



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17th CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

Vol. 1

Monday, July 25, 2016

No. 1

OPENING OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

At 10:00 a.m., pursuant to Section 18 (a), Rule VI of the House Rules, 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, 2016. The Constitution mandates that Congress convene once every year on the fourth Monday of July to commence its regular session. Pursuant to established parliamentary rules and practice, I hereby call the First Regular Session of the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth 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 Prof. Ramon “Montet” Acoymo.

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 Honorable Mercedes K. Alvarez, Representative of the Sixth District of Negros Occidental.

Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

REP. ALVAREZ (M.). Heavenly Father, our Almighty God, we come before You today and praise You for bringing us together in this august hall of the Congress of the Republic of the Philippines.

As we start our work for more than 100 million Filipinos, we humbly seek Your guidance and direction. Bring Your presence to each one of us so that we may all work responsibly for our brothers and sisters.

Anoint our thoughts, words and actions so that even our smallest accomplishment may bring You glory. Help us remember that not ours, but Your power and glory should be acknowledged over all the words spoken and actions taken within this institution.

While each one of us is unique, give us the collective wisdom to always know what is right and the courage to do it.

As Your children, we ask for Your grace and strength to stand against the temptation to use power as a weapon, but rather as a blessing to others, especially our fellow Filipinos.

Grant us the grace to hear Your voice as we make decisions. Lead our way to truth and righteousness. Help us to do our best each day and to perform our duties with excellence.

As You have said, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” Bless us, protect us. Let Your hand be with us and keep us in Your name.

All these we ask in Your honor, all these for all Filipinos and our country, our Motherland, the Philippines.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). You may now take your seats.

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

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa), *reading*: Roll call of Members.

Honorable Congressmen and Congresswomen:

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION:

CALOOCAN CITY

First District

Hon. Dale “Along” R. Malapitan

Second District

Hon. Edgar R. Erice

LAS PIÑAS CITY

Lone District
Hon. Mark A. Villar

MAKATI CITY

First District
Hon. Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario
Second District
Hon. Luis Jose Angel N. Campos Jr.

MALABON CITY

Lone District
Hon. Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II

MANDALUYONG CITY

Lone District
Hon. Alexandria P. Gonzales

CITY OF MANILA

First District
Hon. Manuel Luis “Manny” T. Lopez
Second District
Hon. Carlo V. Lopez
Third District
Hon. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto
Fourth District
Hon. Edward Vera Perez Maceda
Fifth District
Hon. Cristal L. Bagatsing
Sixth District
Hon. Rosenda Ann Ocampo

MARIKINA CITY

First District
Hon. Bayani F. Fernando
Second District
Hon. Romero “Miro” S. Quimbo

MUNTINLUPA CITY

Lone District
Hon. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon

NAVOTAS CITY

Lone District
Hon. Tobias “Toby” M. Tiangco

PARAÑAQUE CITY

First District
Hon. Eric L. Olivarez
Second District
Hon. Gus S. Tambunting

PASAY CITY

Lone District
Hon. Emi G. Calixto-Rubiano

PASIG CITY

Lone District
Hon. Richard C. Eusebio

QUEZON CITY

First District
Hon. Vincent P. Crisologo
Second District
Hon. Winston “Winnie” Castelo
Third District
Hon. Jorge “Bolet” Banal
Fourth District
Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr.
Fifth District
Hon. Alfredo D. Vargas III
Sixth District
Hon. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte

SAN JUAN CITY

Lone District
Hon. Ronaldo B. Zamora

TAGUIG CITY/PATEROS

First District
Hon. Arnel M. Cerafica
Second District
Hon. Pia S. Cayetano

VALENZUELA CITY

First District
Hon. Wes Gatchalian
Second District
Hon. Eric M. Martinez

REGION I (Ilocos):

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. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano
Second District
Hon. Eric D. Singson

LA UNION

First District
Hon. Pablo C. Ortega
Second District
Hon. Sandra Y. Eriguell, M.D.

PANGASINAN

- First District
 - Hon. Jesus “Boying” F. Celeste
- Second District
 - Hon. Leopoldo N. Bataoil
- Third District
 - Hon. Rose Marie “Baby” J. Arenas
- Fourth District
 - Hon. Christopher “Toff” Vera Perez De Venecia
- Fifth District
 - Hon. Amado T. Espino Jr.
- Sixth District
 - Hon. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas

REGION II (Cagayan Valley):

BATANES

- Lone District
 - Hon. Henedina R. Abad

CAGAYAN

- First District
 - Hon. Ramon C. Nolasco
- Second District
 - Hon. Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso
- Third District
 - Hon. Randolph S. Ting

ISABELA

- First District
 - Hon. Rodolfo T. Albano III
- Second District
 - Hon. Ana Cristina Siquian Go
- Third District
 - Hon. Napoleon S. Dy
- Fourth District
 - Hon. Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao

NUEVA VIZCAYA

- Lone District
 - Hon. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma

QUIRINO

- Lone District
 - Hon. Dakila Carlo E. Cua

REGION III (Central Luzon):

AURORA

- Lone District
 - Hon. Bellaflor J. Angara-Castillo

BATAAN

- First District
 - Hon. Geraldine B. Roman

Second District

- Hon. Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III

BULACAN

- First District
 - Hon. Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado
- Second District
 - Hon. Gavini “Apol” C. Pancho
- Third District
 - Hon. Lorna C. Silverio
- Fourth District
 - Hon. Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica

NUEVA ECIJA

- First District
 - Hon. Estrellita B. Suansing
- Second District
 - Hon. Micaela S. Violago
- Third District
 - Hon. Rosanna “Ria” V. Vergara
- Fourth District
 - Hon. Magnolia C. Antonino

PAMPANGA

- First District
 - Hon. Carmelo B. Lazatin II
- Second District
 - Hon. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
- Third District
 - Hon. Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr.
- Fourth District
 - Hon. Juan Pablo “Rimpy” P. Bondoc

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY

- Lone District
 - Hon. Florida “Rida” P. Robes

TARLAC

- First District
 - Hon. Carlos O. Cojuangco
- Second District
 - Hon. Victor A. Yap
- Third District
 - Hon. Noel L. Villanueva

ZAMBALES

- First District
 - Hon. Jeffrey D. Khonghun
- Second District
 - Hon. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla

REGION IV-A (CALABARZON):

ANTIPOLO CITY

- First District
 - Hon. Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno

Second District
 Hon. Romeo M. Acop

BATANGAS (with the cities of Batangas and Lipa)

First District
 Hon. Elenita Milagros “Eileen” Ermita-Buhain

Second District
 Hon. Raneo E. Abu

Third District
 Hon. Ma. Theresa V. Collantes

Fourth District
 Hon. Lianda B. Bolilia

Fifth District
 Hon. Marvey A. Mariño

Sixth District
 Hon. Vilma Santos-Recto

BIÑAN CITY

Lone District
 Hon. Len B. Alonte-Naguiat

CAVITE

First District
 Hon. Francis Gerald A. Abaya

Second District
 Hon. Strike B. Revilla

Third District
 Hon. Alex “AA” L. Advincula

Fourth District
 Hon. Jennifer Austria-Barzaga

Fifth District
 Hon. Roy M. Loyola

Sixth District
 Hon. Luis “Jon-Jon” A. Ferrer IV

Seventh District
 Hon. Abraham “Bambol” N. Tolentino

LAGUNA

First District
 Hon. Arlene B. Arcillas

Second District
 Hon. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr.

Third District
 Hon. Sol Aragoes

Fourth District
 Hon. Benjamin C. Agarao Jr.

QUEZON (with the city of Lucena)

First District
 Hon. Anna Katrina “Trina” Enverga

Second District
 Hon. Vicente “Kulit” J. Alcala

Third District
 Hon. Danilo E. Suarez

Fourth District
 Hon. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D.

RIZAL

First District
 Hon. Michael John R. Duavit

Second District
 Hon. Isidro S. Rodriguez Jr.

REGION IV-B (MIMAROPA):

MARINDUQUE

Lone District
 Hon. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

Lone District
 Hon. Josephine Ramirez-Sato

ORIENTAL MINDORO (with the city of Calapan)

First District
 Hon. Doy C. Leachon

Second District
 Hon. Reynaldo V. Umali

PALAWAN (with the city of Puerto Princesa)

First District
 Hon. Franz E. Alvarez

Second District
 Hon. Frederick “Erick” F. Abueg

Third District
 Hon. Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta

ROMBLON

Lone District
 Hon. Emmanuel F. Madrona

REGION V (Bicol Region):

ALBAY (with the cities of Legazpi, Ligao and Tabaco)

First District
 Hon. Edcel C. Lagman

Second District
 Hon. Joey Sarte Salceda

Third District
 Hon. Fernando V. Gonzalez

CAMARINES NORTE

First District
 Hon. Renato J. Unico Jr.

Second District
 Hon. Marisol C. Panotes

CAMARINES SUR (with the cities of Naga and Iriga)

First District
 Hon. Rolando G. Andaya Jr.

Second District
 Hon. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr.

Third District
Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr.
Fourth District
Hon. Arnulfo P. Fuentesbella
Fifth District
Hon. Salvio B. Fortuno

CATANDUANES

Lone District
Hon. Cesar V. Sarmiento

MASBATE (with the city of Masbate)

First District
Hon. Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo
Second District
Hon. Elisa "Olga" T. Kho
Third District
Hon. Scott Davies S. Lanete, M.D.

SORSOGON (with the city of Sorsogon)

First District
Hon. Evelina G. Escudero
Second District
Hon. Deogracias B. Ramos Jr.

REGION VI (Western Visayas):

AKLAN

Lone District
Hon. Carlito S. Marquez

ANTIQUE

Lone District
Hon. Paolo Everardo S. Javier

CAPIZ (with the city of Roxas)

First District
Hon. Emmanuel A. Billones
Second District
Hon. Fredenil "Fred" H. Castro

GUIMARAS

Lone District
Hon. Ma. Lucille L. Nava

ILOILO (with the city of Passi)

First District
Hon. Oscar "Richard" S. Garin Jr.
Second District
Hon. Arcadio H. Gorriceta
Third District
Hon. Arthur R. Defensor Jr.
Fourth District
Hon. Ferjenel G. Biron
Fifth District
Hon. Raul "Boboy" C. Tupas

ILOILO CITY

Lone District
Hon. Jerry P. Treñas

REGION VII (Central Visayas):

BOHOL (with the city of Tagbilaran)

First District
Hon. Rene L. Relampagos
Second District
Hon. Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado
Third District
Hon. Arthur C. Yap

CEBU

First District
Hon. Gerald Anthony V. Gullas Jr.
Second District
Hon. Wilfredo S. Caminero
Third District
Hon. Gwendolyn F. Garcia
Fourth District
Hon. Benhur L. Salimbangon
Fifth District
Hon. Ramon "Red" H. Durano VI
Sixth District
Hon. Jonas C. Cortes
Seventh District
Hon. Peter John D. Calderon

CEBU CITY

First District
Hon. Raul V. Del Mar
Second District
Hon. Rodrigo A. Abellanosa

LAPU-LAPU CITY

Lone District
Hon. Aileen C. Radaza

SIQUIJOR

Lone District
Hon. Ramon V. A. "RAV" Rocamora

REGION VIII (Eastern Visayas):

BILIRAN

Lone District
Hon. Rogelio J. Espina, M.D.

EASTERN SAMAR

Lone District
Hon. Ben P. Evardone

LEYTE

First District

Hon. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez

Second District

Hon. Henry C. Ong

Third District

Hon. Vicente “Ching” S.E. Veloso

Fourth District

Hon. Lucy T. Gomez

Fifth District

Hon. Jose Carlos L. Cari

NORTHERN SAMAR

First District

Hon. Raul A. Daza

Second District

Hon. Edwin C. Ong

SOUTHERN LEYTE

Lone District

Hon. Roger G. Mercado

SAMAR

First District

Hon. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento

Second District

Hon. Milagrosa “Mila” T. Tan

REGION IX (Zamboanga Peninsula):

ZAMBOANGA CITY

First District

Hon. Celso L. Lobregat

Second District

Hon. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

First District

Hon. Seth Frederick P. Jalosjos

Second District

Hon. Glona G. Labadlabad

Third District

Hon. Isagani S. Amatong

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

First District

Hon. Divina Grace C. Yu

Second District

Hon. Aurora Enerio-Cerilles

ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY

First District

Hon. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II

Second District

Hon. Ann K. Hofer

REGION X (Northern Mindanao)

BUKIDNON

First District

Hon. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba

Second District

Hon. Florencio T. Flores Jr., M.D.

