrated law. The government and its law-enforcement agencies hailed the passage of this law as a historic and most welcome development in our never-ending quest for lasting peace and security in our country. At last, and so they say, we have found a potent and effective weapon in our fight against this new and terrible scourge of all mankind—terrorism. That is why the launching of this law, on the occasion of its effectivity, was celebrated in Malacañang with so much pomp and pageantry.

On the other hand, the militants, the cause-oriented groups, and the human rights advocates have seen in the Anti-Terrorism Law, a preview of martial law and a clear and present danger to the viability and survival of human rights and civil liberties in our country. And so they greeted the effectivity of the law on July 15 with loud and massive protest actions and demonstrations on the streets and on the other usual venues.

Such is the impact of the Anti-Terrorism Law on our people. It has tended to polarize and divide the country. On one side are the people who agree with the government and its law-enforcement agencies. As I look around, many of them are here in this Chamber. On the other side, are the people who agree with the militants, the cause-oriented groups and human rights advocates. I can also see some of them in this Chamber.

Now, in the midst of this great debate, the question may well be asked: Who is right or who is correct? The plain and simple answer is: Neither side is right or correct.

The government and its law-enforcement agencies are wrong in their expectation that the Anti-Terrorism Law can do much good and will be a potent and effective weapon in our fight against terrorism.

On the other hand, the militants, the cause-oriented groups and the human rights advocates are also wrong in their apprehension that the implementation of the law will do much harm to the cause of human rights and civil liberties in our country.

So, to the government and its law-enforcement agencies, I say, “Look before you leap. Take a second hard look at the Anti-Terrorism Law, and you will realize that contrary to your expectations, the law will not be of much use in our fight against terrorism.” In a manner of speaking, this weapon will not fire.

And to the militants, cause-oriented groups and human rights advocates, I say, “Be not afraid. Forget your apprehensions. The Anti-Terrorism Law is no crouching tiger ready to strike. It looks like a tiger, but it is a toothless paper tiger. It does not bite.”

This brings us to the question: What is wrong with the Anti-Terrorism Law? The Anti-Terrorism Law contains the very seed that caused its impotence or inutility. Its triggering mechanism, the crime of terrorism, is inherently and seriously

flawed. The crime of terrorism is something new in this country. It is not found in our statute books. It is defined for the first time under Republic Act No. 9372 or the Human Security Act.

Section 3 of the said Act defines terrorism as follows:

Section 3. Terrorism.—Any person who commits an act punishable under any of the following provisions of the Revised Penal Code:

- a) Article 122, piracy in general and mutiny in the high seas or in Philippine waters;
- b) Article 134, rebellion or insurrection;
- c) Article 134-A, *coup d'etat*, including acts committed by private persons;
- d) Article 248, murder;
- e) Article 267, kidnapping and serious illegal detention;
- f) Article 324, crimes involving destruction, or under

1. Presidential Decree No. 1613, the law on arson;
2. Republic Act No. 6969, Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990;
3. Republic Act No. 5207, Atomic Energy Regulatory and Liability Act of 1968;
4. Republic Act No. 6235, Anti-Hijacking Law;
5. Presidential Decree No. 532, Anti-Piracy and Anti-Highway Robbery Law; and
6. Presidential Decree No. 1866, as amended, the decree codifying the laws on illegal and unlawful possession, manufacture, dealing, ammunitions or explosives.

Now, listen to this part of the description:

Thereby sowing and creating a condition of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace in order to coerce the government to give in to an unlawful demand shall be guilty of the crime of terrorism and shall suffer the penalty of 40 years of imprisonment without the benefit of parole as provided for under Act No. 4103 otherwise known as the Indeterminate Sentence Law, as amended.

Under this definition, in order that a person can be accused of the crime of terrorism, it is not enough that he commits an act punishable under the specified provisions of the Revised Penal Code or under the enumerated Republic acts and presidential decrees. In addition, it is required that:

- 1) Such act will sow and create a condition of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace; and
- 2) That the act was done in order to coerce the government to give in to an unlawful demand.

