



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 15th CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Vol. 1

Monday, July 26, 2010

No. 1

OPENING OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

At 10:00 a.m., the Presiding Officer, Secretary General Marilyn B. Barua-Yap, called the session to order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). Honorable Members of the House of Representatives, today is the fourth Monday of July 2010. This is the day mandated by the Constitution for Congress to convene and commence the First Regular Session of the Fifteenth Congress of the Republic of the Philippines.

Pursuant to established parliamentary rules and procedure, I hereby call the First Regular Session of the House of Representatives of the Fifteenth Congress to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). Please rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem to be led by the House Chorale.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). Please remain standing for the Invocation to be delivered by the Hon. Maria Zenaida B. Angping, Representative of the Third District of Manila.

Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

REP. ANGPING. Let us bow our heads and pray.
Lord God, most merciful and Almighty Father, we thank You for this day, we thank You for this occasion, the commencement of this Fifteenth Congress and the opportunity to serve our country and our people in Your name.

We seek Your blessing and Your grace. Grant each of us the wisdom to determine what is good for our people by way of legislation. Grant us the strength to forego our personal interests so we may better serve the greater good. Grant us the wisdom to discern what is right and just. Lord, grant us the humility to understand and accept our limitations.

We recognize and appreciate that You have given us this opportunity to move forward. We understand, O Lord, that this cannot be possible without Your compassionate intervention. We are grateful that all things come from You.

Bless us all, the Representatives of the people, that we may find joy in our work even in the most difficult situations. Bless our new leadership in this Fifteenth Congress that they may assist You in leading and guiding us towards the right path. Bless the Secretariat and all those who shall assist us in our work, that they may always be patient, understanding and persevering. Bless our people, Lord, that they may always remember to thank You for the blessings that You bestow on them. Bless our country that it may achieve prosperity and progress. Shine Your light upon us O Lord, that we may be worthy of Your love and mercy. We offer You our time and talent. May our service in this Fifteenth Congress always be accomplished in Your name. With your grace, we shall perform our duties and serve our country and our people in the way that you have ordained.

Everything is yours, O Lord, we are your stewards.
Amen.

ROLL CALL

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

The Deputy Secretary General called the roll and the result is as follows, per Journal No. 1:

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

Honorable Congressmen and Congresswomen:

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

CALOOCAN CITY

First District

Hon. Oscar G. Malapitan

Second District

Hon. Mary Mitzi L. Cajayon

LAS PIÑAS CITY

Lone District

Hon. Mark A. Villar

MAKATI CITY

First District

Hon. Monique Yazmin M.Q. Lagdameo

Second District

Hon. Mar-Len Abigail S. Binay

MALABON CITY

Lone District

Hon. Josephine V.R. Lacson-Noel

MANDALUYONG CITY

Lone District

Hon. Neptali M. Gonzales II

THE CITY OF MANILA

First District

Hon. Benjamin D. Asilo

Second District

Hon. Carlo V. Lopez

Third District

Hon. Maria Zenaida B. Angping

Fourth District

Hon. Ma. Theresa B. Bonoan-David

Fifth District

Hon. Amado S. Bagatsing

Sixth District

Hon. Rosenda Ann. M. Ocampo

MARIKINA CITY

First District

Hon. Marcelino "Marcy" R. Teodoro

Second District

Hon. Romero Federico S. Quimbo

MUNTINLUPA CITY

Lone District

Hon. Rodolfo G. Biazon

NAVOTAS CITY

Lone District

Hon. Tobias Reynald M. Tiangco

PARAÑAQUE CITY

First District

Hon. Edwin D. Olivarez

Second District

Hon. Roilo S. Golez

PASAY CITY

Lone District

Hon. Imelda G. Calixto-Rubiano

PASIG CITY

Lone District

Hon. Roman T. Romulo

QUEZON CITY

First District

Hon. Vincent "Bingbong" P. Crisologo

Second District

Hon. Winston T. Castelo

Third District

Hon. Jorge John R. Banal Jr.

Fourth District

Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr.

(Applause)

SAN JUAN CITY

Lone District

Hon. Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

TAGUIG CITY-PATEROS

First District

Hon. Arnel M. Cerafica

Second District

Hon. Sigfrido R. Tinga

VALENZUELA CITY

First District

Hon. Rex T. Gatchalian

Second District

Hon. Magtanggol T. Gunigundo

CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (CAR)

ABRA

Lone District

Hon. Maria Jocelyn V. Bernos

APAYAO

Lone District

Hon. Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang

BENGUET

Lone District

Hon. Ronald M. Cosalan

BAGUIO

Lone District

Hon. Bernardo M. Vergara

IFUGAO

Lone District

Hon. Teodoro B. Baguilat Jr.

KALINGA

Lone District

Hon. Manuel S. Agyao

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

Lone District

Hon. Maximo B. Dalog

REGION I

ILOCOS NORTE (WITH THE CITY OF LAOAG)

First District

Hon. Rodolfo C. Fariñas

Second District

Hon. Imelda R. Marcos

ILOCOS SUR (WITH THE CITIES OF VIGAN AND CANDON)

First District

Hon. Ronaldo V. Singson**

Second District

Hon. Eric G. Singson Jr.

* Absent with notice

** Absent without notice

LA UNION

First District
Hon. Victor Ortega
Second District
Hon. Euranio C. Eriguel

PANGASINAN

First District
Hon. Jesus "Boying" F. Celeste
Second District
Hon. Leopoldo N. Bataoil
Third District
Hon. Ma. Rachel J. Arenas
Fourth District
Hon. Ma. Georgina P. De Venecia
Fifth District
Hon. Carmen S. Cojuangco
Sixth District
Hon. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas

REGION II

BATANES

Lone District
Hon. Henedina R. Abad

CAGAYAN

First District
Hon. Juan C. Ponce-Enrile Jr.
Second District
Third District
Hon. Randolph S. Ting

ISABELA

First District
Hon. Rodolfo B. Albano
Second District
Hon. Ana Cristina S. Go
Third District
Hon. Napoleon S. Dy
Fourth District
Hon. Giorgidi B. Aggabao

NUEVA VIZCAYA

Lone District
Hon. Carlos M. Padilla

QUIRINO

Lone District
Hon. Dakila Carlo E. Cua

REGION III

AURORA

Lone District
Hon. Juan Edgardo M. Angara

BATAAN

First District
Hon. Herminia B. Roman

Second District

Hon. Albert Raymond S. Garcia

BULACAN

First District
Second District
Hon. Pedro M. Pancho
Third District
Hon. Joselito Andrew R. Mendoza
Fourth District
Hon. Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY

Lone District
Hon. Arturo B. Robes

NUEVAECIJA

First District
Hon. Josefina M. Joson
Second District
Hon. Joseph Gilbert F. Violago
Third District
Hon. Czarina D. Umali
Fourth District
Hon. Rodolfo W. Antonino

PAMPANGA

First District
Hon. Carmelo F. Lazatin
Second District
Hon. Gloria M. Macapagal-Arroyo*
Third District
Hon. Aurelio D. Gonzales Jr.
Fourth District
Hon. Anna York P. Bondoc

TARLAC

First District
Hon. Enrique M. Cojuangco
Second District
Hon. Susan A. Yap
Third District
Hon. Jeci A. Lapus

ZAMBALES

First District
Hon. Maria Milagros H. Magsaysay
Second District
Hon. Antonio M. Diaz

REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)

BATANGAS

First District
Hon. Tomas V. Apacible
Second District
Hon. Hermilando I. Mandanas
Third District
Hon. Nelson P. Collantes
Fourth District
Hon. Mark Llandro L. Mendoza

* Absent with notice

** Absent without notice

CAVITE

First District

Hon. Joseph Emilio A. Abaya

Second District

Hon. Lani M. Revilla

Third District

Hon. Erineo S. Maliksi

Fourth District

Hon. Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr.

Fifth District

Hon. Roy M. Loyola

Sixth District

Hon. Antonio A. Ferrer

Seventh District

Hon. Jesus Crispin C. Remulla

LAGUNA

First District

Hon. Danilo Ramon S. Fernandez

Second District

Hon. Justin Marc S. Chipeco

Third District

Hon. Maria Evita R. Arago

Fourth District

Hon. Edgar S. San Luis

QUEZON (WITH THE CITY OF LUCENA)

First District

Hon. Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga

Second District

Hon. Irvin M. Alcala

Third District

Hon. Danilo E. Suarez

Fourth District

Hon. Lorenzo R. Tañada III

RIZAL

First District

Hon. Joey Roy R. Duavit

Second District

Hon. Isidro S. Rodriguez Jr.

ANTIPOLO CITY

First District

Hon. Roberto V. Puno

Second District

Hon. Romeo M. Acop

REGION IV – B

MARINDUQUE

Lone District

Hon. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

Lone District

Hon. Ma. Amelita C. Villarosa

ORIENTAL MINDORO (WITH THE CITY OF CALAPAN)

First District

Hon. Rodolfo G. Valencia

Second District

Hon. Reynaldo V. Umali

PALAWAN (WITH THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA)

First District

Hon. Antonio C. Alvarez

Second District

Hon. Victorino Dennis M. Socrates

ROMBLON

Lone District

Hon. Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona

ALBAY (WITH THE CITIES OF LEGASPI, LIGAO AND TABACO)

First District

Hon. Edcel C. Lagman

Second District

Hon. Al Francis C. Bichara

Third District

Hon. Fernando V. Gonzalez

CAMARINES NORTE

First District

Hon. Renato J. Unico Jr.