Third District

Hon. Manuel F. Zubiri

Fourth District

Hon. Rogelio Neil P. Roque

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

First District

Hon. Rolando “Klarex” A. Uy

Second District

Hon. Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr.

CAMIGUIN

Lone District

Hon. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo

ILIGAN CITY

Lone District

Hon. Frederick W. Siao

LANAO DEL NORTE

First District

Hon. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo

Second District

Hon. Abdullah D. Dimaporo

MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL

First District

Hon. Jorge T. Almonte

Second District

Hon. Henry S. Oaminal

MISAMIS ORIENTAL

First District

Hon. Peter “Sr. Pedro” M. Unabia

Second District

Hon. Juliette T. Uy

REGION XI (Davao):

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

First District

Hon. Maria Carmen S. Zamora

Second District

Hon. Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga

DAVAO CITY

First District

Hon. Karlo Alexei B. Nograles

Second District
Hon. Mylene J. Garcia-Albano
Third District
Hon. Alberto T. Ungab

DAVAO DEL NORTE

First District
Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez
Second District
Hon. Antonio R. Floirendo Jr.

DAVAO DEL SUR

Lone District
Hon. Mercedes "Didi" C. Cagas

DAVAO OCCIDENTAL

Lone District
Hon. Lorna Bautista-Bandigan

DAVAO ORIENTAL

First District
Hon. Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon
Second District
Hon. Joel Mayo Z. Almario

REGION XII (SOCCSKSARGEN):

NORTH COTABATO

First District
Hon. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan
Second District
Hon. Nancy A. Catamco
Third District
Hon. Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada

SARANGANI

Lone District
Hon. Rogelio Ruel D. Pacquiao

SOUTH COTABATO

First District
Hon. Pedro B. Acharon Jr.
Second District
Hon. Ferdinand L. Hernandez

SULTAN KUDARAT

First District
Hon. Suharto T. Mangudadatu
Second District
Hon. Horacio P. Suansing Jr.

AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM
MINDANAO (ARMM):

BASILAN

Lone District
Hon. Jum J. Akbar

LANAO DEL SUR

First District
Hon. Ansaruddin A.M.A. Adiong
Second District
Hon. Mauyag "Jun" B. Papandayan Jr.

MAGUINDANAO

First District
Hon. Bai Sandra Sinsuat A. Sema
Second District
Hon. Zajid G. Mangudadatu

SULU

Second District
Hon. Munir M. Arbison

TAWI-TAWI

Lone District
Hon. Ruby M. Sahali

CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION:

ABRA

Lone District
Hon. Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos

APAYAO

Lone District
Hon. Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang

BAGUIO CITY

Lone District
Hon. Mark O. Go

BENGUET

Lone District
Hon. Ronaldo M. Cosalan

IFUGAO

Lone District
Hon. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr.

KALINGA

Lone District
Hon. Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

Lone District
Hon. Maximo B. Dalog

CARAGA REGION:

Second District

Hon. Manuel T. Sagarbarria

AGUSAN DEL NORTE

Third District

Hon. Arnolfo A. Teves Jr.

First District

Hon. Lawrence H. Fortun

Second District

Hon. Erlpe John “Ping” M. Amante

AGUSAN DEL SUR

First District

Hon. Maria Valentina G. Plaza

Second District

Hon. Evelyn P. Mellana

DINAGAT ISLANDS

Lone District

Hon. Kaka J. Bag-ao

SURIGAO DEL NORTE

First District

Hon. Francisco Jose F. Matugas II

Second District

Hon. Robert Ace S. Barbers

SURIGAO DEL SUR

First District

Hon. Prospero A. Pichay Jr.

Second District

Hon. Johnny Ty Pimentel

REGION XVIII (Negros Island):

BACOLOD CITY

Lone District

Hon. Greg G. Gasataya

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

First District

Hon. Melecio J. Yap Jr.

Second District

Hon. Leo Rafael M. Cueva

Third District

Hon. Alfredo “Albee” B. Benitez

Fourth District

Hon. Juliet Marie De Leon-Ferrer

Fifth District

Hon. Alejandro Y. Mirasol

Sixth District

Hon. Mercedes K. Alvarez

NEGROS ORIENTAL

First District

Hon. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong

PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES:

1-Ang Edukasyon (Una ang Edukasyon)

Hon. Salvador B. Belaro Jr.

1-PACMAN (One Patriotic Coalition of Marginalized Nationals)

Hon. Michael Odylon L. Romero

Hon. Enrico A. Pineda

1-SAGIP (Social Amelioration & Genuine Intervention on Poverty)

Hon. Rodante D. Marcoleta

A TEACHER, INC. (Advocacy for Teacher Empowerment Through Action, Cooperation and Harmony Towards Educational Reforms, Inc.)

Hon. Julieta R. Cortuna

AAMBIS-OWA (Ang Asosasyon Sang Mangunguma Nga Bisaya-OWA Mangunguma, Inc.)

Hon. Sharon S. Garin

AANGAT TAYO (Aangat Tayo)

Hon. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III

AASENSO (Ating Agapay Sentrong Samahan ng mga Obrero, Inc.)

Hon. Teodoro “Ted” G. Montoro

ABANG LINGKOD, INC.

Hon. Joseph Stephen S. Paduano

ABONO (Abono Party-List)

Hon. Conrado M. Estrella III

Hon. Vini Nola A. Ortega

ABS (Arts Business and Science Professionals)

Hon. Eugene Michael B. De Vera

ACT TEACHERS (Act Teachers Party-List)

Hon. Antonio L. Tinio

Hon. France L. Castro

ACTS-OFW (Acts-Overseas Filipino Workers Coalition of Organizations)

Hon. Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III

AGAP (Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines)

Hon. Rico B. Geron

AGBIAG (Agbiag! Timpuyog Ilocano, Inc.)
Hon. Michelle M. Antonio

AGRI (Agri-Agra na Reporma Para sa Magsasaka ng Pilipinas Movement)
Hon. Delphine Gan Lee
Hon. Orestes T. Salon

AKBAYAN (Akbayan Citizens' Action Party)
Hon. Tom S. Villarín

AKO BICOL (Ako Bicol Political Party)
Hon. Rodel M. Batocabe
Hon. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr.
Hon. Christopher S. Co

ALONA (Alliance of Organizations, Networks and Associations of the Philippines, Inc.)
Hon. Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez

AMIN (Anak Mindanao Party-List)
Hon. Sitti Djalia A. Turabin-Hataman
Hon. Makmod D. Mending Jr.

AN WARAY (An Waray)
Hon. Victoria Isabel G. Noel

ANAC-IP (Ang National Coalition of Indigenous Peoples Action Na! Inc.)
Hon. Jose T. Panganiban Jr., CPA/LLB

ANAKPAWIS
Hon. Ariel B. Casilao

ANG KABUHAYAN
Hon. Dennis C. Laogan

ANGKLA (Ang Partido ng mga Pilipinong Marino, Inc.)
Hon. Jesulito "Jess" A. Manalo

BAYAN MUNA
Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

BH (Bagong Henerasyon)
Hon. Bernadette "BH" Herrera-Dy

BUHAY (Buhay Hayaan Yumabong)
Hon. Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr.
Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr.

BUTIL (Butil Farmers Party)
Hon. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez

CIBAC (Citizens' Battle Against Corruption)
Hon. Sherwin N. Tugna

COOP-NATCCO (Cooperative NATCCO Network Party)
Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D.
Hon. Sabiniano S. Canama

DIWA (Democratic Independent Workers Association, Inc.)
Hon. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar

GABRIELA (Gabriela Women's Party)
Hon. Emmi A. De Jesus
Hon. Arlene D. Brosas

KABATAAN (Kabataan Party-List)
Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago

KABAYAN (Kabalikat ng Mamamayan)
Hon. H. Harry L. Roque Jr.
Hon. Ron P. Salo

KALINGA (Advocacy for Social Empowerment and Nation Building Through Easing Poverty, Inc.)
Hon. Abigail Faye C. Ferriol-Pascual

KUSUG TAUSUG
Hon. Shernee Abubakar Tan

LPGMA (LPG Marketers Association, Inc.)
Hon. Arnel U. Ty

MAGDALO (Magdalo para sa Pilipino)
Hon. Gary C. Alejano

MANILA TEACHERS (Manila Teachers' Savings and Loan Association, Inc.)
Hon. Virgilio S. Lacson

MATA (Ang Mata'y Alagaan)
Hon. Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco-Catera

PBA (Pwersa ng Bayaning Atleta)
Hon. Mark Aeron H. Sambar
Hon. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles

SBP (Serbisyo sa Bayan Party)
Hon. Ricardo T. Belmonte Jr.

YACAP (You Against Corruption And Poverty)
Hon. Benjur B. Lopez Jr.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa). Mme. Presiding Officer, the roll call shows that 285 Members responded to the call.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). There being 285 Members who responded to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

To ensure orderly proceedings, the Chair designates the Hon. Rodolfo C. Fariñas of the First District of Ilocos Norte as the Acting Floor Leader.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, I move for the adoption of the Rules of the House of the Sixteenth Congress as the provisional rules of the House to govern its proceedings until the adoption of the Rules of the House for the Seventeenth Congress with an amendment to the first sentence of Section 94, Rule 12 entitled, "Conduct and Attire During Sessions and Committing Meetings," to read as follows:

Members shall wear proper attire which is Barong Filipino or coat and tie or business attire for men, and Filipina dress or business suit for women, and observe proper decorum during sessions and committee meetings.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Rules of the Sixteenth Congress of the House of Representatives is hereby adopted, as amended, as the provisional rules of the House of Representatives for the Seventeenth Congress.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that we now open the table for nomination for the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER

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

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). Is there any objection?

REP. ATIENZA. I am not objecting, Mme. Presiding Officer. I would like to be allowed to ask some clarificatory questions before we elect our Speaker. If the Majority Leader will answer, I would gladly appreciate it. If he would not want to answer, that is his prerogative.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, there is a pending motion, so let us first proceed with the nominations; and after everybody is nominated, then we can answer queries from the floor.

REP. ATIENZA. My question, Mme. Presiding Officer, is ...

REP. FARIÑAS. May we please proceed first ...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). May we please request the ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... related to the fact that before we elect our Speaker, the Members are made clear on the rules to be followed on the election that we are just about to hold. Wala po naman sigurong masamang liwanagin lamang iyong katanungan ng ilan sa amin na nagtatanong, kaya gusto namin ng kaliwanagan.

REP. FARIÑAS. Definitely, Mme. Presiding Officer, we will go into that at the proper time, but we are still in the process of opening the table for nomination. So, when that is ripe for question, then, we will answer. We assure the Gentleman that before proceeding with the election, we will answer all their queries.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The Chair adopts the ruling of the Majority Leader. May we request the Gentleman from the Party-List BUHAY to defer asking a question after we have presented the motion for election or the nomination for Speaker of the House of Representatives is acted upon by the House.

REP. ATIENZA. We defer to the answer of the Majority Leader, but we reserve our right to ask a question before we hold the election.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). It is noted.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, I now move that the ...

REP. FUENTEABELLA. Mme. Speaker.

REP. FARIÑAS. ... Gentleman from the Fourth District of Quezon City, Feliciano Belmonte Jr., be recognized to make his nomination.

REP. FUENTEABELLA. Mme. Speaker, before we proceed to the approval of the motion of the Majority Leader, may I raise a point of inquiry.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). What is the point of inquiry of the Gentleman?

REP. FUENTEABELLA. We are now proceeding with the election of the Speaker, and it is in the Order of Business, Roman numeral no. VIII, that we have here the oath-taking of the Members of the House, and we are now proceeding with the election of the Speaker. The Speaker is a Member of the House. So it is anomalous for us to elect a Speaker who has not taken his oath as Member. So, may we please proceed

first with the oath-taking of the Members before we proceed with the act.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). Your Honor, under the Rules of the House of Representatives, as amended, it is the Speaker of the House that administers the oath of the new Members of Congress. So, it is by parliamentary tradition and practice; and under the Rules of the House of Representatives, as amended and adopted by this assembly, that we should first proceed to the nomination and the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Seventeenth Congress. This is the ruling of the Chair.