So there are two other additional essential elements. It is clear, therefore, that unless and until these two additional essential elements are present, there is no crime of terrorism. The act may constitute an ordinary crime of murder, kidnapping, arson, et cetera, but certainly not terrorism. For example, a chief of police and his driver and two policemen are ambushed and killed. This is murder. Under the definition,

it is not terrorism because, first, it must be further shown that the act created a condition of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace; and second, that the act or the crime was committed to coerce the government to give in to an unlawful demand. Or, say, a municipal building in one municipality is bombed and is burned to the ground. Again, this may be arson but not yet terrorism because there is a need to prove that the burning created a condition of widespread—not local—but widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace. By this definition of the crime of terrorism under the Human Security Act, the 9/11 bombing of the Twin Towers in New York or the London bombings or most of the bombings in Iraq do not constitute terrorism by our definition of terrorism under the Human Security Act. Why not? Because these bombings were not done to coerce the American government or the English government or the Iraqi government to give in to an unlawful demand. The Super Ferry bombing that killed hundreds of passengers and crew is not also terrorism because there was no demand made by the bombers to our government before they committed their dastardly act. In the same way, the killing and beheading of the 14 Marines in Basilan is not terrorism by this definition. What is funny, and which clearly demonstrates how badly this law was crafted, is the mindless and unnecessary use of the word “unlawful” to qualify the demand made to the government.

Suppose the demand is lawful such as a demand for the construction of a schoolhouse in the remote barangay or a farm-to-market road. Under the Human Security Act, the criminal acts of those who made the demand—suppose they blasted a bridge in a national highway—would not constitute terrorism.

Perhaps, our legislators of the Thirteenth Congress simply forgot that under the Revised Penal Code, to coerce anybody, let alone the government, to do any act is already a crime of coercion, regardless of whether the act coerced to be done is lawful or not.

Suppose we coerced a person to kneel down and say the “Our Father”. It is not unlawful to say a prayer, but that is a crime of coercion. Why is that to coerce anybody, let alone the government, to do anything is a crime? Simple as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be—the end does not justify the means.

Aside from the extreme difficulty or even impossibility of establishing the crime of terrorism as defined in the Act, another serious problem is the elaborate, meticulous and stringent procedures for the implementation of its provisions. Noncompliance with these procedures will subject the police or law-enforcement personnel to severe penalties.

Under this Act, there are only two crimes that terrorists can commit: one, terrorism; and the other, conspiracy to commit terrorism.

On the other hand, police and law-enforcement personnel can be liable for about 20 criminal offenses that they may commit in the course of the implementation of its provisions. It is as if there is a built-in pattern to discourage or inhibit police and law-enforcement personnel from implementing at their own risk the provisions of the Act.

And as the song goes, “for only fools rush in, where angels fear to tread.” All told, the Human Security Act is overrated and overvalued. Actually, it is not an effective and

valuable a weapon in the fight against terrorism as the government would expect it to be. And it is not as evil and fearsome an animal as the militants, cause-oriented groups and human rights advocates have imagined it to be.

Indeed, if the Act is to attain its laudable objectives, there is an urgent need for Congress to introduce the necessary amendments to the Act.

Under the circumstances and in the light of the apparent inutility of the Human Security Act as a weapon in our fight against terrorism, are there no other weapons left in the arsenal, so to speak, that can be used in order to attain these objectives? The answer is: "Yes, there are."

Even before the Human Security Act can be amended by Congress, we have existing laws in our statute books which are even easier to accept and more effective to use than the Human Security Act. To cite an example, there is RA 4200 or the Anti-Wiretapping Law and the Anti-Money Laundering Law. These two laws can be availed of by the government and law-enforcement agencies in our fight against terrorism.

So at this point, and while the Human Security Act is not yet amended, to correct its serious congenital flaws, let us urge the government and its law-enforcement agencies not to rely anymore on said Act but to be more resourceful and creative. They should explore other viable legal options that can be availed of under the present circumstances.

Towards this end, let it be known that we, the Members of this House, are willing to sit down with the leadership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to discuss with them these other possible legal options. After all, we, the Members of this House, are also committed to join in this great national effort to secure the State and to protect our people from terrorism. In a manner of speaking, we all are in the same boat. The sooner this is done, the better for all of us.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CERILLES. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ALFELOR. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Honorable Cerilles is recognized.

REP. ALFELOR. Mr. Speaker.

REP. CERILLES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). What is the pleasure of the Honorable Cerilles?

REP. CERILLES. Will the distinguished Gentleman from Cebu yield to some clarificatory questions?