Second District

Hon. Elmer E. Panotes

CAMARINES SUR (WITH THE CITIES OF NAGA AND IRIGA)

First District

Hon. Rolando G. Andaya Jr.

Second District

Hon. Diosdado Ignacio M. Arroyo

Third District

Hon. Luis R. Villafuerte

Fourth District

Hon. Arnulfo P. Fuentebella

Fifth District

Hon. Salvio B. Fortuno

CATANDUANES

Lone District

Hon. Cesar V. Sarmiento

MASBATE (WITH THE CITY OF MASBATE)

First District

Hon. Narciso R. Bravo Jr.

Second District

Hon. Antonio T. Kho

Third District

Hon. Scott Davies S. Lanete

SORSOGON (WITH THE CITY OF SORSOGON)

First District

Hon. Salvador H. Escudero III

Second District

Hon. Deogracias B. Ramos Jr.

* Absent with notice

** Absent without notice

REGION VI

AKLAN

Lone District
Hon. Florencio T. Miraflores

ANTIQUE

Lone District
Hon. Paolo Everardo S. Javier

CAPIZ (WITH THE CITY OF ROXAS)

First District
Hon. Antonio A. Del Rosario
Second District
Hon. Jane T. Castro

GUIMARAS

Lone District
Hon. Joaquin Carlos Rahman A. Nava, MD

ILOILO (WITH THE CITY OF PASSI)

First District
Hon. Janette L. Garin
Second District
Hon. Augusto L. Syjuco Jr.
Third District
Hon. Arthur R. Defensor Jr.
Fourth District
Hon. Ferjenel "Ferj" G. Biron, MD
Fifth District
Hon. Niel "Junjun" C. Tupas Jr.

ILOILO CITY

Lone District
Hon. Jerry P. Treñas

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL (WITH THE CITIES OF SAN CARLOS, CADIZ, BAGO, LA CARLOTA, SILAY, KABANKALAN, SAGAY, VICTORIA, ESCALANTE, SIPALAY AND HIMAMAYLAN)

First District
Hon. Julio A. Ledesma IV**
Second District
Hon. Alfredo "Thirdy" D. Maraño III
Third District
Hon. Alfredo Abelardo B. Benitez
Fourth District
Hon. Jeffrey "Jeff" P. Ferrer
Fifth District
Hon. Ignacio "Iggy" T. Arroyo Jr.
Sixth District
Hon. Mercedes K. Alvarez

BACOLODCITY

Lone District
Hon. Anthony Rolando T. Golez Jr.

REGION VII BOHOL (WITH THE CITY OF TAGBILARAN)

First District
Hon. Rene L. Relampagos

Second District

Hon. Erico B. Aumentado

Third District

Hon. Arthur C. Yap

CEBU

First District

Hon. Eduardo R. Gullas

Second District

Hon. Pablo P. Garcia

Third District

Hon. Pablo John F. Garcia

Fourth District

Hon. Benhur L. Salimbangon

Fifth District

Hon. Ramon "Red" H. Durano VI

Sixth District

Hon. Gabriel L.R. Quisumbing

CEBU CITY

First District

Hon. Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar

Second District

Hon. Tomas D. Osmeña

LAPU LAPU CITY

Lone District

Hon. Arturo O. Radaza

NEGROS ORIENTAL

First District

Hon. Jocelyn S. Limkaichong

Second District

Hon. George P. Arnaiz

Third District

Hon. Pryde Henry A. Teves

SIQUIJOR

Lone District

Hon. Orlando B. Fua

REGION VIII

BILIRAN

Lone District

Hon. Rogelio J. Espina

EASTERN SAMAR

Lone District

Hon. Ben P. Evardone

LEYTE

First District

Hon. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez

Second District

Hon. Sergio A.F. Apostol

Third District

Hon. Andres D. Salvacion Jr.

Fourth District

Hon. Lucy T. Gomez

* Absent with notice

** Absent without notice

Fifth District
Hon. Jose Carlos L. Cari

NORTHERN SAMAR

First District
Hon. Raul A. Daza
Second District
Hon. Emil L. Ong

WESTERN SAMAR

First District
Hon. Mel Senen S. Sarmiento
Second District
Hon. Milagrosa T. Tan

SOUTHERN LEYTE

Lone District
Hon. Roger Gaviola Mercado

REGION IX

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

First District
Hon. Seth F.P. Jalosjos
Second District
Hon. Rosendo S. Labadlabad
Third District
Hon. Cesar G. Jalosjos

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

First District
Hon. Victor J. Yu
Second District
Hon. Aurora E. Cerilles

ZAMBOANGA CITY

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

ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY

First District
Hon. Jonathan C. Yambao
Second District
Hon. Romeo M. Jalosjos Jr.

REGION X

BUKIDNON

First District
Hon. Jesus Emmanuel M. Paras
Second District
Hon. Florencio T. Flores Jr.
Third District
Hon. Jose Ma. F. Zubiri III

CAMIGUIN

Lone District
Hon. Pedro P. Romualdo

LANAO DEL NORTE

First District
Hon. Imelda Q. Dimaporo
Second District
Hon. Fatima Aliah Q. Dimaporo

ILIGAN CITY

Lone District
Hon. Vicente F. Belmonte Jr.

MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL

First District
Hon. Jorge T. Almonte
Second District
Hon. Loreto Leo S. Ocampo

MISAMIS ORIENTAL

First District
Hon. Peter M. Unabia
Second District
Hon. Yevgeny Vicente B. Emano

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

First District
Hon. Jose Benjamin A. Benaldo
Second District
Hon. Rufus B. Rodriguez

REGION XI

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

First District
Hon. Maria Carmen Zamora-Apsay
Second District
Hon. Rommel C. Amatong

DAVAO ORIENTAL

First District
Hon. Nelson L. Dayanghirang
Second District
Hon. Thelma Z. Almario

DAVAO DEL NORTE

First District
Hon. Antonio Rafael G. Del Rosario*
Second District
Hon. Antonio F. Lagdameo Jr.

DAVAO DEL SUR

First District
Hon. Marc Douglas C. Cagas IV
Second District
Hon. Franklin P. Bautista

DAVAO CITY

First District
Hon. Karlo Alexei B. Nograles
Second District
Hon. Mylene J. Garcia-Albano

* Absent with notice

** Absent without notice

Third District
Hon. Isidro T. Ungab

REGION XII

NORTH COTABATO

First District
Hon. Jesus N. Sacdalan
Second District
Hon. Nancy A. Catamco

SARANGANI

Lone District
Hon. Emmanuel D. Pacquiao

SOUTH COTABATO

First District
Hon. Pedro B. Acharon Jr.
Second District
Hon. Daisy A. Fuentes

SULTAN KUDARAT

First District
Hon. Raden C. Sakaluran
Second District
Hon. Arnulfo F. Go

CARAGA REGION

AGUSAN DEL NORTE

First District
Hon. Jose S. Aquino II
Second District
Hon. Angelica M. Amante

AGUSAN DEL SUR

First District
Hon. Maria Valentina G. Plaza
Second District
Hon. Evelyn P. Mellana

SURIGAO DEL NORTE

First District
Hon. Francisco T. Matugas
Second District
Hon. Guillermo A. Romarate Jr.

SURIGAO DEL SUR

First District
Hon. Philip A. Pichay
Second District
Hon. Florencio C. Garay

DINAGAT ISLAND

Lone District
Hon. Ruben B. Ecleo Jr.

AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO

BASILAN

Lone District
Hon. Hadjiman S. Hataman-Salliman

LANAODEL SUR

Second District
Hon. Pangalian M. Balindong

MAGUINDANAO

First District
Hon. Bai Sandra A. Sema
Second District
Hon. Simeon A. Datumanong

SULU SULU

First District
Hon. Tupay T. Loong
Second District
Hon. Nur-Ana I. Sahidulla

TAWI-TAWI

Lone District
Hon. Nur G. Jaafar

PARTY-LISTS

DEMOCRATIC INDEPENDENT WORKERS ASSOCIATION
(DIWA)

Hon. Emmeline Y. Aglipay

AGBIAG

Hon. Patricio Antonio

COALITION OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES,
INC.

Hon. Godofredo V. Arquiza

AKBAYAN

Hon. Arlene J. Bag-ao
Hon. Walden F. Bello

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ALLIANCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Hon. Nicanor M. Briones

KAPATIRAN NG MGA NAKULONG NA WALANG SALA
(KAKUSA)

Hon. Ranulfo P. Canonigo

BAYAN MUNA

Hon. Teodoro A. Casiño
Hon. Neri J. Colmenares

GABRIELA

Hon. Emerenciana De Jesus

ABONO

Hon. Robert Raymund M. Estrella

KALINGA

Hon. Abigail Faye Ferriol

BUTIL

Hon. Agapito H. Guanlao

KASANGGA SA KAUNLARAN, INC.

Hon. Teodorico D. Haresco Jr.

* Absent with notice

** Absent without notice

BAGONG HENERASYON

Hon. Bernadette R. Herrera-Dy

GABRIELA

Hon. Luzviminda C. Ilagan

COALITION OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE PHIL. INC.