REP. FUENTEBELLA. This Representation would like to reiterate his point of order. It is anomalous for us to elect a Speaker who is a Member of the House and who has not yet taken his oath. So, this Representation would like to request and suggest that we first allow all the Members to take the oath before we proceed with any election of the officers of the House.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The Chair will respond to the query of the Gentleman.

Under parliamentary practice and tradition, the oath-taking before the Speaker of the House during the convening of the Congress on the First Regular Session, to commence its First Regular Session, is an affirmation of the oaths that they have taken already prior to June 30 or on June 30 noontime. This is affirmed in previous rulings of the Supreme Court, specifically in the case of the Honorable Velasco, the full title of the case escapes me now. However, there are three concurrent conditions in regard to considering a Member of the House, one who is already to be recognized as a Member of the House. The first one is a valid certificate of proclamation; the second one is the taking of an oath before any duly authorized officer; and the third one is their assumption into office without any question under a duly authorized body that will address such questions on June 30, noontime.

REP. FUENTEBELLA. Mme. Presiding Officer, this Representation ...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). So, these things have been brought together, we are—the point of order should be decided in favor of the conduct of the nomination and election of the Speaker, at this point in time, in the proceedings.

REP. FUENTEBELLA. Mme. Presiding Officer, this Representation would like to reiterate his point of

order for the reason that—may I move for a suspension of the session.

REP. FARIÑAS. There is a ruling. Mme. Presiding Officer. Can we proceed? The motion has been ...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). We are setting aside the question of order of the Gentleman, and we refer, for reference, for the Gentleman, at a later time, previous precedents of the House in the convening of its regular sessions. In addition, this is also the highest constitutional privilege because we must organize the House of Representatives before it can proceed with its business for the first regular session of the Seventeenth Congress.

REP. FUENTEBELLA. Mme. Presiding Officer, if the Speaker would like to—may I reiterate my point of order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The Gentleman ...

REP. FUENTEBELLA. First, we are in an anomalous situation. Why did you put here as part of the Order of Business, “Oath-taking of the Members”?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). It is part ...

REP. FUENTEBELLA. And then, you have the election of the Speaker before the oath-taking of the Members.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. (Atty. Barua-Yap). It is part of the proceedings.

REP. FUENTEBELLA. The Speaker is a Member of the House. It is presumed, therefore, that if we take our oath after we elect the Speaker, we are placed in an anomalous situation. That is why I just want to place everything in order.

May I move for a suspension of the session for a few minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). With the ...

REP. FUENTEBELLA. The suspension of the session takes precedence over all other motions.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). With due respect to the Gentleman who has taken the floor and has been recognized, the Chair has already explained fully the point of order that has been raised by the Gentleman and we are ruling that we are setting

it aside, and we ask that we proceed with the nomination of the Speaker of the House.

REP. FUENTEBELLA. May I put this into a vote, Mme. Presiding Officer, because, I think, we just want to place everything in order.

May I move for a suspension of the session for a few minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). What does the Majority Leader say?

REP. FARIÑAS. First of all, the Gentleman cited a point of order, but he did not cite any rule which is being violated. In fact, the rules are very clear. It says in Section 1, Rule I, eto po Section 1 na nga, kauna-unahan:

First Meeting and Organization of the House. The Members shall meet and proceed to the organization of the House on the fourth Monday of July immediately following their election at the place designated for the holding of their sessions.

“The Secretary General of the immediately preceding Congress shall preside,” which is happening now, “over the inaugural session x x x.” So, it defines the powers of the Acting Presiding Officer.

“After the designation of an acting Floor Leader,” which we followed, “the body shall proceed to the election of the Speaker.” So, it is very clear under the rules; unfortunately, the Gentleman is invoking a point of order, but he is the one who wants to digress from our rules. So, I think the Gentleman is not in order.

May we proceed, Mme. ...

REP. FUENTEBELLA. May I move for a suspension for a few minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). May I request the Floor Leader to proceed with the nomination of the Speaker of the House.

REP. FARIÑAS. I now move that we recognize the Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. to make his nomination for the position of the Speaker.

REP. FUENTEBELLA. Mme. Presiding Officer, may I reserve that for my...

Mme. Presiding Officer, ...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Gentleman from the Fourth District of Quezon City, the Hon. Feliciano Belmonte Jr., is recognized.

REP. FUENTEBELLA. Mme. Presiding Officer, may I reserve my position and discuss it later on at the proper time.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The Honorable Belmonte has been recognized. Please proceed, Your Honor.

NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. BELMONTE (F.)

REP. BELMONTE (F.). Esteemed colleagues, on behalf of the Liberal Party, it is an honor and privilege today to nominate Rep. Pantaleon “Bebot” Diaz Alvarez as the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Congress.

Bebot is a friend and a colleague. We were both Members of the Eleventh Congress. It was then his first term as Member of this institution and he served as Vice Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Communications. Because of his experience and expertise in the air transportation sector, he was afterwards promptly tapped to lead the Department of Transportation and Communications, one of the biggest departments in our government, as Secretary under the administration of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, our colleague from Pampanga.

The Eleventh Congress had actually marked a milestone in my own career. Two would-be Presidents of our Republic, President Benigno S. Aquino III and President Rodrigo R. Duterte, voted for my Speakership. More than that, former Speaker Manuel B. Villar and our soon-to-be Speaker, Hon. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez, likewise, registered their vote for me in 2001.

As they gave me their unqualified support for my leadership 15 years ago, I stand here in this august Chamber to declare my and the Liberal Party’s support for the Speakership bid of Cong. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez as Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

These are indeed exciting and interesting times in the history of our country. The Filipino people have overwhelmingly elected our first President from Mindanao and the first city Mayor directly elected as President on a platform of change. We should grant our incoming Speaker that same overwhelming mandate.

Many believe that by its very nature, rainbow coalitions are hardest to lead because it is quite seldom that their sense of purpose is converted into action. We have proven this wrong in the recent Congresses by providing a leadership that is worthy of everyone’s trust, respect and confidence. Congress has passed important measures that defied century-old institutions, big business groups and industry players. It was no mean feat to pass measures that languished in the legislative mills for decades, but the leadership of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Congresses have proven that our colleagues’ sense of nationalism and love of country

can and will always prevail over one's political and personal interests.

In the same vein, I am confident that with his popular mandate, President Duterte's efforts for inclusive governance by opening his Cabinet to peoples of different political persuasions will succeed under his firm and strong leadership. The path to change is always wrought with challenges and growing pains. It will not be easy and neither will it be quick, but it is possible. With our people riding in this quest for change, consensus and compromise will lead our country forward. The Liberal Party of the Seventeenth Congress will be a partner in this change.

Our people have given President Rodrigo R. Duterte an overwhelming mandate and our people expect nothing less from their Representatives in this Congress.

Speaker Alvarez, a man whom fate and fortitude have favored to return to this House like a phoenix, will ensure that we will all constructively work together with President Duterte towards the achievement of our shared aspirations for this country, for our country, and the betterment of our countrymen whom we all serve. It is thus my distinct honor and privilege as the leader of the Liberal Party in this House to nominate and express my full and unqualified support for the election of Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez, Representative of the First District of Davao del Norte, as the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Congress.

Maraming salamat po. *(Applause)*

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that the Gentleman from the Second District of Ilocos Sur, Eric D. Singson, be recognized to make his nomination.

REP. SINGSON. Mme. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Gentleman from the Second District of Ilocos Sur, the Hon. Eric D. Singson, is recognized.

NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. SINGSON

REP. SINGSON. On behalf of the members of our party, PDP-Laban, I second the nomination of the Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez of the First District of Davao del Norte as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Congress.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that the Lady from the Sixth District of Negros Occidental, Mercedes K. Alvarez, be recognized to make her nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Lady from the Sixth District of Negros Occidental, the Hon. Mercedes K. Alvarez, is recognized.

NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. ALVAREZ (M.).

REP. ALVAREZ (M.). Mme. Presiding Officer, on behalf of the members of our party, the Nationalist People's Coalition, I second the nomination of the Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez of the First District of Davao del Norte as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Congress.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that the Gentleman from the Second District of Capiz, Fredenil "Fred" H. Castro, be recognized to make his nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Gentleman from the Second District of Capiz, the Hon. Fredenil "Fred" H. Castro, is recognized.

NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. CASTRO (F.H.)

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). Mme. Presiding Officer, on behalf of the officers and members of the NUP, the National Unity Party, it is my esteemed privilege and honor to second the nomination of the distinguished Gentleman from the First District of Davao del Norte, the Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez, as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Congress.

I so move, Mme. Presiding Officer.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that the Gentleman from the Second District of Batangas, Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu, be recognized to make his nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Gentleman from the Second District of Batangas, the Hon. Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu, is recognized.

NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. ABU

REP. ABU. Mme. Presiding Officer, on behalf of the members of the oldest political party, the Nacionalista Party, I second the nomination of the Hon. Pantaleon Diaz Alvarez of the First District of Davao del Norte as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Congress.

I so move, Mme. Presiding Officer.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that the Gentleman from the Party-List KABAYAN,

H. Harry L. Roque Jr., be recognized to make his nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Gentleman from the Party-List KABAYAN, the Hon. H. Harry L. Roque Jr., is recognized.

NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. ROQUE (H.)

REP. ROQUE (H.). Mme. Presiding Officer, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues of the Seventeenth Congress, it is my honor and privilege to nominate Cong. Danilo E. Suarez for the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Congressman Suarez comes from humble beginnings. His rise in the ladder of life gives him the advantage of knowing the pulse of all classes in our society. This has given his legislative agenda a keen insight which cannot be found in classrooms or in books. His wisdom comes from the more practical school of hard knocks, as he is fond of saying. I believe that experience is the best teacher, and Congressman Danny brings with him more than 20 years of legislative experience on top of being a successful businessman before he entered the world of public service.

He was the Chairperson of the Oversight Committee which monitored and criticized underperforming government agencies. He was the principal author of the Lateral Attrition Law which sought to incentivize officers and employees of our revenue-generating agencies to perform at their optimum.

Cong. Danny Suarez also became the Minority Leader during the Fifteenth Congress, where he advocated the recognition of all barangay officials and employees. His leadership style as a Minority Leader is one of constructive criticism where the thrust is for the national agenda instead of partisan politics. For these reasons, I respectfully reiterate my nomination for Hon. Danilo E. Suarez.

Thank you and good morning.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that the Gentleman from the Second District of Makati, the Hon. Luis Jose Angel N. Campos Jr., be recognized for his nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Gentleman from the Second District of Makati, the Hon. Luis Jose Angel N. Campos Jr., is recognized.

NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. CAMPOS

REP. CAMPOS. Mme. Presiding Officer, I second the motion to nominate Cong. Danilo E. Suarez for Speaker of the House of Representatives.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, I now move that we recognize the Gentleman from the First District of Northern Samar, the Hon. Raul A. Daza, for his nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Gentleman from the First District of Northern Samar, the Hon. Raul A. Daza, is recognized.

NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. DAZA

REP. DAZA. Mme. Presiding Officer, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, good morning.

Nominations for Speaker and eulogies for deceased Members sound the same.

Today, however, I insist that my nominee for Speaker is in the pink of health, very much alive and kicking, so to speak and, at almost 50, in the peak of virile manhood, is raring to battle for the Speakership, no matter the odds nor the presumptive outcome of this election.

Parenthetically, I also affirm, as it is for my nominee, so it is for my party of half a century, the Liberal Party of the Philippines, of which I was president for five of its trying, challenging and exciting years.

Furthermore, I salute this morning the several dozens of House Liberal Party members in this august hall who have persevered in our party that we so dearly love and so reverently honor because of its lofty principles and enduring ideals. I am confident that no matter how we individually vote for Speaker today, we will be recognized by our party as members of good standing and as members of the National Executive Council.

With singular pride, I make this nomination because it is a first in the history of the House. Today, the Journal will record that for the first time, a member of a so-called cultural minority is nominated to the highest office of this Chamber. He hails from Ifugao, one of the provinces composing the Cordillera Administrative Region.

He was born on July 30, 1966, of a father, a retired official of the Department of Agriculture, and a mother, a lawyer. After graduating as salutatorian from high school, he pursued his tertiary education at the University of the Philippines-Diliman where he finished in 1989 a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication, major in Journalism. While in the university campus, he was an actively involved student-leader for progressive causes.

After working as an Executive Assistant in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, he became a Production Assistant at GMA-Channel 7, then a reporter for the People's News Service, and later an Executive Assistant in the Philippine Ecological Network. In 1991, he went home to Ifugao to organize a foundation to help poor students and to protect the environment.