REP. GARCIA (P.). Willingly.

REP. ALFELOR. Mr. Speaker, may I be the second interpellator? May I reserve my right to interpellate after the distinguished Gentleman from Zamboanga del Sur.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Yes, he may do so after the distinguished Gentleman from

Zamboanga del Sur and Congressman Ocampo. He will be the third interpellator.

The Honorable Cerilles will please proceed.

REP. CERILLES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

After all the shoutings in the streets against this republic act, after all the applause done in Malacañang, as analyzed by the distinguished Gentleman from Cebu, who used to be a law professor himself and is the new Chairman of the Committee on Revision of Laws, I salute the distinguished Gentleman for coming out and saying that the law that was deliberated for almost six years is all sound and fury, signifying nothing. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARCIA (P.). The distinguished Gentleman from Zamboanga del Sur is correct.

REP. CERILLES. Mr. Speaker, I noticed a while ago that the Gentleman stated, especially in his conclusion, that he will be willing to sit down with the members of the AFP, PNP and other luminaries minus the Commission on Human Rights. Why is he not including them in his proposed small group as far as consultation is concerned? Is that by omission and intentional, or just by negligence?

REP. GARCIA (P.). Mr. Speaker, we, not only I, in Congress, are willing to sit down with all those concerned with the implementation of this Human Security Act because, after all, this Act may not be necessary if those involved in the fight against terrorism can be resourceful and creative and look for other viable legal options. And I mentioned the Anti-Wiretapping Law, Republic Act No. 4200.

If the problem is to wiretap or eavesdrop on the communication to certain groups, the Anti-Wiretapping Law can be availed of. In fact, the procedure is much simpler than the Human Security Act. Under the Human Security Act, before any peace officer or police officer can be authorized to intercept or eavesdrop on the communication, he must first get the authority from the anti-terrorism council and there is also a need to apply with a revision of the Court of Appeals.

Under the Anti-Wiretapping Law, the application can be made with the regional trial court by any police officer. And the duration of the authority to wiretap, under the Human Security Act, is only 30 days, extendible for another 30 days. But under the Anti-Wiretapping Law, it is 60 days and may be further extended by a regional trial court.

REP. CERILLES. In that regard, Mr. Speaker, there was a dilemma with the group from the House of Representatives as far as the House version is concerned because it was still supposed to sit down with its counterpart. That is why there are so many provisions thereat that are actually in conflict, as what the Gentleman has stated.

REP. GARCIA (P.). I am not really familiar with the versions of both Houses of Congress and also what happened during the bicameral conference committee.

REP. CERILLES. That is correct, Mr. Speaker. Precisely, I am telling him because he was not yet a Member of the Congress then, and I was not a member of the bicameral

committee. I gathered that the Members of the House needed more time but our counterpart virtually watered down the House version. I do not know what is true. So, we can see the inconsistencies in that law itself.

For example, as the Gentleman has said, the first requirement is that there was a violation of the Revised Penal Code and other decrees. Aside from that, there is an essential element in that it should sow fear and that the fear is not local but nationwide—widespread—so as to create fear among the populace. I support that. As a matter of fact, that was my observation upon reading the much-applauded Human Security Act. As a matter of fact, it would be better to amend the Revised Penal Code and come up with a better version of, let us take for example, the code of crime, that we have started way back in the Eighth and Ninth Congresses. That is the reason why I am happy because no less than the new Chairman of the Committee on Revision of Laws raised those issues. I am looking forward that indeed there will be new revisions to this so-called Human Security Act.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GARCIA (P.). I also thank the distinguished Gentleman from Zamboanga del Sur.

REP. ALFELOR. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Honorable Ocampo is recognized.

REP. ALFELOR. Mr. Speaker, the Chair said I will be the next.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). No, the Chair said Congressman Ocampo will follow and then, Congressman Alfelor. The Honorable Ocampo has made an earlier reservation.

Congressman Ocampo will please proceed.

REP. OCAMPO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

May the distinguished Representative from Cebu yield to some questions?

REP. GARCIA (P.). Willingly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. OCAMPO. First, I would like to commend the distinguished Gentleman from Cebu for having raised this question. Although he was not a Member of the Thirteenth Congress, he has made very sharp observations that critiqued the so-called Human Security Act or the Anti-Terrorism Law. I agree with many of his observations. I would just like to ask certain clarificatory questions by saying that the Human Security Act, in providing two elements to existing crimes, virtually makes it impossible to penalize the actual acts of terror but cannot, under the definition of this law, be categorized as such, for example, as the September 11 attack on the US World Trade Center and the Pentagon, absent the demand for the government to do an illegal act.