Hon. David Kho

ARTS, BUSINESS AND SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS

Hon. Catalina Leonen-Pizarro

YOU AGAINST CORRUPTION AND POVERTY

Hon. Carol Jayne B. Lopez

ANG GALING PINOY

Hon. Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo

ALLIANCE OF VOLUNTEER EDUCATORS (AVE)

Hon. Eulogio "Amang" R. Magsaysay

ALAGAD

Hon. Rodante D. Marcoleta

ANAKPAWIS

Hon. Rafael V. Mariano

TUCP

Hon. Raymond D. Mendoza

AN WARAY

Hon. Neil Benedict A. Montejo

Hon. Florencio G. Noel

UNAANG PAMILYA

Hon. Reena Concepcion G. Obillo

ABONO

Hon. Francisco Emmanuel R. Ortega III

COOP-NATCCO NETWORK

Hon. Cresente C. Paez

Hon. Jose R. Ping-Ay

KABATAAN

Hon. Raymond V. Palatino

AGHAM

Hon. Angelo B. Palmones

ABANTE MINDANAO

Hon. Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr.

PUWERSANG BAYANING ATLETA

Hon. Mark Aeron H. Sambar, and

ACT TEACHERS

Hon. Dante Antonio L. Tinio

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa), Mme.

Presiding Officer, there are 260 Members who have responded to the call.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). Honorable Members of the House of Representatives, the total membership of the House is 262 to date. The untimely passing of the Hon. Florencio L. Vargas of the Second District of Cagayan leaves the total membership to 261. There being 260 Members who responded to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

To ensure orderly proceedings, the Chair designates the Hon. Neptali M. Gonzales II of the Lone District of Mandaluyong as acting Floor Leader.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that we now open the table for nominations for the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives.

I so move.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). There is a motion to open the table for nominations for the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; nominations for the position of Speaker of the House are now in order.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that the Gentleman from the First District of Cavite, Hon. Joseph Emilio A. Abaya, be recognized to make his nomination.

I so move.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Gentleman from the First District of Cavite, Hon. Joseph Emilio A. Abaya, is recognized.

NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. ABAYA

REP. ABAYA. Thank you, Mme. Presiding Officer.

Mme. Presiding Officer, colleagues in the House of Representatives, after years of selfish politics that have left our people neglected, hopeless and miserable, the people saw the last elections as a defining moment in our nation's history. It gave them a reason to be hopeful again. The election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives should not be any different. We may come from diverse backgrounds and have different stories to tell but we share the same aspirations and dreams.

This endeavor is not about being yellow, orange, green or red. It is about choosing a leader capable of uniting us based on a shared past and bringing us together in confronting the challenging future ahead.

The next Speaker is known as a turn-around expert, possessing the extraordinary capability of transforming organizations in a rut into successful enterprises. This Representation is confident that the Speaker will likewise lead the House in helping turn our country around and putting it back on the right track.

The next Speaker has the unique privilege of having served the House, first, as a Minority Leader and eventually, as its Speaker. The next Speaker understands fully well the responsibilities of the Majority and the Minority and more

* Absent with notice

** Absent without notice

importantly, the next Speaker recognizes the vital role that a vigilant Minority plays in a vibrant democracy.

It has indeed been quite a few years or even decades since a member of the Liberal Party has had the opportunity to nominate a fellow Liberal to the Speakership of the House of Representatives with a definite chance of making it. It is, therefore, this Representation's distinct honor, and an equal honor for the people of the historic province of Cavite, to nominate the next Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Mme. Presiding Officer, in the spirit of pushing forth the promise to our people, "Kung walang corrupt, walang mahirap," it is with humility that this Representation respectfully nominates Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. for Speaker (*Applause*) of the House of Representatives of the Fifteenth Congress.

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

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that the Lady from Bagong Henerasyon Party-List, Hon. Bernadette R. Herrera-Dy, be recognized to second the nomination.

I so move.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Lady from Bagong Henerasyon Party-List, Hon. Bernadette R. Herrera-Dy, is recognized.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Presiding Officer, I second the nomination of the very outstanding public servant whom I call the "Miracle Man" not just of Quezon City, but of all the agencies he has handled, Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. from the Fourth District of Quezon City. (*Applause*)

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that the Gentleman from the Third District of Camarines Sur, Hon. Arnulfo P. Fuentebella, be recognized to second the nomination.

I so move.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Gentleman from the Third District of Camarines Sur, Hon. Arnulfo P. Fuentebella, is recognized.

REP. FUENTEBELLA. Mme. Presiding Officer, may I just correct for the record that I am representing the Fourth District of Camarines Sur.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). We beg the Gentleman's indulgence.

REP. FUENTEBELLA. Not the Third District.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The Gentleman from the Fourth District of Camarines Sur, Hon. Arnulfo P. Fuentebella.

REP. FUENTEBELLA. Thank you.

Knowing the capability and the ability of Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. to lead this Chamber, I respectfully second the nomination of this Gentleman as Speaker of the Fifteenth Congress, House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that the Gentleman from the First District of Camarines Sur, the Hon. Rolando G. Andaya Jr., be recognized to second the nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Gentleman from the First District of Camarines Sur, the Hon. Rolando G. Andaya Jr., is recognized.

REP. ANDAYA. Thank you, Mme. Presiding Officer.

The First District of Camarines Sur would like to second the nomination of the Gentleman from Quezon City for Speaker of this House for a variety of reasons. Let me, however, just cite few. As a former Minority Leader, he would value the view of those on the other side of the aisle and, thus, let the force of reason and not of numbers carry the day for proposals that will be presented in this marketplace of ideas. As a former Mayor, he would be the voice of the grassroots and champion the causes of those in the frontlines of public service. As a former reporter, he might just be able to finally capture a trait that has eluded this House so far and that is of having a good press, not through spin, but through the substance of its work. As a former congressional employee, for he worked as an assistant to the great Claro M. Recto, he would know how to harness the talents of our co-workers and how to reward them because meritorious service should not go unrequited. As a lawyer, he will assert the constitutionally-ordained primacy of Congress over the rest of the branches of government and so, we end up not as a subsidiary of another or under constant receivership of a co-equal.

Mme. Presiding Officer, it is my honor to nominate Feliciano Belmonte Jr., the son of Baguio, Bicol, Nueva Ecija and Quezon City, whose lifelong career has been to uphold liberties, (*Applause*) to fight for democracy, decency and competence in public service, as Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Fifteenth Congress.

Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that the Gentleman from the Seventh District of Cavite, the Hon. Jesus Crispin C. Remulla, be recognized to second the nomination.

I so move.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Gentleman from the Seventh District of Cavite, the Hon. Jesus Crispin C. Remulla, is recognized.

REP. REMULLA. Mme. Presiding Officer, we have heard so much this morning about the traits of the man from the Fourth District of Quezon City, who is about to be elected as Speaker. From the Seventh District of Cavite, I hereby second the nomination of Feliciano Belmonte Jr. to be the Speaker of the House of the Fifteenth Congress. I so second the motion. (*Applause*)

REP. GONZALES (N.). Last to second the nomination, Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that the Gentleman from the First District of Quezon City, the Hon. Vincent P. Crisologo, be recognized.

I so move.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Gentleman from the First District of Quezon City, the Hon. Vincent P. Crisologo, is recognized.

REP. CRISOLOGO. Thank you. Mme. Presiding Officer, distinguished colleagues of this honorable Chamber, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I rise to second the nomination for Speaker of this Chamber, a man of destiny, a leader of change for the better. As a city councilor for two terms in the First District of Quezon City and as the Representative of Congress of the same district for the past six years, I had been privileged to work with this distinguished nominee when he was still the Mayor of Quezon City for the past nine years. Indeed, many of us here, whether permanent or temporary residents of Quezon City, have seen the transformation of this great city. From a debt of two billion pesos when he assumed the mayorship of Quezon City, within two years, he was able to erase the debt. Now, after nine years, he left his legacy in Quezon City—a healthy financial situation with a surplus of, more or less, eight billion pesos every year without any debt incurred, resulting in the cementing of many roads and highways and the building of new day care centers, health centers, police stations, school buildings and a very modern public hospital. What this great and honorable gentleman did for Quezon City, I believe and I am sure, he can duplicate for our nation in line with the program of His Excellency, President Benigno Aquino III, in terms of legislation and oversight of said program when elected as the Speaker of this honorable House. A leader of tested courage, principles and conviction, an outstanding Filipino of great integrity, wisdom and vision, a trailblazer who has brought great transformation to this great city of Quezon City and to our nation, a Filipino who has elevated the hopes of our people as well as our quest for social justice, it is my honor and privilege, therefore, to second the nomination of the Representative from the Fourth District of Quezon City, the Hon. Feliciano “Sonny” Belmonte Jr., as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Fifteenth Congress. *(Applause)*

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mme. Presiding Chair, I move that the Gentleman from the First District of Isabela, the Hon. Rodolfo B. Albano, be recognized to make his nomination.

I so move.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Gentleman from the First District of Isabela, the Hon. Rodolfo B. Albano, is recognized.

NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. ALBANO

REP. ALBANO. Mme. Presiding Officer, my esteemed colleagues:

I rise today, as a proud party-man to speak of a colleague in the Lakas-Kampi-CMD who should have long wielded the gavel in this august assembly.