In 1992, he was elected Municipal Councilor of his hometown, Kiangan, Ifugao, at 25—the youngest in the whole country at that time. He was elected Mayor of Kiangan for two terms from 1995 to 2001.

He ran and won as Governor of Ifugao in 2001. It was during his tenure that Ifugao was taken off the unglamorous list of the country's poorest provinces.

Notwithstanding a heartbreaking narrow loss in his reelection bid in 2004, he relentlessly labored to preserve and protect the cultural treasures of Ifugao, one of which is the world-famous wonder, the Rice Terraces of Ifugao. He also secured scholarships for underprivileged students and implemented programs to provide sustainable employment for graduates and skilled workers through livelihood and enterprise development, tapping TESDA, people's organizations and cooperatives.

It was therefore only natural that a grateful populace returned him to their provincial capitol as their Governor in 2007. During his tenure, he incessantly continued his previous programs and projects and added for good measure new ones for marketing, promotion and financial assistance to micro enterprises, eco-cultural tourism hand in hand with improvement of provincial and municipal roads, maternal and infant health and, notably, good governance to fight graft and corruption.

In 2010, he was elected Representative of the Lone District of Ifugao, reelected in 2013, and then reelected in the last May 9, 2016 elections for his third term in Congress. He is, therefore, a third term in the present Congress.

My candidate is a full member of the National Executive Council, Liberal Party of the Philippines, and my esteemed party-mate.

Mme. Presiding Officer, his complete commitment and pure dedication to the poor of Ifugao transport my thoughts at this moment to the halcyon days of my high school when our English teacher required us to memorize the immortal work of the English poet, Thomas Gray, *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*.

Two of its touching stanzas say:

Let not Ambition mock their useful toil,
Their homely joys, and destiny obscure;
Nor Grandeur hear with a disdainful smile
The short and simple annals of the poor.
x x x
Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear:
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, in curiosity you ask: Are there really unfathomed caves or eye-catching flower gardens in Ifugao? Yes, I assure you, there are: the awe-inspiring Panaggawan Caves in Kiangan as well as the radiant flower gardens of Banaue and Mayoyao—all veritable tourist destinations and objects of my nominee's continuing care and concern.

Dahil sa mga tagumpay na inani ng aking kandidato, lalung-lalo na sa larangan ng pagtulong at pag-aruga

sa mga dukha at sa mga sawimpalad, sampu ng mga naghihikahos na mga ina at mga sanggol, ako ay walang atubiling ipatalâ ang pangalan ng aking kandidato sa talaan ng pagka-Speaker nitong Batasang ito.

I sense a lot of regionalism in the current political air. In the media, both traditional and social, frequent references are made to the fact that the presumptive Senate President and the presumptive Speaker are all from Mindanao.

In fact, a Visayan friend asked me last night why I favor my nominee who is an Ifugao from Luzon, over the nominee of the Super Majority, who is a fellow Visayan from Mindanao.

Nangutana kanako ang akong higala nganong Ifugao man nga taga-Luzon ang akong gipaluyuhan pagka-Speaker nga dili man Bisaya nga taga-Mindanao. Ang akong tubag mao, bisan kinsa o tagaasa ang mapiling Speaker, Bisaya man o dili, siya Speaker sa tanan, dili lamang sa mga Bisaya, sama kang President Duterte nga miingon nga siya Presidente, dili lamang sa mga Davaoweño ug sa mga taga-Mindanao kun dili sa tanang katawhan sa tibuok nasud nga Pilipinhon.

Yes, I am a Visayan and my nominee is an Ifugao. Yet, today, we are all here Filipinos first and foremost, whatever our region, whatever our religion and whatever our cultural background. As a Filipino, I stand here today to proudly nominate him, also a Filipino like all of us, for Speaker.

Mme. Presiding Officer, not by mere accident, but rather by sheer intent, our group, consisting of some House Liberals and our party-list allies, are now contesting the Speakership because we have not forgotten—and ardently hope that this and future generations never forget—the immutable ideals, among others, of democracy, of freedom, of rule of law, of human rights, and of checks and balances, which are the vital hallmarks of our Republic.

Thus, Mme. Presiding Officer, I nominate for Speaker, the distinguished Gentleman from the Lone District of Ifugao, the Hon. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr.

Thank you. (*Applause*)

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that the Gentleman from the Party-List AKBAYAN, Cong. Tom S. Villarín, be recognized for his nomination.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The distinguished Gentleman from the Party-List AKBAYAN, the Hon. Tomasito Villarín, is recognized.

NOMINATION SPEECH OF REP. VILLARIN

REP. VILLARIN. Mme. Presiding Officer, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, colleagues in the House of Representatives, the AKBAYAN believes

that in a democratic institution, there should be internal control mechanisms, there should be checks and balances. The AKBAYAN also believes that the marginalized sectors should be at the forefront in the struggle for democracy and freedom.

Ako, Bisaya ko sab kauban ni Manong Raul Daza. Ako, gikan sa Davao City. Ako, nanginuha kabilang ko sa ka-first-termer, kinahanglan nato usa ka-vibrant ug democratic na institution.

Mituo ako nga karong Kongreso ng Seventeenth Congress diri nato makita kung unsa katinuod nga ang atong institusyon maghahakag ug tinuod nga demokrasya ug boses sa kadaghanan.

Ang pag-nominate kay Cong. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. usa ka dungog para sa akuha na taga-Davao ug kami sa AKBAYAN Party-List, we second the motion for the nomination as Speaker of Teddy Baguilat Jr.

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

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). There is a motion to close the table for nominations for Speaker of the House. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Presiding Officer, may I now be allowed to ask my questions that would guide many of us in the election process.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). The Gentleman from the Party-List BUHAY is recognized.

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

My question is very simple. We know that the Members of this Congress will elect the Speaker. Will that be correct to assume?

REP. FARIÑAS. That is the motion. Tama po.

REP. ATIENZA. Sino po ba ang maghahalal ng Minority Leader?

REP. FARIÑAS. The question is simple, like the Gentleman said, I will refer him to the Rules.

Nandito po sa Rules natin, “The Majority and the Minority,” Section 8, nakalagay po dito:

Members who vote for the winning candidate for Speaker shall constitute the Majority in the House and they shall elect from among themselves the Majority Leader.

So, kami pong nasa Majority ay maghahalal ng Majority Leader namin. Sila pong Majority iyong boboto sa nanalo.

So, it says po, the Majority Leader may be changed, at any time, by a majority vote of all the members of the Majority.

Ito po ang sagot sa tanong ninyo:

The Minority Leader shall be elected by the Members of the Minority and can be changed, at any time, by a majority vote of all the Minority Members.

So, sino po ang mag-e-elect ng Minority? E natural po, iyong Minority po ang pipili ng kanilang pangulo.

REP. ATIENZA. Malinaw po iyong maghahalal ng Majority, pero nabanggit po nila na ang maghahalal ng Minority Leader ay members of the Minority. Tama po ba iyong pagkakaintindi ko?

REP. FARIÑAS. Iyon po ang sinabi ko at iyon po ang regulasyon.

REP. ATIENZA. E deklarado po ba tayo kung sino ang Majority at Minority rito?

REP. FARIÑAS. Malalaman po natin pagkatapos ng halalan dahil ang nakalagay po sa ating regulasyon, sa ating rules, kung sino ang boboto doon sa nanalong Speaker, iyon ang mga magiging Mayorya.

So, lahat po ng hindi boboto sa panalo, Minority po sila. So, iyong matitirang iyon, sila ang mamimili ngayon kung sino ang kanilang magiging pangulo dahil iyon ay ayaw po nilang sumama doon sa Mayorya, so sila na ho ang bahalang magsabi kung sino—iyon po ang rules natin e.

I will repeat, it says:

The Minority Leader shall be elected by the members of the Minority and can be changed, at any time, by a majority vote of all the Minority members.

Sino ang Minority? E, iyong hindi ho bumoto doon sa nanalong Speaker, kasi nga ho defined sa ating rules kung sino ang Majority. Kung sino ang boboto o bumoto doon sa nanalong Speaker, sila iyong Majority. Lahat ng hindi bumoto, whether kontra o hindi siya bumoto, ayaw niya bumoto, Minority po sila.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Presiding Officer, simple po iyang formula na iyan kung dalawa lang ang naglalaban. E kung tatlo po ang nominees katulad nito.

REP. FARIÑAS. E mas madali nga ho ito e.

REP. ATIENZA. So, who will now be the Majority Leader ...

REP. FARIÑAS. Iyong Minority ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... and who will be the Minority Leader among the two who may lose the election?

REP. FARIÑAS. Very clear ho iyong rules. Iyong hindi boboto sa panalong Speaker, sila po ang Minority. Sila po ngayon ang pipili kung sino ang magiging Minority Leader nila. Hindi kailangan iyong natalo o pumangalawa o pumangatlo. Kung sino iyong kanilang ihahalal na magiging pangulo ng Minority, iyon ang kikilalanin ng Mayorya. Dahil very simple po e. Boboto tayo ngayon, we will elect the Speaker. So, whoever votes for the winning candidate will belong to the Majority. Whoever will not vote, sila ang Minority, they will have to meet now to determine who will be their Minority Leader dahil iyon po ang nakalagay sa ating Rules. Napakaliwanag po e.

REP. ATIENZA. Opo. Pero hindi po ganyan ang ginagawa sa nakaraan. Liliwanagin ko lang po para ngayon, gagawin na natin ang tama.

REP. FARIÑAS. Opo.

REP. ATIENZA. Ang sinasabi ng Acting Majority Leader is that, all those who vote for any of two or other candidates who may not make it to the Speakership will gather around and vote for their leader. Is that a right assumption on my part, Mme. Presiding Officer?

REP. FARIÑAS. Opo. Actually, para mas maliwanag po, whoever will not vote for the winning candidate is part of the Minority.

REP. ATIENZA. Automatically, Minority.

REP. FARIÑAS. Opo. Dahil hindi po sila sumama doon sa nanalo.

REP. ATIENZA. Those who did not vote for the winning Speaker will now meet separately and elect their Minority Leader. Iyon po ba ang tamang interpretation?

REP. FARIÑAS. Correct po.

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat po. Iyon ay totally different from what we experienced in the last Congress as the Gentleman would admit. The second placer automatically became the Minority Leader and all of us who voted for the third candidate became independents, no party, no role. For one year, we were

not even participating in the committee meetings. So, ngayon, malinaw po ito.

REP. FARIÑAS. Malinaw po.

REP. ATIENZA. Tinatanggap ko po ang assurance ng ating Acting Majority Leader. Pagkatapos po ng halalan for the Speakership, lahat ng hindi bumoto for the winning Speaker automatically become members of the Minority whether for the second placer or the third placer.

REP. FARIÑAS. Opo, tamang-tama po, eksakto.

REP. ATIENZA. Salamat po.

REP. FARIÑAS. Yes, sir.

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming-maraming salamat.

REP. FARIÑAS. May we now, Mme. Presiding Officer—I move that we now proceed with the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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 will now call the roll of Members.

May we request every Member to state the name of the candidate you are voting for as Speaker of the House of Representatives upon being called.

ROLL CALL

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

The honorable Congressmen and Congresswomen:
Abad

REP. ABAD. I vote for Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez as Speaker of the House. I vote with the Liberal Party.

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

REP. ABAYA. I vote for the Honorable Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. ABAYON. Good morning, everyone. I choose to abstain. Thank you.

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

REP. ABELLANOSA. I represent my constituents of the Second District of the city of Cebu, who voted resoundingly for Rodrigo Duterte as our President. I listen to their voice. I now vote for Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

REP. ABU. From the Second District of Batangas and as member of the Nacionalista Party, I vote for Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez as Speaker.

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

REP. ACHARON. I vote for Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez as Speaker.

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

REP. ACOP. This Representation votes for the Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker.

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

REP. ACOSTA-ALBA. I vote for Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez as Speaker.

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

REP. ACOSTA (G.). Mme. Presiding Officer, hindi po ako boboto neither sa tatlo. I am abstaining, from the province of Palawan, Third Congressional District.

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

REP. ABUEG. Mme. Presiding Officer, I support

and vote for Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, from the Second District of Palawan.

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

REP. ADIONG. I vote for Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. ADVINCULA. I vote for Bebot Alvarez as Speaker.