Is that correct?

REP. GARCIA (P.). As worded, the demand to the government or to coerce the government to give in to an unlawful demand, is an essential element of the crime. Absent

that element, there is no crime of terrorism. There may be an ordinate crime for murder, kidnapping or arson but certainly, not terrorism.

REP. OCAMPO. Yes. Even if the act itself will mean widespread bloodshed.

REP. GARCIA (P.). Again, it is not only creating a condition of widespread fear, but the fear must also be extraordinary. So I salute those Members of the bicameral conference committee who succeeded in inserting this provision which makes it practically impossible to prove the crime of terrorism. And under the Act, if a person accused of terrorism is acquitted, he is entitled to indemnity—P500,000 a day for every day of detention.

Now, the prosecution may be able to prove a certain crime, an ordinary crime of kidnapping or murder, but not terrorism. So if that is the charge, he will be acquitted of the crime of terrorism.

REP. OCAMPO. Yes, I think that is exactly the net effect. And it has been raised earlier by the Gentleman from Zamboanga del Sur that it remains a big question why the House contingent in the bicameral committee that considered the passage of this law abandoned the House version, and adopted *in toto* the Senate version, which is exactly what has been signed as the Human Security Act. This is the Senate version.

I was a member of the minority delegation in the bicameral committee and we raised the question. We were prepared to introduce amendments, but the House contingent agreed by a majority to withdraw the House version and adopt the Senate version.

Now, this Representation took an opposition stance towards the Human Security Act or the Anti-Terror Bill, but I was assured by several Members of the Senate that it is all right to have the law passed because many safeguards have been introduced as to render the law toothless.

Does the Gentleman from Cebu share that observation? That as it is now, it is impractical, as the Gentleman had pointed out, to implement and really pursue those who may be perceived as real terrorists but who, under the definition of the law, cannot be apprehended and penalized.

REP. GARCIA (P.). The Gentleman is correct, Mr. Speaker.

As I said, the 9-11 bombing of the Twin Towers is not terrorism under this law because the bombers did not make any demand to the American government. It is true that it has caused widespread or even extraordinary fear and panic, but this other element of unlawful demand was not present. And so, by the Philippine definition of terrorism, that act was not terrorism.

REP. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, the Anti-Terror Law was filed earlier—I think the first instance was in 1995—but that was not successful because there was a strong lobby against it. But in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Congresses, this had passed muster in the House and then, subsequently, in the Senate because there was pressure from the United States to pass this before the adjournment of session. Does the Gentleman from Cebu agree with that observation?

REP. GARCIA (P.). I am not aware that there was any pressure, but if there was, it was the wrong pressure because, by the definition of terrorism, several acts cannot be considered terrorism. They were perhaps more interested in the passage in the form, but not in the substance, of the law.

REP. OCAMPO. Does the Gentleman agree with the observation that the difficulty in passing the Anti-Terror Law is the absence of a universally-accepted definition of what exactly terrorism is? Such that in the deliberations in both the House and the Senate, there could have been an agreement on defining terrorism itself and so, the recourse was now to refer to certain acts penalized under the Revised Penal Code and adding those two elements. And we came up with the definition that the Gentleman now says is practically useless.

REP. GARCIA (P.). Yes, from the very start, as I have said, the triggering mechanism, which is the definition of a crime of terrorism, is inherently, congenitally defective.

And so, all the other provisions of the law would thereby become ineffective, such as the application for authority to wiretap or eavesdrop on the communication to suspected terrorists and the inquiry into bank deposits. The application is to the effect that certain persons are engaged or about to commit terrorism as defined in the law, and which is something extremely difficult to prove, especially before the act is committed. Suppose they discover a group of persons housed in a certain isolated building, and they are preparing to make or manufacture bombs which they intend to place in certain strategic places in the city. Now, if they are caught there, how can we prove terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism when we still have to prove that the act, if done, will sow and create a condition of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace? And how can we prove that there was an unlawful demand made to the government? And if, in spite of these inadequacies, the person or persons are arrested and prosecuted, there is the possibility or probability that they will be acquitted because the prosecution cannot prove these two additional elements. Thus, the government will have to pay the accused P500,000 a day for every day of their confinement.