Having dedicatedly served the Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Congresses, he is no doubt a veteran parliamentarian of nearly two decades with a string of sterling accomplishments; hence, his having been consistently chosen Outstanding Congressman from 1987 to 1998 and from 2004 to 2010.

He was the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations during the First Regular Session of the Fourteenth Congress; Deputy Majority Leader and Chairman of the Committee on Overseas Workers’ Affairs in the Thirteenth Congress; Chairman of the Committee on Justice in the Tenth Congress; Senior Deputy Minority Leader in the Ninth and Tenth Congresses; and Chairman of the Committee on Agrarian Reform in the Eighth Congress.

He went back to full-time law practice for workers and unions when his daughter, former Congresswoman Krisel Lagman-Luistro, now Mayor of Tabaco City, was the Representative of the First Congressional District of Albay in the Eleventh and Twelfth Congresses.

When I first worked with him in the Eighth Congress, he was a neophyte Member of this Chamber who worked and debated on the floor like a seasoned legislator, exuding extraordinary self-confidence and intellectual prowess as he delivered swift, witty and sharp arguments and meaningful repartees even to the most senior Members of the House.

I remember interpellating him as he defended the General Appropriations Bill for nearly five hours, being the Minority Leader, testing not only the validity and merit of the budgetary allocations and his knowledge of the proposed vital law, but his mettle as well. To my amazement, as then Minority Leader, he passed the test with flying colors and would repeatedly and consistently display such inimitable character as a lawmaker.

This legislator epitomizes the dual role of a Member of Congress as a lawmaker and a leader in public opinion formation. He has principally authored and expertly pushed the enactment of Republic Act No. 6657, the original Comprehensive Land Reform Law; Republic Act No. 8532, which further strengthened the CARP by providing augmentation funds; Republic Act No. 9700, which extended the CARP and institutionalized necessary reforms; Republic Act No. 7160, increasing the Internal Revenue Allotment to enable local government units, particularly the barangays, to address the basic needs of their constituents; General Appropriations Acts, which institutionalized the increased allowances of barangay officials and the granting and subsequently increasing of the Personnel Emergency Relief Allowance, popularly known as PERA, to government employees; several statutes which granted wage increases to private employees; Republic Act No. 9346, which abolished the death penalty; and Republic Act No. 9745, which penalizes torture as a special crime among other landmark legislations.

His almost two decades-long career as a legislator is even more exemplary and admirable because he was, remarkably, an active member of almost every bicameral conference committee on measures of national significance. Verily, in virtually every Congress since 1987, whether he was in the Minority or in the Majority, the House leadership valued his inputs and placed a great premium on his abilities.

As a lawmaker, he believes in adequate consultations with all stakeholders, more particularly with non-government representatives of affected sectors, both directly through dialogues and public hearings and various fora, and indirectly through mass media.

As Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations in 2007, he was the first to give civil society and NGOs the opportunity to appear in public hearings to present an “alternative

budget.” Many of their proposals were enshrined in the General Appropriations Act for 2008.

His press statements carried by print, broadcast and electronic media truly educate the public and contribute to the formation of informed public opinion on different issues. This, he believes, democratizes policymaking and makes the Congress Members more responsive to their local and national constituencies.

However, as a leader not only of the First Congressional District of Albay but of the nation as a whole, he truly knows how and when to listen, hear and heed the people. On controversial issues of national significance, he is not afraid to take an unpopular stance and be able to rise above the din and ruckus of contrary and conflicting voices, even as he remains respectful of the right to dissent and constructive criticism.

This statesman and consensus builder always endeavors to strike a balance between stability and change, and between accommodation and confrontation. His continuing espousal of controversial advocacies such as reproductive health and population and development; full implementation of agricultural land acquisition and distribution; living wage and timely wage increases and other benefits for both government and private sector employees; repeal of automatic appropriation for debt service; congressional review and audit of fraud-tainted loans; and government accountability for human rights violations, among others, inevitably makes him rub some individuals and groups the wrong way. But he also does not think twice of going along with them for he actually recognizes that effective governance, more particularly in policymaking, demands principled legislative compromise, reasonable accommodation, enduring harmony and productive cooperation.

Mme. Presiding Officer, distinguished colleagues, it is my pride and honor to nominate for Speaker of the House of Representatives, a nationalist statesman, a defender of the oppressed and marginalized, a highly respected senior Member of this institution, well-admired by many House employees, well-loved by the Bicolanos, the six-term Representative of the First Congressional District of Albay, the Hon. Edcel Castelar Lagman. *(Applause)*

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that the Gentleman from the Third District of Quezon, the Hon. Danilo E. Suarez, be recognized to make his nomination. I so move.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Gentleman from the Third District of Quezon, Hon. Danilo E. Suarez, is recognized.

NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. SUAREZ

REP. SUAREZ. Mme. Presiding Officer, honorable Members of this august Chamber, I rise not to add a postscript to the nomination speech of the Gentleman from Isabela, but to salute a party-mate who has been endorsed by the Lakas-Kampi-CMD to bid for the Speakership.

Mme. Presiding Officer, one of the most observed and enduring traditions of legislatures is the seniority rule. As a corollary, deference to seniors is not ascribed; it is achieved and deserved.

Lakas-Kampi-CMD's candidate for Speaker is one of the most senior Members of the House of Representatives—a six-termer or twice a third-termer. His multiple-term legislative career has undoubtedly helped him hone his knowledge and expertise in lawmaking, even as it has enabled him to forge a meaningful partnership with various agencies of the government.

Indeed, he never tires of soliciting inputs and welcoming recommendations from other government institutions and authorities that can enhance policy-making.

Throughout his tenure in this House, he has invariably shown the three C's of a legislative crusader: commitment, competence and consistency. He has been unwavering in his commitment to craft and push for the enactment of development-oriented and pro-poor legislation which he has steadfastly pursued, using all relevant knowledge and skills.

It is seldom for a dedicated party man to go beyond partisan preferences. This party-mate is a rarity. When he was the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, everyone got his or her rightful share of budgetary allocations regardless of party affiliation. Moreover, he saw to it that government funds would support the proper priority projects of both the Majority and the Minority from the metros to the remote sitios.

As a staunch advocate of social justice, he has consistently appropriated a considerably large chunk of his PDAF to government hospitals to make medical care more accessible to those who have less in life and therefore, deserve more assistance from the government.

Another principal beneficiary of his PDAF is the education sector, to adhere to the constitutional mandate of giving highest priority to education.

In his two decades in the government, both in the Executive and Legislative departments, his integrity has remained untainted and unassailable.

He seeks your support in his aspiration to transform this House into a truly independent and proactive institution and to propagate his credo of “more service, less politics; more principles, less propaganda; more accomplishments, less promises.”

Mme. Presiding Officer, my esteemed colleagues, it is my distinct honor to nominate the Gentleman from Albay, Hon. Edcel C. Lagman, for Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Thank you. *(Applause)*

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that the Gentleman from the Second District of Iloilo, Hon. Augusto L. Syjuco Jr., be recognized to second the nomination.

I so move.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Gentleman from Second District of Iloilo, Hon. Augusto L. Syjuco Jr, is recognized.

REP. SYJUCO. Thank you, Mme. Presiding Officer.

Mme. Presiding Officer and esteemed colleagues, Your Honors, it is my distinct privilege to second the nomination of Rep. Edcel C. Lagman as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The eldest son of a public school teacher in Albay and a practicing lawyer, Representative Lagman values a good education immensely. He himself acquired more than appropriate academic grounding in the country's premiere

university, graduating with an AB degree, *cum laude* and, subsequently, an LL.B. He rounded out his UP education by becoming an active student leader even as he was a consistent scholar.

As a practicing lawyer, he drew from his experiences from his UP education and training and mobilized them in his legal battles, most of which he handily won. His law practice was an exemplary practice and one dedicated to the marginalized and disadvantaged workers.

Today, he is regarded as one of the best legal minds in Congress.

Now, he is immersed in the legislature. But his maiden voyage in government service, after the EDSA People Power Revolution, was with the executive branch as Deputy Budget Minister of then President Corazon Aquino. His experience in the Budget Ministry was to presage his later chairmanship of the Appropriations Committee in Congress.

As a legislator, Edcel has proved to be independent—so fiercely independent that his views were sometimes at variance with those of his own party-mates and close associates. But his party-mates and friends have always respected his independent views on various issues.

Another admirable quality of Representative Lagman is his tenacity. What he advocates, he pursues from start to finish. He is tenacious to the point of assiduousness. What he carries on, he carries out. But he is quite pragmatic and respectful of others' opinions. If he cannot fully commence or convince and persuade his colleagues to the first best course of action, he is always prepared to settle for the second best, saying that settling for the second best is preferable to an outright abandonment of a crusade; and the second best he would say and support and eventually steer to the premier position.

I reiterate my secondment of the motion to nominate Rep. Edcel C. Lagman as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mme. Presiding Officer, there being no other nominations for the position of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, I now move that the table for nominations be closed.

I so move.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). There is a motion to close the table for nominations to the position of the Speaker of the House.

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

Before we proceed further, may we correct for the record that 257 Members, rather than 260, responded to the roll call this morning.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that we now proceed with the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

I so move.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). There is a motion to proceed to the election of the Speaker of the House.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the election of the Speaker is now in order.