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

REP. AGARAO. Ang boto ko po ay para kay Cong. Bebot Alvarez para sa pagka-Speaker.

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

REP. AGGABAO. Abstain.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa), *reading*:
Aglipay-Villar
Akbar

REP. AKBAR. I vote for Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez as Speaker of the House.

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

REP. ALEJANO. Good morning, everyone. I am the Representative of the MAGDALO para sa Pilipino Party-List, and my vote goes to Hon. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. as Speaker for the Seventeenth Congress. Thank you.

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

REP. ALMARIO. Mme. Presiding Officer, many Congress Members will be voting for Bebot Alvarez as Speaker, and they are coming from the different districts

all over the nation, including those from the party-lists. With more reason, this Representation, representing the Second District of Davao Oriental, will vote for Bebot Alvarez, as we are neighbors, Davao del Norte and Davao Oriental. So, my vote goes to Speaker Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. ALMONTE. From the First District of the province of Misamis Occidental, I respectfully vote in favor of Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez as Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. ALONTE. Mme. Presiding Officer, Your Honor, I choose to abstain.

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

REP. ALVAREZ (F.). I vote for Pantaleon D. Alvarez as Speaker.

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

REP. ALVAREZ (M.). I vote for Speaker Alvarez, Madam.

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

REP. ALVAREZ (P.). Mme. Speaker, traditionally, I vote for my opponent, but since I have two opponents and I respect both of them, I will just abstain. (*Applause*)

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

REP. AMANTE. My vote goes to Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. AMATONG. This Representation from the Third District of the province of Zamboanga del Norte votes for Speaker Alvarez.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa), *reading*:
Andaya
Angara-Castillo

REP. ANGARA-CASTILLO. I vote for Mr. “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. ANTONINO. On behalf of the Fourth District of Nueva Ecija, I vote for Speaker “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. ANTONIO. Good morning. Mme. Speaker, on behalf of AGBIAG Party-List, I am voting for Cong. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. ARAGONES. Mme. Speaker, pinili ko hong bumoto ng abstain para sa labanan sa Speakership.

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

REP. ARBISON. I vote for Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker.

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

REP. ARCILLAS. Your Honor, I choose to follow Speaker Alvarez, so I abstain.

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

REP. ARENAS. Representing the Third District of Pangasinan, I vote for Congressman Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the House of Representatives.
Thank you.

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

REP. ATIENZA. My vote goes to Cong. Danilo E. Suarez.

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

REP. AUMENTADO. My vote goes to Speaker Alvarez.

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

REP. BAG-AO. I vote with the Liberal Party, I vote for Congressman Alvarez.

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

REP. BAGATSING. Representing the Fifth District of Manila, respectfully, I choose to abstain.

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

REP. BAGUILAT. Mme. Speaker, as a Liberal and as a proud member of the Indigenous Peoples, I vote for myself, Representative Teodoro Baguilat Jr. (*Applause*)

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

REP. BANAL. Bilang miyembro po ng Liberal Party, ang boto ko po ay para kay “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN. Good morning everyone. Taga-Davao ako, so I vote for Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. BARBERS. A fellow Mindanaoan, a friend,

and an esteemed colleague, I vote for Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. BARZAGA. I am voting for Congressman Alvarez as Speaker of the House.

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

REP. BATAOIL. From the Second District of Pangasinan, I vote for Cong. Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

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

REP. BATOCABE. As Representative of AKO BICOL Party-List, I abstain.

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

REP. BELARO. This Representation from UNA ANG EDUKASYON Party-List believes that our advocacies can best be ventilated under the leadership of Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa), *reading*:
Belmonte, Feliciano
Belmonte, Jose Christopher
Belmonte, Ricardo

REP. BELMONTE (J.). Mme. Presiding Officer, as a member of the Liberal Party, I vote for the Hon. Bebot Alvarez as Speaker.

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

REP. BERNOS. I choose to abstain.

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

REP. BERTIZ. Your Honor, representing millions of OFW worldwide, I abstain.

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

REP. BIAZON. Mme. Chair, I vote for Cong. Pantaleon D. Alvarez to be the first among equals, the Speaker of the House. Thank you very much.

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

REP. BILLONES. From the First District of Capiz and Liberal Party member, I vote for Teddy Baguilat.

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

REP. BIRON. Mme. Speaker, from the Fourth District of the Province of Iloilo, I vote for Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mme. Speaker, this Representation from the Fourth District of Batangas votes for Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

REP. BONDOC. The Fourth District of Pampanga votes for Bebot Alvarez as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

REP. BORDADO. Mme. Presiding Officer, in conformity with the agreement between the Liberal Party and the PDP Laban forged last night, to further strengthen the process of nation building under the administration of President Digong Duterte, I am voting for Cong. Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

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

REP. BRAVO (A.). I choose to abstain, Your Honor.

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

REP. BRAVO (M.). Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. BROSAS. Mula sa GABRIELA Party-List, inihalal namin si Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez bilang Speaker of the House.

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

REP. BULUT-BEGTANG. For the province of Apayao, I vote for Cong. Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

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

REP. CAGAS. From the Lone District of Davao del Sur, I vote for Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

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

REP. CALDERON. I cast my vote in favor of Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Magandang umaga po. Mme. Speaker, from the Lone Representative of Pasay. I vote for Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

REP. CAMINERO. Mme. Presiding Officer, from the people of the Second District of the province of Cebu, I am so ordered to vote for Cong. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez as Speaker.

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

REP. CAMPOS. I vote for Cong. Danilo Suarez as Speaker of the House.

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

REP. CANAMA. Representing COOP-NATCCO Party-List, I vote for Congressman Alvarez as Speaker.

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

REP. CARI. Leyte, Fifth, votes for Rep. Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. CASILAO. Sa ngalan sa partido ANAKPAWIS, taga-Davao, akong higalang silingan, our vote goes to Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez.

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

REP. CASTELO. The people of District II, Quezon City, cast their vote for Congressman Pantaleon Alvarez as the Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Sa ngalan po ng ACT TEACHERS Party-List, ang akin pong boto ay kay Pantaleon Alvarez para sa Speaker of the House.

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

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). Mme. Presiding Officer, kindly register an affirmative vote for the people of the Second District of Capiz, in favor of Speaker Alvarez as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

REP. CATAMCO. On behalf of the Second District

of North Cotabato, this Representation votes for Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. CAYETANO. Representing the Second District of Taguig City, I vote for Congressman Alvarez.

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

REP. CELESTE. From the First District of Pangasinan, I vote for Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the House.

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

REP. CERAFICA. Abstain, Mme. Presiding Officer.

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

REP. CHAVEZ. I abstain.

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

REP. CHIPECO. Mula po sa Ikalawang Distrito ng lalawigan ng Laguna, ipinagkakaloob po namin ang aming boto kay Bebot Alvarez para Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. CO. Mme. Presiding Officer, I abstain.

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

REP. COJUANGCO. My vote is for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. COLLANTES. On behalf of the people of the Third District of Batangas, this Representation votes for Speaker Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. CORTES. From the Sixth District of Cebu, I vote for Congressman Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez as the Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. CORTUNA. Mme. Presiding Officer, this Representation from A TEACHER Party-List chooses to abstain.

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

REP. COSALAN. For House Speaker, Cong. Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. CRISOLOGO. The people of the First District of Quezon City cast their vote for our party-mate, Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. CUARESMA. Good morning, I vote for Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. CUEVA. I vote for Congressman Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. DALIPE. As one of those who signified support to him personally, immediately after the

elections just two days after, it will be an honor, Mme. Presiding Officer, as Representative of the Second District of Zamboanga, I vote for Cong. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. DALOG. Mme. Presiding Officer, this humble Representation from the Lone District of Mountain Province votes for the Hon. Bebot Alvarez as Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. DAZA. Teddy Baguilat Jr.

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

REP. DE JESUS. Ang Representasyong ito mula sa GABRIELA Women’s Party ay bumoboto para kay Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa), *reading*:
De Leon-Ferrer

REP. DE LEON-FERRER. I vote for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Representing the proud people of the Fourth District of Pangasinan and as a proud member of the Liberal Party, I vote for Rep. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. DE VERA. I vote to abstain.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Alvarez.

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

REP. DEL MAR. Pursuant to the coalition agreement signed between PDP-Laban and the Liberal Party of which I am a member, I vote for Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. DEL ROSARIO. I vote for Cong. Danilo Suarez.

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

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Presiding Officer, this Representation from the Second District of Zambales casts her vote for Congressman Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. DIMAPORO (A.). Mme. Presiding Officer, our vote is for the Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). On behalf of the First District of Lanao del Norte, my vote is for Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. DUAVIT. The First District of Rizal votes for Mr. Speaker Alvarez.

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

REP. DURANO. I vote for the Hon. Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. DY. I vote for the Honorable Alvarez.

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

REP. ELAGO. This Representation from the KABATAAN Party-List votes for the Honorable Alvarez as House Speaker.

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

REP. ENERIO-CERILLES. I vote for the Hon. Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. ENVERGA. Representing the First District of Quezon, I vote for Speaker Alvarez.

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

REP. ERICE. Mme. Presiding Officer, the Liberal Party has always respected different opinions. The Liberal Party has always respected the opinions of individual members, and I believe that critical thinking is imperative towards the achievement and advancement of the democratic processes. I believe that Congressman Teddy Baguilat can provide that.

Thank you.

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

REP. ERIGUEL. This Representation from the Second District of La Union votes for the Hon. Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez.

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

REP. ERMITA-BUHAIN. From the First District of Batangas, this Representation votes for Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. ESCUDERO. From the First District of Sorsogon, I vote for Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. ESTRELLA. To ensure the success of the Duterte administration, the ABONO Party-List votes for Cong. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez as the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Thank you.

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

REP. ESPINA. Mme. Presiding Officer, on behalf of the proud people of Biliran province, this humble Representation supports the Speakership of the Hon. Bebot Alvarez as Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

Thank you.

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

REP. ESPINO. The Fifth District of Pangasinan votes for Congressman Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. EUSEBIO. Representing the Lone District of Pasig City, I abstain.

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

REP. EVARDONE. Mme. Presiding Officer, colleagues, the Lone District of the province of Eastern Samar votes for Alvarez.

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

REP. FERNANDO. Mga kagalang-galang, ako po ay kay Kagalang-galang Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. FERRER (J.). I already casted my vote for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez earlier.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa), *reading*:
Ferrer, Luis “Jon Jon”

REP. FERRER (L.). Mula po sa Ikaanim na Distrito ng lalawigan ng Cavite, ang boto po namin ay para kay Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. FERRIOL-PASCUAL. As the Representative of KALINGA Party-List, I abstain.

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

REP. FLOIRENDO. The Second District of Davao del Norte votes for Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. FLORES. Representing the Second District of Bukidnon, I vote for Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. FORTUN. Gikan sa Butuan City ug Las Nieves, ang aking boto para kang Hon. Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. FORTUNO. On behalf of my constituents in the Fifth District of Camarines Sur, I vote for Speaker Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. FUENTEBELLA. I cast my vote for the Honorable Alvarez.

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

REP. GARBIN. This Representation from AKO BICOL Party-List chooses to abstain.

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

REP. GARCIA (G.). For and on behalf of the Third District of the province of Cebu, this Representation votes for the Hon. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. GARCIA (J.). Mme. Presiding Officer, I choose to abstain.

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

REP. GARCIA-ALBANO. For the Second District of Davao City, we cast our vote for the Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. GARIN (O.). Wala ka nang hahanapin pa, Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. GARIN (S.). Abstain, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. GASATAYA. Mula po sa lungsod ng Bacolod at miyembro ng Nationalist People’s Coalition, my vote is for the honorable Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez as the Speaker of the House. Thank you very much.

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

REP. GATCHALIAN. On behalf of the people of the First District of Valenzuela City, I vote for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. GERON. This Representation from the Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines votes for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. GO (A.). Mme. Presiding Officer, this Representation from the Second District of Isabela votes for Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. GO (M.). From the Lone District of Baguio City, this Representation votes for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. GOMEZ. Representing the Fourth District of Leyte, I vote for Speaker Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. GONZAGA. Representing the Second District of Compostela Valley, I vote for Speaker Alvarez.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Presiding Officer, I vote for the Hon. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez as Speaker of the House.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mme. Presiding Officer, representing the Third District of Pampanga, I vote for Cong. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez for Speaker.

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

REP. GONZALEZ. Third District of Albay, I vote for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. GORRICETA. From the Second District of Iloilo, I vote for Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. GULLAS. As the Representative of the First District of Cebu, the First District of Cebu votes for Congressman Bebot Alvarez as Speaker.