REP. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, this is quite important because the process through which this law was legislated, indicates the element of either haste that made waste, legislating under pressure from foreign influence, because the filing and deliberations on the Anti-Terror Law were part of the general campaign by the United States to have all of its allied countries legislate a law similar to or derived from the US Patriot Act of 2002 which is the US Anti-Terrorism Law. But I think the end-product, which the Gentleman from Cebu now says is practically useless, is a consequence of an attempt by the legislators, specifically in the Senate, to try to overcome the strong opposition against an Anti-Terror Law by putting the so-called safeguards that effectively negated the penal provisions or made it practically impossible to implement.

Now, I wonder how the distinguished Gentlemen of the Senate, headed by the chairman of the committee, the main Sponsor of the bill, the distinguished Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, agreed to all of those amendments that resulted in a

law with conflicting provisions as to make it practically very difficult to implement.

Having said that, does the Gentleman from Cebu suggest that the law be repealed, amended or what?

REP. GARCIA (P.). In fine, nobody but nobody should be terrorized by the Anti-Terrorism Law. And it reminds me of a nursery rhyme, looking back at how the two Houses of Congress worked very hard to pass this law: "The mountain labored and labored, only to produce a mouse." Not a tiger.

REP. OCAMPO. I think the Gentleman had not answered my question. Is he proposing to repeal the law or to amend it?

REP. GARCIA (P.). No, I am not proposing to repeal the law, perhaps, only to amend the law. As it is now, there are other laws available to our law-enforcement agencies in our fight against terrorism, and I made mention of the Anti-Wiretapping Law, Republic Act No. 4200, and the Anti-Money Laundering Law, if the purpose of the law-enforcement agencies is to inquire into the bank accounts of certain suspected terrorists.

REP. OCAMPO. May I inform the Gentleman that, in the initial period of deliberations by the Committee on Justice, several deans of law schools in our universities had forwarded the opinion that the proposed bill was unnecessary because there are existing laws that could deal with the problem it is addressing.

But apparently, the countervailing pressure for the passage of an Anti-Terror Law in whatever form prevailed over the sane and the wisdom of those who know the laws as they exist and the type of problem that it seeks to address. It is even a question whether the type of terrorism that this law seeks to remedy or prevent actually occurs in the Philippines or not.

So, from the very start, this Representation had opposed the passage of the law, and he has expressed dismay over the abandonment by the House contingent of its own version, which we labored hard to craft, and yielded to the Senate version which now, from the point of view of the Gentleman from Cebu, is practically a useless law.

So, I still think that because of the nature of the crime of terrorism that has not been aptly defined, which definition is acceptable to all nations, it will always be difficult to craft a corresponding law that would both, as it was intended, address the issue or problem of the so-called terrorism without sacrificing the civil and political rights of the citizens. I share the observation of the Gentleman that, in the effort to hasten the legislation and beat the deadline, the Thirteenth Congress came out with a half-baked or a very confusing law that does not and will not serve the purpose, but continues to still instill terror in many of our people. And given the statements of the Secretary of Justice and the National Security Adviser, the government will use this law to go after the critics belonging to the Left of the administration. So, again, I come back to the question: Given such a law and the problem it poses on the impossibility of its implementation, is it not advisable that this Congress—the Fourteenth Congress—revisit this law and seek its repeal?

REP. GARCIA (P.). Mr. Speaker, I would like to agree with the observation of the distinguished Gentleman and his narration of the incidents or what happened to the discussions and deliberations leading to the passage of this law. All I can say is that, at this point, there is really a need to look at the law as it is and find out whether we need to amend the law for it to attain its laudable objectives.

REP. OCAMPO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Gentleman from Cebu for answering my questions. Although not fully satisfied with all these discussions, this Representation would just want to manifest that, when certain powers like the US government exerts pressure on Congress, through the executive, to legislate laws that primarily respond to the requirements of the United States government—particularly under George Bush—we should be circumspect in crafting such a law that is not necessarily applicable in our own situation and results in a ridiculous law such as what we have now in the so-called “Human Security Act”.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ALFELOR. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Honorable Alfelor is the next to interpellate. He is recognized.