The Deputy Secretary General for Operations will now call the roll of Members of the House of Representatives. Every Member is requested to state the name of the candidate he or she is voting for upon being called.

ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa). Roll call vote for the election of the Speaker.

Honorable Congressmen and Congresswomen:

Abad

Abaya

Acharon

Acop

REP. ACOP. I vote for Belmonte.

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

Aggabao

Aglipay

Agyao

Albano

Alcala

Almario

Almonte

REP. ALMONTE. I vote for Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr.

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

Alvarez, Antonio C.

REP. ALVAREZ. Belmonte

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

Alvarez, Mercedes K.

Amante

Amatong

REP. AMATONG. I vote for Belmonte.

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

Andaya

Angara

Angping

Antonino, Rodolfo W.

REP. ANTONINO. Mme. Presiding Officer, would I be entitled to explain my vote?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). Under parliamentary practice and procedure, we do not explain the vote for the Speaker, honorable Gentleman.

REP. ANTONINO (R.). In that case, I would probably just explain it in writing, but I vote for Speaker Belmonte.

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

Antonio
Apacible

REP. APACIBLE. In behalf of the First District of Batangas, it is my honor and privilege to vote for Cong. Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

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

REP. APOSTOL. Belmonte

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Aquino

REP. AQUINO. Lagman

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Arago
Arenas
Arnaiz

REP. ARNAIZ. I vote for Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Arquiza
Arroyo, Diosdado

REP. ARROYO (D.). The Second District of Camarines Sur votes for the Hon. Edcel Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Arroyo, Ignacio Jr.
Asilo
Aumentado

REP. AUMENTADO. The Second District of Bohol votes for Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Bagatsing
Bag-ao

REP. BAG-AO. Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Baguilat

REP. BAGUILAT. This Representative from the Lone District of Ifugao votes for Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Balindong
Banal *(Applause)*

Barzaga
Bataoil

REP. BATAOIL. Mme. Presiding Officer, for a time I have been waiting for a sign as to which way to take in this moment of selection for the Speaker. Congressman SB was my Mayor when I was the Police Deputy Director of Quezon City Police District.

Earlier today, when I met him in an unexpected moment, he respected my staying with the party where I won as Representative of my beloved people of the Second District of Pangasinan.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). Will the Gentleman state his....

REP. BATAOIL. I vote for Cong. Edcel Lagman. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Bautista
Bulut-Begtang
Bello

REP. BELLO. Binoboto ko po si Congressman Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Belmonte, Feliciano Jr. *(Applause)*

REP. BELMONTE (F.). I vote for my friend Edcel Lagman. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Belmonte, Vicente Jr.

REP. BELMONTE (V.). The Lone District of Iligan City and this Representation vote for Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Benaldo

REP. BENALDO. On behalf of the people of the First District of Cagayan de Oro and the local party Padayon Filipino, akong ibotar si Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Benitez
Bernos

REP. BERNOS. In behalf of the province of Abra, I vote for Belmonte. *(Applause)*

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

REP. BIAZON. The Lone District of Muntinlupa votes for Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Bichara

REP. BICHARA. Cong. Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Binay
Biron
Bondoc
Bonoan-David

REP. BONOAN-DAVID. The Fourth District of Manila votes for Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Bravo

REP. BRAVO. Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Briones

REP. BRIONES. On behalf of ASAP Party-List, I vote for Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Cagas

REP. CAGAS. The First District of Davao del Sur votes for Edcel Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Cajayon
Calixto-Rubiano
Canonigo
Cari

REP. CARI. Cong. Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Casiño

REP. CASIÑO. Bayan Muna votes for Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Castelo

REP. CASTELO. The people of District II, Quezon City, would like to cast their vote for my mentor, Quezon City's

pride and Philippines' hope, Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. *(Applause)*

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

REP. CASTRO. The Second District of Capiz votes for Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Catamco

REP. CATAMCO. This Representative from Second District of North Cotabato votes for Hon. Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Celeste
Cerafica

REP. CERAIFICA. Mme. Presiding Officer, I am voting for the three-term Mayor and likewise three-term Congressman from the Fourth District of Quezon City, no other than Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr.
Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Cerilles
Chipeco

REP. CHIPECO. Mme. Presiding Officer, the Second District of Laguna and this Representation vote for Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Climaco
Cojuangco, Carmen S.
Cojuangco, Enrique M.
Collantes, Nelson

REP. COLLANTES. Mme. Presiding Officer, pagkatapos po ng masusi kong pagkukonsulta sa aking mga kababayan, it is truly my honor and privilege to vote for Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Colmenares

REP. COLMENARES. Amon ginahatag ang amon boto kay Cong. Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Cosalan
Crisologo

REP. CRISOLOGO. Mme. Presiding Officer, the First District of Quezon City votes for Rep. Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Cua
Dalog
Datumanong
Dayanghirang
Daza
De Jesus

REP. DE JESUS. Gabriela Women's Party-List votes for Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
De Venecia

REP. DE VENECIA. The Representative of the Fourth District of Pangasinan votes for the Hon. Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Defensor
Del Mar

REP. DEL MAR. The First District of Cebu City votes for Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Del Rosario, Antonio A.

REP. DEL ROSARIO (A.). I vote for Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Del Rosario, Antonio Rafael G.
Diaz, Antonio M.
Dimaporo, Fatima Aliah Q.

REP. DIMAPORO (F.). The Second District of Lanao del Norte votes for Hon. Edcel Lagman. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Dimaporo, Imelda Q.

REP. DIMAPORO (I.). The Representative of the First District of Lanao del Norte votes for Hon. Edcel Lagman. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Duavit
Durano
Dy
Ecleo

REP. ECLEO. This Representative votes for Hon. Edcel Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Ejercito
Emano

REP. EMANO. Our local party and national party, Padayon Pilipino, vote for Hon. Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Enverga

REP. ENVERGA. Mme. Presiding Officer, the people of the First District of Quezon vote for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Eriguel
Escudero
Espina

REP. ESPINA. Mme. Presiding Officer, this Representation from the Lone District of Biliran Province votes for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Estrella

REP. ESTRELLA. Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Evardone

REP. EVARDONE. Belmonte.

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

REP. FABIAN. Mme. Presiding Officer, the people of Zamboanga City, more particularly those from District II, go for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Fariñas
Fernandez

REP. FERNANDEZ. Mme. Presiding Officer, this Representation votes for Cong. Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Ferrer, Antonio A.
Ferrer, Jeffrey P.
Ferriol

REP. FERRIOL. Kalinga Party-List votes for Congressman Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Flores
Fortuno

REP. FORTUNO. I vote for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Fua

REP. FUA. The Lone District of Siquijor votes for Edcel Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Fuentebella
Fuentes

REP. FUENTES. Sonny Belmonte, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Garay
Garcia, Albert Raymond S.
Garcia-Albano, Mylene J.
Garcia, Pablo John F.
Garcia, Pablo P.
Garin
Gatchalian
Go, Ana Cristina S.
Go, Arnulfo F.
Golez, Anthony Rolando Jr.
Golez, Roilo

REP. GOLEZ (R.). Mme. Presiding Officer, the Second District of Parañaque votes for Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading: Gomez.

REP. GOMEZ. The Fourth District of Leyte votes for Representative Belmonte. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Gonzales, Aurelio Jr.

REP. GONZALES (A.). Mme. Presiding Officer, the Third District of Pampanga votes for our cabalen, Edcel Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Gonzales, Neptali II
Gonzalez, Fernando

REP. GONZALEZ. Cong. Sonny Belmonte.

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

Guanlao
Gullas
Gunigundo

REP. GUNIGUNDO. Ang boto po ng Ikalawang Distrito ng Valenzuela City ay para kay Kinatawan Feliciano Belmonte Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Haresco
Hataman-Salliman
Herrera-Dy

REP. HERRERA-DY. Bagong Henerasyon Party-List seconded the nomination, therefore votes for Representative Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Ilagan

REP. ILAGAN. Gabriela Women's Party votes for Representative Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Jaafar
Jalosjos, Cesar G.

REP. JALOSJOS (C.). The Third District of Zamboanga Del Norte votes for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Jalosjos, Romeo Jr.

REP. JALOSJOS (R.). The Second District of Zamboanga Sibugay votes for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Jalosjos, Jose

REP. JALOSJOS (J.). The First District of Zamboanga Del Norte votes for the Hon. Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Javier
Joson

REP. JOSON. Ang Unang Distrito ng Lalawigan ng Nueva Ecija ay para kay Kinatawan Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Kho, Antonio

REP. KHO (A.). Mme. Presiding Officer, after consultations with my constituents in the Second District of Masbate, we have agreed to vote for Sonny Belmonte for Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Kho, David

REP. KHO (D.). This Representation respectfully votes for Congressman SB, Serbisong Bayan, Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Labadlabad

REP. LABADLABAD. This humble Representation of the Second District of Zamboanga Del Norte votes for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Lacson-Noel
Lagdameo, Antonio Jr.
Lagdameo, Monique Yazmin
Lagman

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Presiding Officer, consistent with tradition, this Representation from the First District of Albay votes for the Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Lanete

REP. LANETE. The people of the Third District of Masbate votes for Honorable Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Lapus
Lazatin
Ledesma
Leonen-Pizarro
Limkaichong
Loong

REP. LOONG. Mme. Presiding Officer, in accordance with the mandate of our own people in the First District of the Province of Sulu, I vote for Cong. Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Lopez, Carlo
Lopez, Carol Jayne

REP. LOPEZ (C.J.). Since I cannot vote for Manny Pacquiao, I vote for Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Loyola
Macapagal-Arroyo, Gloria
Macapagal Arroyo, Juan Miguel
Madrona

REP. MADRONA. The Province of Rombon votes for Cong. Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Magsaysay, Eulogio "Amang" R.
Magsaysay, Maria Milagros

REP. MAGSAYSAY (E.). Alliance of Volunteer Educators, AVE Party-List, votes for Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Magsaysay, Maria Milagros

REP. MAGSAYSAY (M.). I will vote for my party-mate, Edcel Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Malapitan
Maliksi
Mandanas

REP. MANDANAS. From the Second District of Batangas, I vote as Speaker, the distinguished Cong. Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Marañon

REP. MARAÑON. Sonny Belmonte.