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

REP. HERNANDEZ. On behalf of the Second District of South Cotabato, I cast my vote for my friend, fellow Mindanaoan, and my fraternity brother, Cong. Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez.

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

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mme. Presiding Officer, sa ngalan po ng Bagong Henerasyon, BH Party-List, ang boto po namin ay para kay Rep. Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez bilang Speaker.
Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. HOFER. This Representative from Mindanao, specifically the Second District of Zamboanga Sibugay, votes for Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez as House Speaker.

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

REP. JAVIER. On behalf of the Lone District of

Antique, I, Paolo Javier, vote for Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the House.

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

REP. KHO. As Representative of the Second District of Masbate and member of the Nacionalista Party, I vote for Congressman Alvarez.

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

REP. KHONGHUN. Mula po sa Unang Distrito ng Zambales, kasama po ang bayan ng Subic at Olongapo City, ang boto po namin ay para kay Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. LABADLABAD. From the Second District of Zamboanga del Norte, I hereby cast my vote for the Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. LACSON. From the Representation of the MANILA TEACHERS Party-List, the vote goes to Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. LAGMAN. Rep. Teddy Baguilat Jr.

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

REP. LANETE. The people from the Third District of Masbate vote for Speaker Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. LAOGAN. From ANG KABUHAYAN Party-List, I vote for Speaker Alvarez. Thank you.

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

REP. LAZATIN. Bilang Representante ng Primero Distrito ng Pampanga, ang boto ko po ay kay Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. LEACHON. Magandang umaga po. With the resounding support of the majority of our people, the new administration deserves a chance; our people deserve a chance to actualize those dreams for a better country. We need a better, viable, and critically approved House of Congress. It is in this light that I, as Representative of the First District of Oriental Mindoro, vote for Speaker Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. LEE. From AGRI Party-List, I vote for Cong. Danilo Suarez.

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

REP. LIMKAICHONG. From the Liberal bloc and the Visayan bloc, joining the Majority, I vote for Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. LOBREGAT. For and on behalf of the First District of Zamboanga City, I will vote for a friend, a colleague from the Eleventh Congress, a fellow Mindanaoan, Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. LOPEZ (B.). YACAP Party-List votes for Speaker Alvarez.

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

REP. LOPEZ (C.). The Second District, Tondo, Manila votes for Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. LOPEZ (M.). This humble Representation from the First District of the city of Manila, Tondo, proudly votes for Cong. Bebot Alvarez as Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. LOYOLA. From the Fifth District of Cavite, I vote in favor of Cong. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez as Speaker of the House.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa), *reading*:
Macapagal-Arroyo
Maceda

REP. MACEDA. Mula po sa Ikaapat na Distrito ng Maynila, ang Representasyong ito ay bumoboto kay Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez bilang Speaker ng Mababang Kapulungan ng Kongreso. Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. MADRONA. From the Lone District of Romblon, I vote for Speaker Alvarez.

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

REP. MALAPITAN. The First District of Caloocan votes for Congressman Alvarez.

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

REP. MANALO. On behalf of ANGKLA Party-List, the maritime sector, we vote for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. MANGAOANG. On behalf of the Lone District, province of Kalinga, I vote for Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. MANGUDADATU (Z.). Assalamu alaikum. Maayong udto sa atong tanan.

On behalf of the people of the Second District of Maguindanao, I vote for Hon. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez as Speaker of the House of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. MARCOS. On behalf of the people of the Second District of Ilocos Norte, I vote for Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the House of Representatives. Thank you.

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

REP. MARIÑO. The Fifth District of Batangas votes for Congressman Alvarez.

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

REP. MARQUEZ. Mme. Presiding Officer, from the Lone District of the province of Aklan, I vote for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. MARTINEZ. From the Second District of the city of Valenzuela and from the PDP-Laban, as one of the original three who won in the last election, my vote goes to Cong. Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. MATUGAS. From Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte, I vote for Cong. Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. MELLANA. From the Second District of Agusan del Sur, I vote for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. MENDING. Assalamu alaikum. Bilang boses ng Anak Mindanao sa Kongreso, tayo po ay taas-noong bumoboto sa kapatid nating Mindanaoan, si “Bebot” Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. MERCADO. From the province where our President Rodrigo Roa Duterte was born and baptized, Southern Leyte, I vote for our friend, best friend and kumpare, Speaker Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. MIRASOL. Representing the Fifth District of Negros Occidental, Alvarez.

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

REP. MONTORO. On behalf of AASENSO Party-List, I choose to vote for Congressman Alvarez as Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. NAVA. This Representation from the Lone District of Guimaras votes for the Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. NIETO. Mula po sa Ikatlong Distrito ng Maynila, I vote for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. NOGRALES (J.). The PBA Party-List votes for Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

REP. NOGRALES (K.). From the First District of Davao City, I vote for the Representative of the First District of Davao del Norte, the Hon. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez, as Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. NOLASCO. From the First District of the province of Cagayan, I vote for Cong. Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. NUÑEZ-MALANYAON. From the First District of Davao Oriental, my vote goes to Hon. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. OAMINAL. The Nacionalista Party has seconded the nomination of Cong. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez as Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress. As a strong member of the Nacionalista Party and as a result of my consultation with my leaders and constituents in the Second District of Misamis Occidental, I therefore vote for Cong. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. OCAMPO. From the city of Manila, my vote is for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the House.

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

REP. OLIVAREZ. Representing the First District of Parañaque, I vote for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

REP. ONG (E.). From the Second District of Leyte, I vote for Cong. Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. ONG (H.). On behalf of the Second District of Northern Samar and the National Unity Party, I vote for Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. ORTEGA (P.). The First District of La Union votes for Cong. Bebot Alvarez as Speaker.

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

REP. ORTEGA (V.). ABONO Our Party-List votes for Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez for Speakership.

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

REP. PACQUIAO. As a Representative from Mindanao, particularly Sarangani province, I am proud to cast my vote for Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. PALMA. This Representation from the First District of Zamboanga Sibugay votes for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. PANCHO. Mula sa Ikalawang Distrito ng Bulacan, I vote for Speaker Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. PADUANO. From ABANG LINGKOD, INC. Party-List, I vote for Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. PANGANIBAN. ANAC-IP Party-List votes for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. PANOTES. On behalf of my constituents from the Second District of Camarines Norte, I vote for Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the House.

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

REP. PAPANDAYAN. Wabadu wassalamualaikum bismillahi rahmani rahim. From the Second District of Lanao del Sur, I vote for Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. PICHAY. This Representation’s vote goes to Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Presiding Officer, from the Second District of the province of Surigao del Sur, I vote for Cong. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez for the Speakership.

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

REP. PLAZA. Honorable Alvarez.

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

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. On behalf of the people of the Sixth District of Pangasinan, I vote for Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. PINEDA. 1-Pacman Party-List votes for the Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the House.

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

REP. RADAZA. From the people of the Lone District of Lapu-Lapu City, we confidently give our vote to the Representative of the First District of Davao del Norte, Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. RAMIREZ-SATO. As the Representative of the people of Occidental Mindoro, and as a proud member of the Liberal Party of the Philippines, I cast my vote in favor of the Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. RAMOS. The Second District of Sorsogon votes for Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. RELAMPAGOS. Sa ngalan sa katauhan sa Unang Distrito sa lalawigang Bol-anon, I cast my vote for Cong. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. REVILLA. On behalf of the city of Bacoor, Second District of Cavite, I cast my vote in favor of Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. On behalf of the First District of Antipolo, I cast my vote for Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the House.

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

REP. ROBES. Sa ngalan po ng lungsod ng San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, kami po ay bumoboto para po sa ating Kongresista, Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. ROCAMORA. From the Lone District of the beautiful island province of Siquijor, I cast my vote in favor of Hon. Bebot Alvarez as Speaker of the House.

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

REP. RODRIGUEZ (I.). From the Second District of Rizal, I vote for Congressman Alvarez as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

REP. RODRIGUEZ (M.). On behalf of the people of the Second District of Cagayan de Oro, this Representation votes for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. ROMAN. Bilang Representante ng Unang Distrito ng Bataan at miyembro ng Partido Liberal ng Pilipinas, ang inihalal ko po ay si Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. ROMERO. On behalf of 1-Pacman Party-List, the Mindanao bloc and the neophyte party-list bloc, I vote for Speaker Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. ROMUALDEZ. From the First District of Leyte, I vote for Speaker Alvarez.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. This Representation votes for the Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

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

REP. ROQUE (R.). On behalf of the Fourth District of Bukidnon, I vote for Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. ROQUE (H.). Consistent with my earlier nomination, I vote for Cong. Danilo Suarez.

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

REP. SACDALAN. On behalf of the First District of North Cotabato, I vote for Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. SAGARBARRIA. Mme. Presiding Officer, coming from the Second District of the province of Negros Oriental, I vote for Alvarez.

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

REP. SAHALI. Assalamu Alaikum. From the Lone District of Tawi-Tawi, I vote for Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. SALCEDA. Alvarez.

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

REP. SALIMBANGON. Sa ngalan sa mga Sugbuanon sa Kwarto Distrito ug senior member sa National Unity Party, akong dungog ang pagsuporta sa kandidatura ni Cong. Bebot Alvarez pagka-Speaker.

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

REP. SALO. Ron P. Salo of KABAYAN Party-List, along with the neophyte Congressman Party-List, votes for the Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. SALON. Mula sa AGRI Party-List, kami po ay bumoboto kay Cong. Danny Suarez.

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

REP. SAMBAR. PBA Party-List votes for Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. SANDOVAL. He was my esteemed colleague during the Eleventh Congress. During the Twelfth Congress, I had the honor of defending his budget when he was Secretary of Transportation and Communications. In the Seventeenth Congress, I again look forward to working with him under his leadership as Speaker.

Mme. Presiding Officer, I, together with the people of Malabon City, vote for Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. SANTOS-RECTO. Mula po sa Lipa City, Ikaanim na Distrito ng lalawigan ng Batangas, ang boto ko po ay para kay Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez bilang Speaker ng Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. SARMIENTO (C.). Representing the Lone District of Catanduanes, I vote in favor of Congressman Bebot Alvarez as Speaker of the House.

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

REP. SARMIENTO (E.). Mme. Presiding Officer, good afternoon. Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon.

To support the legislative agenda of the honorable President of the Republic of the Philippines, this humble Representation from the First District of Western Samar and a member of the Liberty Party of the Philippines, supports, ihatag ko ang akon botos kan Representante Pantaleon Alvarez. Maupay nga kulop.

Mme. Presiding Officer, salamat.

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

REP. SAVELLANO. Representing the First District of the heritage province of Ilocos Sur, we are voting for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. SEMA. Assalamu alaikum. Cotabato City and the First District of Maguindanao vote for Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker.

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

REP. SIAO. Representing the Lone District of Iligan, I would like to support a fellow Mindanaoan, Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. SINGSON. I vote for the Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mme. Presiding Officer, as the Representative of the people of the First District of Nueva Ecija, I express my support and I vote for Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Seventeenth Congress.

Thank you.

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

REP. SUANSING (H.). Representing the Second District of Sultan Kudarat and a member of Mindanao bloc, I support and vote for Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. SUAREZ. Mme. Presiding Officer, I cannot vote for myself. I am casting my vote for Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mme. Presiding Officer, ako po ay pumunta dito at nagdarasal na tayo ay bigyan ng isang taong magiging karapat-dapat na Speaker para sa isang bansang buo, bansang nagkakaisa at bansang inuuna ang lahat ng mahihirap.

Mme. Presiding Officer, ako po ay naniniwala na si Speaker Representative Alvarez ang taong magdadala sa atin sa ating pangarap. Ako po, sa ngalan ng National Unity Party at Unang Distrito ng Bulacan ay bumoboto para kay Speaker Alvarez.

Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. TAMBUNTING. For the Second District of Paranaque, I vote for the Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

REP. TAN (A.). As Representative of the Fourth District of Quezon province, I vote for Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. TAN (M.). I vote for Cong. Bebot Alvarez as Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. TAN (S.). KUSUG TAUSUG Party-List votes for Congressman Alvarez.

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

REP. TEJADA. For the Third District of the province of North Cotabato, I vote for Cong. Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. TIANGCO. None of the above, in order to be an independent Member of this House pursuant to Section 8 of our Rules, therefore, my vote should be recorded distinctly and separately as those who voted to abstain.

Thank you.

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

REP. TING. I vote for the Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the House.