REP. ALFELOR. Will the distinguished Gentleman from Cebu yield to some questions?

REP. GARCIA (P.). Mr. Speaker, much as I would like to yield to interpellation by whoever may be interested, I regret to say that I have a very important appointment at seven o'clock. So I am willing to answer any and all questions, maybe, tomorrow or some other time.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the interpellations until tomorrow.

REP. SOLIS. I second the motion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The interpellations will continue tomorrow.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Honorable Abante from the Sixth District of Manila as the next House Member to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Gentleman may proceed.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ABANTE

REP. ABANTE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My esteemed colleagues of the Fourteenth Congress:  
A blessed afternoon to all of you.

As we usher the opening of this new Congress, please allow me to speak about the intangible force that inevitably

draws us all together in this august hall, about the immutable pillar that defines the very essence of our existence as leaders of this nation—and that, my friends, is what we call power. The adage that has been used so many times, albeit negatively speaking, is the statement “What are we in power for?”

Frankly, I do not know the origin of this statement, but since it has been used, it has always carried a negative connotation. Let me correct the statement by instead asking: “Why are we in power for?”

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues in this august Chamber, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I rise today in this Privilege Hour, principally because I want to share the burden and responsibility of assuring and showing to our people, without whom we would not be here in these halls of Congress, that we are not here just to promote, protect or preserve our personal interests or political party affiliations. I wish that I could be a part in changing the public notion and perception that we are in power to empty the coffers of the government; to protect the interests of the elite for selfish motives; to exert influence for our personal benefits and those of our friends and relatives; to acquire, preserve and protect vast personal wealth; and to protect the select few, even to the extent of violating human rights and causing great injustice.

It is so sad to observe that the saying, “What are we in power for” is being associated with corruption, abuse of authority, undue exertion of influence, illegal accumulation of wealth, gross disrespect of the law, and blatant disregard to the principles of equity, justice and fair play. Until these notions and perceptions are altogether erased, public distrust will continue to hound the duly-constituted authorities, thereby derailing much-needed reforms and slowing down national progress; hence, the need to let our people fully understand, “why we are in power.”

Let me give three mandates to prove my assertions. First, our constitutional mandate. I am not a lawyer nor will I try to be like a lawyer or think like a lawyer. But as a layman, I understand what the Constitution says. There is no better guidepost than the Constitution, to which each and every leader and every citizen of this Republic should and must adhere to. I think all of us understand that.

The Preamble is not a source of power or right for any department or government, but it sets down the origin, the scope and purpose of the Constitution. And I would like to quote the Preamble:

We, the sovereign Filipino people, imploring the aid of Almighty God, in order to build a just and humane society and establish a government that shall embody our ideals and aspirations, promote the common good, conserve and develop our patrimony, and secure to ourselves and our posterity the blessings of independence and democracy under the rule of law and a regime of truth, justice, freedom, love, equality and peace, do ordain and promulgate this Constitution.

What a beautiful statement, Mr. Speaker.

The Preamble identifies the sovereign Filipino people as the authors of the Constitution, and the latter as the manifestation of the sovereign will of the people. The Constitution states that sovereignty resides in the people, and all government authority emanates from them. Thus, they are sovereign.

In our lives as elected public officials, may I ask the following questions:

Are we truly living aboveboard and righteous before God and before our people?

Are we manifesting our belief in a holy God, whose aid we declared to implore in building a just and humane society, and to establish a government under the rule of law and a regime of truth and justice?

In our deliberations on legislative matters and issues brought before this Chamber, in our decisions thereon, are we really upholding the rule of law? As someone has said already, we are very good in trying to railroad some bills.

Are we really seeking for and allowing truth to prevail? Are we being guided by the demands of justice? Or are we actually and blatantly disregarding the law and suppressing truth and justice mainly to protect our interest, and/or the interest of others in power?

When our positions are threatened, when our loyalty to our party is tested, can we still uphold the rule of law? Do we still seek for truth? Do we still desire justice? Under such a situation, dare we blindly defend unethical and even patently illegal cause, to the extent of withholding truth and doing injustice to the greater majority of our people, thus doing disservice to our country?