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

REP. MARCOLETA. ALAGAD Party-List votes for Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Marcos
Mariano

REP. MARIANO. Mme. Presiding Officer, bilang Kinatawan po ng Anakpawis Party-List, aking ibinoboto sa pagka-Speaker si Kagalang-galang Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Matugas

REP. MATUGAS. Surigao del Norte, First District, for Cong. Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Mellana

REP. MELLANA. The Second District of Agusan del Sur votes for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
 Mendoza, Joselito Andrew
 Mendoza, Mark Leandro
 Mendoza, Raymond
 Mercado

REP. MERCADO. Mme. Presiding Officer, the people of Southern Leyte, in the spirit of unity, solidarity and team work, through this humble Representation, vote for the Hon. Feliciano “Sonny” Belmonte Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
 Miraflores
 Montejo
 Nava
 Noel
 Nograles

REP. NOGRALES. Mme. Presiding Officer, this humble Representation from the First District of Davao City votes for Hon. Feliciano “Sonny” Belmonte Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
 Obillo

REP. OBILLO. Mme. Presiding Officer, ang boto po namin ay para kay Hon. Edcel Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
 Ocampo, Rosenda Ann
 Ocampos, Loreto Leo

REP. OCAMPOS. In behalf of the people of the Second District of Misamis Occidental, I vote for Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
 Olivarez

REP. OLIVAREZ. In behalf of the First District of the city of Paranaque, through this Representation, we are voting for Hon. Sonny Belmonte as Speaker of the House.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
 Ong

REP. ONG. Mme. Presiding Officer, as Representative of the Second District of the Province of Northern Samar, I vote for Hon. Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
 Ortega, Francisco Emmanuel III

REP. ORTEGA (F.). Mme. Presiding Officer, since I cannot vote for the beautiful Lucy Torres, this Representation votes for Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
 Ortega, Victor Francisco

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mme. Presiding Officer, I join Cong. Sonny Belmonte in voting for our friend Edcel Lagman. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
 Osmeña

REP. OSMENÑA. Cebu City, South District, joins the North District in voting for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
 Pacquiao *(Applause)*

REP. PACQUIAO. In behalf of the Lone District of Sarangani, ginihatag namo ang boto ngadtu kay Hon. Sonny Belmonte. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
 Padilla

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
 Padilla
 Paez

REP. PAEZ. Ang Coop-NATCCO Party-List is for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
 Palatino

REP. PALATINO. Kabataan Party-List votes for Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
 Palmones

REP. PALMONES. Agham is for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
 Pancho
 Panotes

REP. PANOTES. This Representation from the Second District of Camarines Norte votes for the friend of Sonny Belmonte. I vote for Edcel Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
 Paras

REP. PARAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, the First District of Bukidnon votes for Hon. Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Pichay

REP. PICHAY. The First District of Surigao del Sur votes for Hon. Edcel Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Ping-ay

REP. PING-AY. Coop-NATCCO Party votes for Congressman Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Plaza
Ponce-Enrile
Primicias-Agabas

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, the Sixth District of Pangasinan through this humble Representation, with honor and pride, votes for the Hon. Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Puno

REP. PUNO. The First District of Antipolo votes for Cong. Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Quimbo

REP. QUIMBO. The Second District of the City of Marikina unequivocally votes for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Quisumbing

REP. QUISUMBING. The Sixth District of Cebu with pride casts its vote for Congressman Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Radaza

REP. RADAZA. The Lone District of Lapu-Lapu City votes for Edcel Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Ramos

REP. RAMOS. The Second District of Sorsogon and this Representation is honored to vote for Sonny Belmonte.

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

Relampagos

REP. RELAMPAGOS. The people of the First District of Bohol, whom I proudly represent, vote for Rep. Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Remulla
Revilla

REP. REVILLA. The Representative from the Second District of Cavite votes for Rep. Edcel Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Robes

REP. ROBES. Cong. Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Rodriguez, Isidro Jr..
Rodriguez, Maximo Jr.

REP. RODRIGUEZ (M.). Mme. Presiding Officer, Abante Mindanao Party-List votes for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Rodriguez, Rufus B.

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). Mme. Presiding Officer, the Second District of Cagayan de Oro City, the City of Golden Friendship, casts its votes for its friend, Rep. Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Roman

REP. ROMAN. Mme. Presiding Officer, as Representative of the First District of Bataan, I am voting for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Romarate

REP. ROMARATE. Mme. Presiding Officer, the Second District of Surigao del Norte, together with our local party, Padajon Surigao, votes for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Romualdez

REP. ROMUALDEZ. Mme. Presiding Officer, the First District of Leyte votes for Hon. Edcel Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Romualdo

REP. ROMUALDO. I vote for Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Romulo
Sacdalan

REP. SACDALAN. The First District of North Cotabato casts its vote for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Sahidulla

REP. SAHIDULLA. *Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuku*, the Second District of the province of Sulu, of course, votes for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Sakaluran

REP. SAKALURAN. Unang Distrito ng Sultan Kudarat, Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Salimbangon

REP. SALIMBANGON. In behalf of the Fourth District of the province of Cebu, I vote for Cong. Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Salvacion

REP. SALVACION. Mme. Presiding Officer, after consultation with my people of the Third District of Leyte and because Sonny Belmonte was my mentor in the Bureau of Customs, this Representation votes for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Sambar

REP. SAMBAR. As the Representative of the Filipino athletes, it is my honor and privilege to vote for Hon. Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
San Luis

REP. SAN LUIS. Ang Ika-apat na Purok po ng lalawigan ng Laguna ay para po kay Kagalang-galang Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Sarmiento, Cesar V.

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). As Representative of the Lone District of Catanduanes, I vote for Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Sarmiento, Mel Senen S.

REP. SARMIENTO (M.). Mme. Presiding Officer, as the Representative of the First District of Samar, I vote for my colleague in the League of Cities of the Philippines, Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Sema

REP. SEMA. *Assalamu alaikum*. From Maguindanao, First District and Cotabato City, I vote for SB, Speaker Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Singson, Eric Jr.
Singson, Ronald
Socrates
Suarez

REP. SUAREZ. Third District of Quezon, Bondoc Peninsula, votes for Edcel Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Syjuco

REP. SYJUCO. In representation of the Second District of Iloilo, I vote for Edcel Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Tan
Tañada
Teodoro
Teves
Tiangco

REP. TIANGCO. Mme. Presiding Officer, the Lone District of Navotas votes for Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Ting

REP. TING. Mme. Presiding Officer, y mekakua nga Representante nat totolay na Tersera Distrito nac Cagayan e mabboto para kani Sonny Belmonte. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Tinga
Tinio

REP. TINIO. Mme. Presiding Officer, ang ACT Teachers po ay bumoboto para kay Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Treñas

REP. TREÑAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, ang Lone District sang ciudad sang Iloilo nagaboto kay Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Tupas

REP. TUPAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, from the Fifth District of Iloilo, I vote for my party-mate in the Liberal Party, Cong. Feliciano Belmonte Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Umali, Czarina D.
Umali, Reynaldo V.
Unabia Belmonte

REP. UNABIA. Maayong ugto sa tanan. Mme. Presiding Officer, ang mga Katawhan sa Una Distrito sa lalawigan sa Misamis Oriental, ngang miyembro sa Padayon Pilipino, muhatag sa ilang boto para kang honorable Cong. Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Ungab

REP. UNGAB. Mme. Presiding Officer, it is my honor to vote for the Hon. Feliciano “Sonny” Belmonte Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Unico

REP. UNICO. Mme. Presiding Officer, the First District of the province of Camarines Norte, popularly known as the gateway to the Bicol Region, goes for Rep. Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Valencia
Velasco

REP. VELASCO. Mme. Presiding Officer, the Lone District of Marinduque votes for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Vergara

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Presiding Officer, Baguio City votes for our kababayan Sonny Belmonte.

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

Villar
Villarica

REP. VILLARICA. As the Representative of the Fourth District of Bulacan, I am privileged to vote for Hon. Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Villarosa
Violago

REP. VIOLAGO. Ang Pangalawang Distrito ng Nueva Ecija ay para kay Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Yambao

REP. YAMBAO. The First District of Zamboanga Sibugay votes for Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Yap, Arthur C.