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

REP. TOLENTINO. Cong. Bebot Alvarez, mula po sa Ikapitong Distrito ng Cavite.

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

REP. TREÑAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, I represent the Lone District of Iloilo City, and I am proud to cast my vote for my classmate, my friend and my fraternity brother, Cong. Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. TUGNA. Mme. Presiding Officer, to share in the legislative agenda of the administration, CIBAC Party-List casts its vote in favor of Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. TUPAS. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Iloilo, I vote for Cong. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. TURABIN-HATAMAN. Bismilahi rahmani rahim. Assalamu alaikum warahmatulahi wabarakatuhu. In the name of peace especially for the Bangsamoro, for regional equity and national unity, AMIN—Anak Mindanao gives its vote to Congressman Alvarez.

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

REP. UMALI. Speaker Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. UNABIA. I respectfully support and vote for Congressman Bebot Alvarez.

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

REP. UNGAB. Representing the Third District of Davao City, I cast my vote for Cong. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. UNICO. Representing the First District of Camarines Norte, I vote for Congressman Alvarez.

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

REP. UY (J.) Representing the Second District of Misamis Oriental, I vote for Pantaleon Alvarez for the Seventeenth Congress as Speaker of the House.

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

REP. UY (R.) As a fellow Mindanaoan, I vote for Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez as Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa), *reading*:
Vargas, Alfredo
Vargas-Alfonso

REP. VARGAS-ALFONSO. From the Second District of Cagayan Valley, I vote for Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. VELARDE (M). Mme. Presiding Officer, this Representative votes for the Honorable Alvarez.

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

REP. VELASCO-CATERA. From the MATA Party-List, I vote for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa), *reading*:
Velasco, Lord Allan Jay

REP. VELASCO. Mme. Presiding Officer, the Lone District of the province of Marinduque votes for Cong. Bebot Alvarez. Thank you.

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

REP. VELOSO. In representation of the Third District of Leyte, I vote for a fraternity brother, Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. VERGARA. Representing the Third District of Nueva Ecija, and confident that he will pursue the legislative agenda of President Duterte, I cast the vote for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. VILLANUEVA. Mula po sa Ikatlong Distrito ng Tarlac, na taimtin na dalangin ang tagumpay ng administrasyon ng Pangulong Duterte, ang Kinatawang ito ay bumoboto sa Kagalang-galang na Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez bilang Speaker ng Ikalabimpitong Kongreso. Maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (Atty. Adasa), *reading*:
Villar
Villaraza-Suarez

REP. VILLARAZA-SUAREZ. On behalf of ALONA Party-List, I vote for Cong. Danilo Suarez.

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

REP. VILLARICA. As Representative of the Fourth District of Bulacan, I vote for Hon. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. VILLARIN. The AKBAYAN Party-List supports Cong. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. as Speaker.

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

REP. VIOLAGO. On behalf of the Second District of Nueva Ecija, I cast my vote for Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. YAP (A.). Mme. Presiding Officer, the Third District of Bohol votes for the Hon. Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the Seventeenth Congress.

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

REP. YAP (M.). From the First District of Negros Occidental, I vote for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. YAP (V.). Mme. Presiding Officer, just to emphasize the importance of the speedy development of the administration of President Duterte, if I may vote twice for Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez. (*Applause*)

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

REP. YU. The First District of Zamboanga del Sur votes for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez as Speaker of the House.

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

REP. ZAMORA (M.). From the First District of Compostela Valley, the daughter province of Davao del Norte, I vote for Cong. Pantaleon Alvarez.

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

REP. ZARATE. Bise Representante sa Partidong BAYAN MUNA, ang akong boto akong ihatag sa akong mga kauban ug igsuon nga taga Davao nga si Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez.

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

REP. ZUBIRI. As what some people would say, the last one seals the deal. From the Bukidnon Paglaum Party, from the Third District of Bukidnon, we strongly support and vote for Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez as Speaker of the House.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). With 21 Members abstaining from the vote, one Member registering no vote, the result of the voting shows that the Gentleman from the First District of

Davao del Norte, the Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez, garnered 252 votes. (*Applause*)

The Gentleman from the Third District of Quezon, the Hon. Danilo E. Suarez, garnered seven votes, (*Applause*) and the Gentleman from the Lone District of Ifugao, the Hon. Teddy Baguilat Jr., garnered eight votes. (*Applause*)

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, I now move that a committee of 13 or 14 ...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). Sir, I have to announce first.

REP. FARIÑAS. Sorry.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Atty. Barua-Yap). With 252 votes, the Chair declares the Gentleman from the First District of Davao del Norte, the Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez, as the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Congress. (*Applause*)

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Presiding Officer, I now move that a committee of 14 members composed of Reps. Eric D. Singson, Mercedes K. Alvarez, Fredenil "Fred" H. Castro, Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu, Lucy T. Gomez, Nancy A. Catamco, Elenita Milagros "Eileen" Ermita-Buhain, Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas, Mylene J. Garcia-Albano, Gwendolyn F. Garcia, Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Emmeline Aglipay-Villar, Sarah Jane I. Elago and Victoria Isabel G. Noel be constituted to notify Rep. Pantaleon D. Alvarez of his election as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and, thereafter, to escort the Speaker-elect to the rostrum for the oath-taking rites.

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 appointed to the notification committee and they are requested to inform the Speaker-elect, the Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez, of his election and to escort him to the rostrum.

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

At this juncture, Rep. Pantaleon D. Alvarez, with members of his family, ascended the rostrum and took his oath of office as Speaker of the House of Representatives before Rep. Dennis C. Laogan of Party-List ANG KABUHAYAN.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 12:43 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 12:45 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Hon. Dennis C. Laogan of Party-List ANG KABUHAYAN will administer the oath of office to the Speaker-elect. The Hon. Dennis C. Laogan 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.

OATH-TAKING OF SPEAKER ALVAREZ

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

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

So help me God. (*Applause*)

At this juncture, the Presiding Officer relinquished the Chair to Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF SPEAKER ALVAREZ

THE SPEAKER. You may sit down.

Colleagues, guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte was elected into office on the basis of a simple promise to the Filipino people—genuine change. Those were refreshing words for a people tired and weary of rising criminality, proliferation of illegal drugs, traffic congestion, corruption and plain incompetence. Those were the words that blew on the mainsail of his campaign and brought him to a new horizon, the horizon of national transformation. But the President knows, as we all know, that genuine change is impossible if he acts alone. No one, man or woman, not even a superman can forge genuine change without the cooperation of the other branches of government and the cooperation of the people themselves.

True and genuine change can only come if we, as a people, and as a nation join hands with the President in achieving it. That is why, we, in the Legislative branch of government, have our work cut out for us. We must give the President the necessary legislation which will be his tools as we effect meaningful and genuine change.

In sum, we too must be instruments of change. We must re-impose the death penalty for heinous crimes.

Among the ASEAN nations, only Cambodia and the Philippines have no capital punishment. All the other eight countries impose death penalty in various forms and for various crimes.

As the President has said, it is a simple universal law of karma: "If you borrow from me a thousand pesos, then you must pay back the same amount plus interest." If you take a human life, especially if you do it deliberately and with premeditation, you must pay with your life. If by being a drug lord, you destroy the lives and futures of a thousand people, then you must pay accordingly.

The same philosophy is behind the move to revert the minimum age of criminal responsibility, from 15 years to nine years old. This is not, as critics say, a throwback to a barbarian age. The age of exemption from criminal responsibility in Singapore is seven, the same age as in most states in the USA.

The Pangilinan Law was admittedly motivated by noble intentions, but it has been a failure on the ground. We must teach our young that there are consequences for everything we say and do. Coddling teenagers by making them immune from crimes they commit will only breed a culture of impunity. We should instead build a culture of responsibility at an early age.

As all commuters know, and that includes all of us here, the traffic in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu is simply terrible. We waste so many hours sitting in cars or buses or riding in jam-packed and rickety MRT and PNR trains instead of spending time at work or being with our families at home. P2.4 billion a day is lost to traffic alone. The situation is, in most certain terms, a true crisis which needs emergency powers to enable the President to act.

In this vein, we should revisit and revise the Government Procurement Act. Since its passage into law, many government agencies, as well as those in the private sector, have felt discomfited with RA No. 9184, as amended. Unlike a free-size shirt, the Procurement Law should not be a one-size-fits-all kind of law. We should put in enough flexibility to address all foreseeable possibilities that may arise in the course of government procurement.

The President has started the ball rolling in the direction of greater transparency in government with an Executive Order on Freedom of Information. We should do our part and enact a meaningful Freedom of Information Law, applicable to all branches of

government. The greatest crimes are committed in dark secrecy. A Freedom of Information Law will bring the light of truth and transparency into government transactions.

The law on Income Taxation should be simplified into one imposed on gross income progressively. Tax laws have become so complicated that they are exploited by corrupt BIR officials in order to extort money from the taxpayers. Ordinary individuals for their part choose not to pay taxes precisely because they do not understand tax laws. A simplified law on taxation would encourage people to pay taxes and contribute to a society that they know will take care of them.

As for mining, we would like to see mining companies securing a legislative franchise before they are allowed to operate. That way, their activities would be subject to legislative oversight and their franchises can be revoked by the oversight body instead of a probably bribable bureaucrat in an obscure DENR office if they violate the terms and conditions thereof. Also, we would like to ensure that these companies do not export the ores they mine. Processing or semi-processing of these ores should be done within the Philippines. This is one way of giving jobs to our people, instead of enriching only the stockholders of mining companies.

The labor laws need revision. We should increase the penalties presently in our statutes for the non-payment of minimum wage. The National Wages and Productivity Commission, the DOLE, should have an arm that will make sure violators are prosecuted. The practice of "endo" should be looked into. Manpower supply agencies should be mandated, upon pain of criminal liability, to comply with all labor standards on wages and benefits, and the employer be made solidarily liable.

As for social security, it is only right and just that the pensions of our retirees should be adjusted upwards so they can buy their groceries and their medicines at today's prices. If we need to increase contributions so we can fund the increase in pension benefits, then we must. We must adjust not only to meet the present needs but also to anticipate future needs.

During elections, our senior citizens and PWDs or differently abled citizens should have the option to avail themselves of the procedures for absentee voting. The fact that you are elderly or in a wheelchair should not disenfranchise you from participating in the most sacred exercise of a democratic nation—electing your leaders into office.

Instead, and of course, the most holy grail of all, the revision of the 1987 Constitution and the transformation of our system of government from a unitary, presidential form to a federal parliamentary one. The unitary and highly centralized form of government was imposed on us by the colonizing power of Spain and the United States of America, and for one reason: total control over the country. The results have been stunted growth in about 80 percent of our country, and

the overdependence of local government units upon the national government.

The power of imperial Manila over the rest of our nation has to end. Our LGUs need to be allowed to stand on their own feet and to develop and grow as they see fit, subject only to standards that the national government may set. These among others should be done by a Constitutional Convention within a time limit set by Congress. If this legislative agenda seem overly ambitious to some, it is only because of inertia: a body at rest tends to rest indefinitely and will resist movement. But we should not be like the admiral who, because he feared the big waves of the Pacific and the journey into the unknown, dropped anchor in a harbor and held office there. Let us not fear change; the only thing we should fear is the fear of change itself. Instead, let us embrace change; let us be instruments of change and apply the other side of the law of inertia: a body on the move tends to move indefinitely.

Starting today then, let us roll up our sleeves and get to work. Our mission in this Seventeenth Congress is clear: to enact laws that will deliver to our nation and our people a future better than yesterday's and brighter than today's.

Tinuod na kausaban, daghang salamat. (*Applause*)

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 106

REP. FARIÑAS. At this point, on behalf of the Body, I wish to commend the leadership of the House of Representatives, Sixteenth Congress, for its successful stewardship of this Chamber in passing vital legislations aimed at improving the quality of life of every Filipino.

For this purpose, I move that we consider House Resolutions No. 106, 107, and 108, and for this purpose, may I request that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the aforementioned resolutions.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the title of House Resolution No. 106.