By our Constitution, we have recognized that public office is a public trust and that we are accountable not to ourselves, not to our political party, not to any other public official, not even to the President, but to the people with utmost responsibility and integrity. Power and responsibility, if I may say, are virtually Siamese twins among our commitments as leaders, and their consequences are bound up together. A famous line from the superhero Spiderman said, "with great power comes great responsibility." For the very first time, I have to submit that the superhero's statement is true.

When discharging our duties and responsibilities as Members of this august Chamber, we ought to act to serve the best interest and welfare of our people because it is to them that we are accountable, and not to serve the interest and demands of anybody else.

By the Constitution, we committed ourselves to maintain honesty and integrity in public service. If we only learn to submit to and obey this constitutional command, the use of our countrywide development fund (CDF) and priority development assistance fund (PDAF), the process of legislation, and the investigation of issues of national concern and significance would perhaps no longer be put into the limelight of public scorn and disgrace.

In her book, *Christianity versus Corruption*, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago presented a corruption case study in our country, and went over various corruption scandals as follows:

- P35.7 billion laundered money scandal;
  - P200 billion national debt scandal;
  - P60 billion oil firms tax scam;
  - P25 billion IMPSA (*Industrias Metalurgicas Pescarmona Sociada Anonima*) power contract scandal;
  - P20 billion IMPSA power contract midnight deal;
  - P9.2 billion centennial exposition public works scandal;
  - and
  - P7.5 billion congressional initiative allocation scandal.
- Yet, not a single official has been convicted in these scandals.

Under the Constitution, as a matter of policy, the State has committed to promote a just and dynamic social order, a rising standard of living and an improved quality of life for all (Section 9, Article II, Constitution).

Likewise, the State has bound itself to promote social justice in all phases of national development (Section 10, Article II, Constitution).

We as legislators are entrusted with the power to craft laws, and such laws should be designed to promote, protect and preserve life, liberty and property (without regard to political, social or economic status), guarantee the general welfare (not the welfare of the elite), and respect the dignity and human rights of every Filipino (not those of the chosen few).

Lest we forget the maxim: *Salus populi est suprema lex*. The voice of the people is the supreme law.

*Vox populi, Vox Dei*. The voice of the people is the voice of God.

It is our responsibility to our people, and we ought to carry out such responsibility, to serve for their best interest, to borrow the statement of one of the greatest, if not the greatest President of the United States of America, that (an ideal government) is "a government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Public officials therefore ought not to conduct themselves as if they own the government or their respective offices. I, for one, in holding and discharging my office, would like to be guided by the same spirit that guided the Great Mr. Abraham Lincoln when he said, and I quote:

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds.

And lastly, Mr. Speaker, our moral mandate.

Consistent with the Preamble of the Constitution where we implore the aid of Almighty God, let us be reminded of our moral mandate. Please allow me to recall some injunctions and warnings from the Holy Writ.

Firstly: We are in subjection to higher powers.

In the Book of Romans, Chapter 13, verses 1 and 2:

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.

For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resisteth shall receive to themselves damnation.

And let us similarly be warned that we being in power should recognize, uphold and protect good works and suppress evil.

Secondly: Righteousness in governance must prevail.

In Proverbs 14:34: "Righteousness exalteth the nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

If we therefore want our nation to be raised in honor, let us use the powers in our hands to uphold, protect and preserve righteousness.

Why are we in power? We ought to be in power for righteousness' sake. We ought to be in power to expose the sins and excesses in government if we want our people to be freed from rebuke.

Thirdly: Righteous people are expected to be in authority. In Proverbs 29:2, it says, and I quote:

When the righteous are in authority, the people

rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

Righteous leaders beget a happy community.

Fourthly: Beware of bribery and reject it.

Thou shalt not wrest judgement; thou shall not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous. (Deuteronomy 16:19)

We ought to be in power to see to it that justice is fairly administered, that everyone is given his due, and that honesty and good faith are observed.

Finally, it is in our power to do good. In Proverbs 3:27: "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it."

As former Pres. Diosdado Macapagal once noted:

The President and the Members of Congress have powers that are, "so vast and potent that economic interests enter into a mutually protective alliance with them which results in a concentration of economic benefits in their combined hands."

Furthermore, Sen. Miriam-Defensor Santiago wrote, and I quote:

The biggest problem in our culture is that many among the Metro Manila rich identify their selfish private interests with the general interests of the public; their narrow social values, with national values. The rich think that what is good for them is necessarily good for the country. This is the root cause of massive poverty in the Third World.