REP. YAP (A.). On behalf of the Third District of Bohol, I cast my vote for Hon. Edcel Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Yap, Susan A.
Yu

REP. YU. Representing the First District of Zamboanga del Sur, I vote for Sonny Belmonte.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Zamora-Apsay

REP. ZAMORA-APSAY. Mme. Presiding Officer, as a neophyte Representative of the First District of Compostela Valley, naghahanap po ako ng pinuno na SB, Sandigan ng mga Bago, so I say, SB, Siyempre Belmonte. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa),
reading:
Zubiri

REP. ZUBIRI. From the Third District of our beloved Bukidnon, I vote for Sonny Belmonte.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). Honorable Members of the House of Representatives, the result of the voting shows that the Gentleman from the Fourth District of Quezon City, Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr., garnered 227 votes. (*Applause*) The Gentleman from the First District of Albay, Hon. Edcel C. Lagman, garnered 29 votes.* (*Applause*)

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

With 227 votes, the Chair declares the Gentleman from the Fourth District of Quezon City, Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr., (*Applause*) as the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that a committee of 14 Members composed of the following: Reps. Maria Zenaida B. Angping; Maria Evita R. Arago; Mar-Len Abigail S. Binay; Anna York P. Bondoc; Carmen S. Cojuangco; Ma. Georgina P. De Venecia; Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar; Imelda Q. Dimaporo; Lucy T. Gomez; Josefina M. Joson; Carol Jayne B. Lopez; Rosenda Ann M. Ocampo; Luzviminda C. Ilagan; and Czarina D. Umali be constituted to notify the Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. of his election as Speaker of the House of Representatives and thereafter, to escort the Speaker-elect to the rostrum for the oath-taking rites.

I so move.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Notification Committee is hereby constituted.

The Members of the House so named are hereby designated to constitute the Notification Committee and they are requested to inform the Speaker-elect, Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr., of his election and to escort him to the rostrum. The Chair also invites the members of the family of the Speaker-elect to join him at the rostrum as he takes his oath of office.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The session is suspended.

It was 11:58 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 11:59 a.m., the session was resumed.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The session is resumed. (*Applause and Cheering*)

The Hon. Abigail Faye C. Ferriol of Kalinga Party-List will administer the oath of office to the Speaker-elect.

The Honorable Ferriol is requested to come to the rostrum and administer the oath of office to the Speaker.

May we request all the Members of the House to rise.

At this juncture, Rep. Abigail Faye C. Ferriol ascended the rostrum to administer the oath of office to Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. as the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). May we request the Members of the family of the Speaker-elect to join our Speaker at the rostrum as he takes his oath of office.

At this juncture, the family of the Speaker-elect joined the Speaker at the rostrum.

OATH-TAKING OF SPEAKER BELMONTE

REP. FERRIOL. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I, FELICIANO BELMONTE JR., of 1497 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, having been elected to the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives, hereby solemnly swear that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders, and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

So help me God.

REP. FERRIOL. Congratulations, Mr. Speaker. (*Applause*)

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF SPEAKER BELMONTE

THE SPEAKER. Fellow Members of the House, esteemed guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Eighteen years ago today, I took my oath for the first time as a Member of the House of Representatives. On my third term in the year 2001, I was honored with the privilege of serving this House briefly as its 18th Speaker. Through the next nine years, from 2001 to June 2010, the people of Quezon City entrusted to me for three consecutive terms the reins of their city government. Many of those who worked hard with me in transforming Quezon City are here now in the audience still giving me their moral support and I thank them. (*Applause*) Last May, my constituents in the Fourth District of Quezon City gave me the privilege to represent them anew in this august Body.

My colleagues, today, you have given me back a rare honor. Through your trust and confidence I stand here once again as the Speaker of the House of the People. Thank you for your massive support. Be assured that I will work hard to earn this confidence. I am confident that you will help me succeed since you have as much stake as I have in this success. It is truly heartwarming and very humbling that across the political spectrum transcending political boundaries, new and old friends, even former political adversaries, chose to entrust to me the leadership of this Chamber for the next three years. More so, since this Fifteenth Congress opens at a time of no ordinary political transition. Last May, the people of the Philippines did not just cast their votes for their chosen candidates. The overwhelming majority used their electoral power to usher in a change in governance that is much more responsive to the public good.

The Filipino people have set very high expectations of all branches of government. Our President, Benigno S. Aquino III, is clearly setting the standard of exemplary public service. Congress should not set for itself a benchmark of service to the Filipino people that is anything less.

While party affiliations may have put us at odds during the political campaign, while our constituencies may be different, we know that all are tied together by the common need of the Filipino people for a life that is free, yet secure,

economically vibrant, environmentally healthy, peaceful, and socially accepting. Our business is to continue to make sure that our laws sustainably assure the fulfillment of these aspirations.

Even before President Aquino took his oath of office last June 30th, a pervasive mood of hopeful change greeted his election. Today, that hope has evolved into widespread public confidence that is visibly seen and felt in the Filipinos who have renewed their faith in government, in local and foreign businessmen who have become more optimistic in their outlook and aggressive in their investment plans, and in the emerging resurgence of the Philippines in the eyes of the global community.

We must see to it that the House of Representatives contributes to this remarkable crest of change and works further to maximize the advantages we are beginning to gain.

Our mandate is to make sure that our legislative agenda not only fully supports our country's resurgence but further ignites it.

Remember, decades ago, the Philippines was among the fastest growing economies of Asia, neck and neck with these leading economies. Puwede ba nating ambisyunin muli ito? We have so many important challenges and tasks ahead of us—liberating millions of our people from the shackles of poverty, ensuring our global competitiveness, peace in Mindanao and so forth.

Let us keep in mind that government efficiency, economic well-being, and the attainment of public good are directly correlated with each other in the perception of the public.

My colleagues, the honor you have conferred on me as your Speaker comes with my commitment to strengthen the House of Representatives, resolute as a coequal branch of our government, coequal in power and independent, certainly, but also accountable. We are accountable to each and every Filipino that we serve. We are accountable according to the laws of the land. We are accountable according to the universal values of honesty and integrity.

When I was Mayor of Quezon City, my first order of business was putting our house in order. I believe that this internally driven review and improvement of the way things are run is a good formula to follow in this House of ours. It will create a good foundation for a Philippine Congress that is an advocate of reforms, or practitioner of good governance, and credible because it began to champion the change within itself, even as it looked beyond.

Let us be one in promoting a strong work ethic among ourselves, including the House Secretariat. Let us show our commitment through consistent attendance to our duties in the committees, in plenary, as well as to our constituencies.

In all my years in public service, I have always observed prudence and judiciousness in the use and allocation of funds. During these times when the entire national government must function within tight financial restraints, it would be a good practice to opt for ways to optimize resources, to get maximum public value for every peso budgeted and spent. We should continuously aim to promote higher levels of efficiency.

Let us be judicious and prudent in crafting the national budget. We should relate agency performance and results obtained in promoting the welfare of the people to their share of public funds. Let us use our power of the purse to prod government agencies to meet their performance targets. Let

us clearly delineate the duties and responsibilities of government officials to prevent abuses, and to minimize opportunities for graft and corruption.

The use of our priority development assistance funds (PDAF) should engender no suspicion but general agreement that they are used wisely to give each district a socio-economic lift through greater transparency and focus of our projects. Before the end of August, we shall define the legislative agenda of the Fifteenth Congress. We shall be setting the policy blueprint for national growth and social reform for the next three years. We hope to harmonize our priorities with those of the Senate and the Executive—the program of PNoy so that the passage of priority measures can be timely, efficient and responsive. Ours will be a progressive and forward-looking House able to overcome self-interest to raise the Filipinos and the Philippines to a proud stature in the global ranking of nations.

The Fifteenth Congress shall be a strong, independent and accountable arm of government because all of us are capable and productive partners in making this happen. Through our election and oath of office, we have made a joint commitment to give our people a much better life. Let us bravely embrace this challenge. What we do or fail to do will matter. Our country's future is at stake. I am convinced that we, the Members of the Fifteenth Congress, shall be the ardent movers of the Philippines' social and economic transformation. All of you and I shall work collaboratively to make this happen with God's help.

May I now extend my hand to all of you. To those who supported me, to those who believe in me, my sincere and heartfelt gratitude. To my worthy opponent and dear friend, the Gentleman from Albay, Hon. Edcel C. Lagman, and those who supported him, I extend my hand of cooperation. Let us work together for this House is our House. Let us make it a true House of and for the benefit of all the people of this Philippines.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat, mabuhay ang ating bansa, mabuhay kayo. (*Applause*) Thank you.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of the Rules of the House of the Fourteenth Congress as the provisional rules of the House to govern its proceedings until the adoption of the Rules of the House of the Fifteenth Congress.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER. It has been so moved, are there any objections? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the Rules of the Fourteenth Congress is provisionally adopted as the Rules of the Fifteenth Congress and such is the ruling.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we now proceed with the oath-taking of the Members of the House.

I so move.

OATH-TAKING OF MEMBERS

THE SPEAKER. All Members of the House, please rise and raise your right hands.

I, (state your name) of (state address), having been elected as (Representative of) hereby solemnly swear that

I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

So help me God. *(Applause)*

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we now proceed to the election of the Deputy Speakers of the House. I so move.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the election of the Deputy Speakers of the House is now in order.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKERS

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we elect Reps. Raul A. Daza; Lorenzo R. Tañada III, Pablo P. Garcia, Arnulfo P. Fuentesbela, Jesus Crispin C. Remulla and Maria Isabelle G. Climaco as Deputy Speakers of the House of Representatives.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; Reps. Raul A. Daza, Lorenzo R. Tañada III, Pablo P. Garcia, Arnulfo P. Fuentesbela, Jesus Crispin C. Remulla and Maria Isabelle G. Climaco are unanimously elected as Deputy Speakers of the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

May we, therefore, request the honorable Deputy Speaker-elect Raul A. Daza to go up the rostrum with the members of his family for his oath-taking.

At this juncture, Rep. Raul A. Daza, accompanied by his family, ascended the rostrum and took his oath as Deputy Speaker.

OATH-TAKING OF REP. DAZA AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. Repeat after me.

I, Raul A. Daza, of Northern Samar, having been elected as Deputy Speaker, 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; 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.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Daza). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER. Hon. Lorenzo R. Tañada III.

At this juncture, Rep. Lorenzo R. Tañada, accompanied by his mother, ascended the rostrum and took his oath as Deputy Speaker.

OATH-TAKING OF REP. TAÑADA AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. Repeat after me.

I, Lorenzo R. Tañada III, of Gumaca, Quezon, having been elected as Deputy Speaker, 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.
Hon. Pablo P. Garcia.

At this juncture, Rep. Pablo P. Garcia, accompanied by his family, ascended the rostrum and took his oath as Deputy Speaker.

OATH-TAKING OF REP. GARCIA (P.) AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. Repeat after me.

I, Pablo P. Garcia, of Barangay Bitoon, Dumanjug, Cebu, having been elected as Deputy Speaker, 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; 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.

REP. GARCIA (P.). Thank you.

THE SPEAKER. Hon. Arnulfo P. Fuentesbela.

At this juncture, Rep. Arnulfo P. Fuentesbela, accompanied by his family, ascended the rostrum and took his oath as Deputy Speaker.

OATH-TAKING OF REP. FUENTEBELLA AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. Repeat after me.

I, Arnulfo P. Fuentesbela, of Barangay Abo, Tigaon, Camarines Sur, having been elected as Deputy Speaker,

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; 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. Hon. Jesus Crispin C. Remulla.

At this juncture, Rep. Jesus Crispin C. Remulla, accompanied by his family, ascended the rostrum and took his oath as Deputy Speaker.

OATH-TAKING OF REP. REMULLA
AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. Repeat after me.

I, Jesus Crispin C. Remulla, of Indang, Cavite, having been elected as Deputy Speaker, 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; 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. Hon. Maria Isabelle G. Climaco.

At this juncture, Rep. Maria Isabelle G. Climaco ascended the rostrum for her oath-taking.

OATH-TAKING OF REP. CLIMACO
AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. Repeat after me.

I, Maria Isabelle Garcia Climaco, of Sta. Maria, Zamboanga City, having been elected as Deputy Speaker, hereby solemnly swear that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

So help me God.

(Applause)

THE SPEAKER. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we now proceed to the election of the Secretary General.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the election of the Secretary General is now in order.

ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we elect Atty. Marilyn B. Barua-Yap as Secretary General of the House of Representatives.

I so move. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; Atty. Marilyn B. Barua-Yap is unanimously elected as Secretary General of the House of Representatives.

At this juncture, Atty. Marilyn B. Barua-Yap ascended the rostrum to take her oath as Secretary General of the House of Representatives.

OATH-TAKING OF ATTY. MARILYN B. BARUA-YAP

THE SPEAKER. Repeat after me.

I, Marilyn B. Barua-Yap, of No. 30 Granwood Villas, Chioco St., BF Homes, Quezon City, having been elected as Secretary General of the House of Representatives, hereby solemnly swear that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

So help me God.

(Applause)

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. NO. 70

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 70.

May I ask the Secretary General to read only the title of the measure.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER. It has been moved.

Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the consideration of House Resolution No. 70 is now in order. *

The Secretary General is instructed to read the title of the resolution.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 70, entitled: RESOLUTION INFORMING THE SENATE THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS BEEN ORGANIZED AND HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 70.

ADOPTION OF H.RES. NO. 70

THE SPEAKER. There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 70.

Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 70 is adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. NO. 71

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 71.

May I ask the Secretary General to read only the title of the measure.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the consideration of House Resolution No. 71 is now in order.*

The Secretary General is instructed to read the title of the resolution.

With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 71, entitled: RESOLUTION INFORMING HIS EXCELLENCY, BENIGNO SIMEON C. AQUINO III, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS BEEN ORGANIZED AND HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 71.

ADOPTION OF H.RES. NO. 71

THE SPEAKER. There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 71.

Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 71 is adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H.CT.RES. NO. 2

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Concurrent Resolution No. 2.

May I ask the Secretary General to read only the title of the measure.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the consideration of House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 is now in order.*

The Secretary General is instructed to read the title of the resolution.

With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Concurrent Resolution No. 2, entitled: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO HOLD A JOINT SESSION TO HEAR THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution No. 2.

I so move.

ADOPTION OF H.CT.RES. NO. 2

THE SPEAKER. There is a motion to adopt House Concurrent Resolution No. 2.

Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 is adopted.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended while the House transmits Messages to the Senate.

It was 12:43 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 12:44 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move for the consideration of Messages from the Senate.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the consideration of Messages from the Senate is now in order.

The Secretary General is instructed to read the Messages from the Senate.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of three resolutions from the Senate. Senate Resolution

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

No. 1, entitled: RESOLUTION INFORMING HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, THAT THE SENATE HAS BEEN ORGANIZED WITH THE ELECTION OF ITS OFFICERS AND THAT THIS BODY HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES; and

Senate Resolution No. 2, entitled: RESOLUTION INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE SENATE HAS BEEN ORGANIZED IN THE ELECTION OF ITS OFFICERS AND THAT THIS BODY HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

THE SPEAKER. To the Archives.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1, entitled: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CREATING A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT CONGRESS, NOW CONVENED FOR ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES, IS READY TO HEAR HIS STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS IN A JOINT SESSION OF BOTH HOUSES.

THE SPEAKER. To the Archives.
Calendar of Business for the Day.

CONSIDERATION OF S.CT. RES. NO. 1

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1.

May I ask the Secretary General to read only the title of the measure.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1 is now in order.*

The Secretary General is requested to read the title of the resolution.

With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1, entitled: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CREATING A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT CONGRESS, NOW CONVENED FOR ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES, IS READY TO HEAR HIS STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS IN A JOINT SESSION OF BOTH HOUSES.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1.

ADOPTION OF S.CT. RES. NO. 1

THE SPEAKER. There is a motion to adopt Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 is adopted.

REP. GONZALES (N.). In view of the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1, authorizing the creation of a Joint Committee of Both Houses to notify the President of the Philippines that Congress has convened and ready to hear his message, on the part of the House, I move that the following be appointed to the joint committee: Hon. Joseph Emilio A. Abaya, Hon. Antonio C. Alvarez, Hon. Juan Edgardo M. Angara, Hon. Anna York P. Bondoc, Hon. Herminia B. Roman, Hon. Imelda Q. Dimaporo, Hon. Ramon "Red" H. Durano IV, Hon. Janette L. Garin, Hon. Florencio T. Miraflores and Hon. Bai Sandra A. Sema.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Members of the House of Representatives so named are hereby appointed to the joint committee and are required to immediately discharge their responsibility.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, in order to give the Members of the joint committee time to perform their assigned task and until the House counterpart is ready to report back their accomplishment to this House, I move for the suspension of the session.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is suspended.

It was 12:46 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 12:47 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Danilo E. Suarez of the Third District of Quezon for his manifestation.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER. The Hon. Danilo E. Suarez is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, in behalf of the Minority bloc, may I convey our unanimous support for the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman as the Minority Leader of the Fifteenth Congress of the House of Representatives.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE SPEAKER. The manifestation of the Hon. Danilo E. Suarez, in behalf of the Minority contingent of the House, is duly noted.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority contingent of the House of Representatives, I move that we elect the following as partial members of the Committee on Rules: Gonzales, Neptali; Garin, Janette; Romulo, Roman; Fariñas, Rodolfo; Binay, Mar-Len; and Gunigundo, Magtanggol.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the Members so named are elected as members of the Committee on Rules on the part of the Majority contingent of the House of Representatives.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Minority Leader, the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman, for his manifestation.

THE SPEAKER. The Minority Leader, the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman, is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Minority contingent of the House of Representatives, I move that we elect the following as initial members of the Committee on Rules: the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman, Hon. Danilo E. Suarez, Hon. Augusto Syjuco, Hon. Carlos M. Padilla and Hon. Ma. Amelita C. Villarosa.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection to the motion? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the Members so named are elected members of the Committee on Rules on the part of the Minority contingent of the House of Representatives.

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, we have received a report from the Joint Committee that the President has been informed that Congress will convene in a Joint Session at four o'clock this afternoon to hear his State of the Nation Address.

Mr. Speaker, we wish to remind the Members of this Chamber that all of us must be here an hour before the Joint Session at 4:00 p.m.

THE SPEAKER. The remarks of the Acting Floor Leader are duly noted.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. GONZALES (N.). Mr. Speaker, to give way to the Joint Session at four o'clock this afternoon, I move that we adjourn the session until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

I so move.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until four o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

It was 12:49 p.m.