I submit that this is true, Mr. Speaker.

Let us give peace and justice to our countrymen. Let us all aspire to see that every Filipino has enough food on the table. Let us give quality education to our youth. Let us enact laws that are morally right in consonance with the maxim that "a law that does not conform with moral law is not a law at all."

As we serve our fresh mandate from our people, let me enjoin my esteemed colleagues to strive, as the President, in her State of the Nation Address stated: "to be right rather than popular; and may I say, as a rejoinder, "to do right rather than do well."

Finally, Mr. Speaker, and my fellow legislators, please allow me to share with you a gift that giveth life, from which all wisdom and knowledge spring forth, and from which we can draw the directional compass in our role as legislators, and even in our personal journey through our earthly lives—the Holy Bible.

I have requested the Philippine Bible Society (PBS), the BIBLEMODE, the Christian Leaders for Good Government, of which the leaders are here today, to give a Holy Bible to every Congressman. The Holy Bible is personally given and the names are inscribed in the second page of this Bible. Just like what has been given to me by the Chairman of the PBS Bishop Cesar Punzalan who is with us this afternoon. I would like to read what is written here:

Present this copy of the Holy Bible in the English Standard Version to the Honorable Bienvenido Abante Jr. This gift comes with our prayer that God will give you much wisdom and guidance as you serve, lead and make laws appropriate to the needs of our people, and help build and transform Philippines to the power of God's

Word. Give your servant an understanding mind to govern that I may discern between good and evil. (I Kings 3:9)

This is signed by Bishop Cesar Punzalan, president and chairman; and Nora Lucero, general secretary of the Philippine Bible Society.

May I request that we suspend the session for a while so that each one may receive their personal Bible.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Good evening.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Sr. Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES/ COMMISSION

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, before we recognize other Members who would like to interpellate the distinguished Gentleman from the Sixth District of Manila, continuing with our organization of the House, may I move for an omnibus motion for the election of the following House Members to the particular committees/commission:

Committee on Agriculture and Food

1. Rep. Victor E. Agbayani
2. Rep. Edgardo M. Chatto
3. Rep. Faysah R.P.M. Dumarpa
4. Rep. Proceso J. Alcala
5. Rep. Diosdado Macapagal Arroyo
6. Rep. Robert Raymund M. Estrella
7. Rep. Nicanor M. Briones
8. Rep. Rosendo "Dodoy" S. Labadlabad

Committee on Foreign Affairs

1. Rep. Roque R. Ablan Jr.
2. Rep. Al Francis D. Bichara
3. Rep. Orlando B. Fua
4. Rep. Jaime C. Lopez
5. Rep. Nerissa Corazon Soon-Ruiz
6. Rep. Ann K. Hofer
7. Rep. Lorna C. Silverio
8. Rep. Teodoro L. Locsin Jr.

Commission on Appointments

1. Rep. Rodolfo "Ompong" G. Plaza

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Minority Leader is recognized.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBER TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

REP. ZAMORA (R.). In behalf of the minority, may I move for the election of an additional member to the Committee on Rules, as follows: the Honorable Liza Largoza Maza.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). Is there

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

REP. VILLANUEVA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Honorable Villanueva is recognized.

REP. VILLANUEVA. May I know if this Representation will be allowed by the Speaker and the distinguished Gentleman to ask clarificatory questions?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). What will the Gentleman from Manila say?

REP. ABANTE. I would accede, Mr. Speaker. I just would like to find out if we have time to suspend the session for a while so that these Bibles can be given by our pages.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The session is suspended.

*It was 6:58 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 6:59 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The session is resumed.

REP. ABANTE. Mr. Speaker, can we ask the Deputy Speaker to please descend from the rostrum to just formally let the chairman of the PBS hand the first Bible to him.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson E.). The session is suspended.

*It was 6:59 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 7:03 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The session is resumed.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Honorable Villanueva from the Party-List Cibac.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The Honorable Villanueva is recognized.

REP. SUSANO. Mr. Speaker, point of order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). What is the point of order?

REP. SUSANO. May we know if we have a quorum?

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The session is suspended.

*It was 7:03 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 7:03 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The session is resumed.

The Sr. Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

REP. SUSANO. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson, E.). The session is adjourned until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

*It was 7:04 p.m.*