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. 106, entitled: RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE HONORABLE SPEAKER FELICIANO BELMONTE JR. FOR HIS STERLING AND SUCCESSFUL STEWARDSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE SIXTEENTH CONGRESS.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 106.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 106

THE SPEAKER. There is a motion to adopt the aforementioned resolution.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) There being none; the aforementioned resolution is hereby adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 107

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 107.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

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. 107, entitled: RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE HONORABLE NEPTALI M. GONZALES II, REPRESENTATIVE, LONE DISTRICT OF MANDALUYONG CITY, FOR HIS STERLING QUALITIES AND HIS DEDICATED AND EXEMPLARY SERVICE AS MAJORITY LEADER DURING THE ELEVENTH, TWELFTH, FIFTEENTH SIXTEENTH CONGRESSES.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 107.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 107

THE SPEAKER. There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 107.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) There being none; the aforementioned resolution is hereby adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 108

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 108.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

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. 108, entitled: RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE HONORABLE RONALDO B. ZAMORA FOR HIS STERLING QUALITIES AND HIS DEDICATED AND EXEMPLARY SERVICE AS MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 108.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 108

THE SPEAKER. There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 108.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) There being none; the aforementioned resolution is hereby adopted.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we now proceed to the oath-taking of the Members of the House.

All Members stood up for the oath-taking.

OATH-TAKING OF MEMBERS

THE SPEAKER. All Members of the House, please raise your right hands and repeat after me your oath of office.

I, (state your name), of (state your address), having been elected as Representative of (name of District/Party-List), hereby solemnly swear that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders, and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

So help me God.

THE SPEAKER. Congratulations! (*Applause*)

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we now proceed to the election of the Deputy Speakers of the House.

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

The election of the Deputy Speakers of the House is now in order.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKERS

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we elect Rep. Eric D. Singson, Rep. Mercedes K. Alvarez, Rep. Fredenil "Fred" H. Castro, and Rep. Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu as Deputy Speakers of the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Hon. Eric D. Singson, Hon. Mercedes K. Alvarez, Hon. Fredenil "Fred" H. Castro, and Hon. Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu are unanimously elected as Deputy Speakers of the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

May we request the honorable Deputy Speaker-elect, Hon. Eric D. Singson, to go up the rostrum with the members of his family for his oath-taking.

At this juncture. Rep. Eric D. Singson, accompanied by the members of his family, ascended the rostrum and took his oath of office as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives before the honorable Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

OATH-TAKING OF REP. SINGSON
AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me your oath of office.

I, ERIC D. SINGSON of San Nicolas, Candon City, Ilocos 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; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders, and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

So help me God.

THE SPEAKER. Congratulations! *(Applause)*

May I request the honorable Deputy Speaker-elect, Hon. Mercedes K. Alvarez, to go up the rostrum with the members of her family for her oath-taking.

At this juncture. Rep. Mercedes K. Alvarez, accompanied by the members of her family, ascended the rostrum and took her oath of office as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives before the honorable Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

OATH-TAKING OF REP. ALVAREZ (M.)
AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I, MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ, 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! *(Applause)*

REP. ALVAREZ (M.). Thank you, Sir.

THE SPEAKER. May we request the honorable Deputy Speaker-elect, Hon. Fredenil Castro, to go up the rostrum with the members of his family for his oath-taking.

At this juncture. Rep. Fredenil "Fred" H. Castro, accompanied by the members of his family, ascended the rostrum and took his oath of office as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives before the honorable Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

OATH-TAKING OF REP. CASTRO (F.H.)
AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I, FREDENIL "FRED" H. CASTRO, having been elected as Representative of the Second District of Capiz and 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! *(Applause)*

REP. CASTRO (F.H.). Thank you, Sir.

THE SPEAKER. May we request the honorable Deputy Speaker-elect, Hon. Raneo Abu, to go up to the rostrum with the members of his family for his oath-taking. *(Applause)*

At this juncture, Rep. Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu, accompanied by the members of his family, ascended the rostrum and took his oath of office as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives before the honorable Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

OATH-TAKING OF REP. ABU
AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I, RANEO "RANIE" E. ABU, 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! (*Applause*)

REP. ABU. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. (*Applause*)

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we proceed to the election of the Secretary General.

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

ELECTION OF SECRETARY GENERAL

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we elect Atty. Cesar S. Pareja as Secretary General of the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; Atty. Cesar S. Pareja is unanimously elected as Secretary General of the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

May we request Secretary General-elect Atty. Cesar S. Pareja to go up the rostrum with the members of his family for his oath-taking.

At this juncture, Atty. Cesar S. Pareja, accompanied by the members of his family, ascended the rostrum and took his oath of office as Secretary General of the House of Representatives before the honorable Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

OATH-TAKING OF ATTY. PAREJA AS SECRETARY GENERAL

THE SPEAKER. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

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

So help me God.

THE SPEAKER. Congratulations! (*Applause*)

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 109

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor to commend the former Secretary General Atty. Marilyn B. Barua-Yap for her exemplary leadership of the House Secretariat being the first woman Secretary General of the House of Representatives.

For this purpose, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 109 and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the resolution.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only 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. 109, entitled: RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE HONORABLE ATTY. MARILYN B. BARUA-YAP FOR HER STERLING QUALITIES AND HER DEDICATED AND EXEMPLARY SERVICE AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE FOURTEENTH, FIFTEENTH AND SIXTEENTH CONGRESSES.

THE SPEAKER. The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 109.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 109

THE SPEAKER. There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 109.

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

House Resolution No. 109 is hereby adopted.

ELECTION OF SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we now proceed to the election of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we elect Retired Lt. Gen. Roland M. Detabali as Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; Retired Lt. Gen. Roland M. Detabali is unanimously elected Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

May we request Sergeant-at-Arms-elect, Retired Lt. Gen. Roland M. Detabali, Jr., to go up the rostrum with the members of his family for his oath-taking.

At this juncture, Retired Lt. Gen. Roland M. Detabali, accompanied by the members of his family, ascended the rostrum and took his oath of office as Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives before the honorable Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

OATH-TAKING OF LT. GEN. DETABALI AS SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

THE SPEAKER. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I, LT. GEN. ROLAND M. DETABALI, having been elected as Sergeant-at-Arms, 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!

THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS. Thank you, Sir. *(Applause)*

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 110

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor to commend the former Sergeant-at-Arms, retired Gen. Nicasio J. Radovan Jr., for a job well done in securing the safety of the Members of the House of Representatives and ensuring the orderly conduct of deliberations in the plenary and in the committees.

For this purpose, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 110, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the resolution.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only 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. 110, entitled: RESOLUTION COMMENDING GENERAL NICASIO J. RADOVAN JR. (RET.) FOR HIS DEDICATED AND EXEMPLARY SERVICE AS SERGEANT-AT-ARMS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE FIFTEENTH AND SIXTEENTH CONGRESSES.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 110.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 110

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 110 is adopted.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Lone District of San Juan, the Hon. Ronaldo B. Zamora.

THE SPEAKER. The Honorable Zamora is recognized.

REP. ZAMORA (R.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, Mr. Acting Floor Leader.

Mr. Speaker, like you and many of us, I have been in Congress for so long. We know how the legislative mill grinds. We know how the plenary and the committees work, and we know enough to acknowledge one thing. Mr. Speaker, the work is never easy. It has never been and possibly never will be.

Think of it, Mr. Speaker, 300 minds at work and trying to forge a consensus for bills that have to be discussed. Debates have to be conducted before laws, any law, are passed. That requires the intervention of the day-to-day manager—in short, a leader for the Majority especially when, Mr. Speaker, as you have now when you have Charter change, when you need to revise the penal laws of the Philippines, when you are trying to

pass laws that will ensure that the economy becomes more inclusive and more able to bring our people out of poverty more of our people, and always, Mr. Speaker, trying to make this compatible with the immense and changing requirements of modern life.

Mr. Speaker, this Seventeenth Congress will require officials, specifically a Majority Leader whose heart is not faint, whose heart is not adverse to change—someone who is always ready to sacrifice even personal and family hours, if only to bring about or forge a legislative consensus; someone with known passion for public service, who has an established track record in the Legislature and proven public administration skills, sufficient and necessary to transform inputs into outputs, problems into opportunities and solutions and requirements into results; someone who will not fear or develop second thoughts in helping steer this Congress into possibly chartered legislative waters.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of only one name who will singularly fit this bill, and it is Hon. Rodolfo C. Fariñas, Representative of the First District of Ilocos Norte.

He is a bar topnotcher, at one time Laoag City's youngest Mayor and one of the country's youngest Mayors ever, Governor of the province of Ilocos Norte for more than a decade, a multiple-term Member of the House of Representatives, an expert in the impeachment process, and perhaps most important, yet unknown to many, a public servant who turns to prayer and the rosary on a daily basis as a venue for reflection and divine guidance.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, it is with immense pride, it is with great honor, and it is with complete confidence that I now nominate the Hon. Rodolfo C. Fariñas as Majority Leader of the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

ELECTION OF REP. FARIÑAS AS MAJORITY LEADER

THE SPEAKER. There is a motion on the part of the Majority bloc of the House of Representatives to elect the Hon. Rodolfo C. Fariñas of the First District of Ilocos Norte as the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives.

Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the Hon. Rodolfo C. Fariñas is hereby elected Majority Leader of the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. ZAMORA (R.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FARIÑAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker; thank you, Hon. Ronny Zamora; and thank you, my dear colleagues in the Majority.

THE SPEAKER. May we request the Majority Leader-elect, Hon. Rodolfo C. Fariñas, to go up the rostrum with the members of his family for his oath-taking.

At this juncture, Rep. Rodolfo C. Fariñas, accompanied by the members of his family, ascended the rostrum and took his oath of office as the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives before the honorable Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

OATH-TAKING OF REP. FARIÑAS AS MAJORITY LEADER

THE SPEAKER. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I, Rodolfo C. Fariñas, having been elected as Majority Leader 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 will impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

So help me God.

THE SPEAKER. Congratulations! *(Applause)*

ELECTION OF REP. QUIMBO AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

REP. FARIÑAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we elect as Deputy Speaker, the Gentleman from the Second District of Marikina, Miro Quimbo, as Deputy Speaker on behalf of the Liberal Party. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the Hon. Romero "Miro" S. Quimbo is hereby elected as Deputy Speaker. *(Applause)*

May I request the Honorable Quimbo to go up to the rostrum with the members of his family for his oath-taking.

At this juncture, Rep. Romero "Miro" S. Quimbo, accompanied by the members of his family, ascended the rostrum and took his oath of office as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives before the honorable Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

OATH-TAKING OF REP. QUIMBO AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I, ROMERO “MIRO” S. QUIMBO, 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.

REP. QUIMBO. Thank you. *(Applause)*

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 91

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 91.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

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. 91, entitled: RESOLUTION INFORMING THE SENATE THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS BEEN ORGANIZED AND HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 91.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 91

THE SPEAKER. There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 91. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

House Resolution No. 91 is adopted.
The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 92

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 92.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

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. 92, entitled: RESOLUTION INFORMING PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS BEEN ORGANIZED AND HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 92.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 92

THE SPEAKER. There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 92.

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

House Resolution No. 92 is adopted.
The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. CT. RES. NO. 3

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Concurrent Resolution No. 3.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

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.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Concurrent Resolution No. 3, 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. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution No. 3.

ADOPTION OF H.CT. RES. NO. 3

THE SPEAKER. There is a motion to adopt House Concurrent Resolution No. 3.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 3 is adopted.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 1:46 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:46 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the consideration of the messages from the Senate.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; 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 read the following Message from the Senate, and the Speaker made the corresponding reference.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message dated July 25, 2016 informing the House that Senate on even date adopted Senate Resolution No. 18, entitled:
RESOLUTION INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A QUORUM

IS PRESENT IN THE SENATE, AND THAT THIS BODY HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE ARCHIVES

THE SPEAKER. The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF S. CT. RES. NO. 1

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

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 SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES, IS READY TO HEAR HIS STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS IN A JOINT SESSION OF BOTH HOUSES.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I now 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; the motion is approved.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1 is adopted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS
TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, in view of the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1, authorizing the creation of a Joint Committee of both Houses to notify the President of the Philippines that 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:

1. Rep. Eric D. Singson
2. Rep. Mercedes K. Alvarez
3. Rep. Fredenil "Fred" H. Castro
4. Rep. Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu

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

The Members of the House of Representatives so named are hereby appointed to the Joint Committee and are requested to immediately discharge their responsibilities.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. FARIÑAS. 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 1:49 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:50 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed. The Majority Leader is recognized.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS
AS DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADERS

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the following Members be elected as Deputy Majority Leaders: Juan Pablo "Rim py" P. Bondoc and Sherwin N. Tugna.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; Hon. Juan Pablo Bondoc and Honorable Sherwin Tugna are hereby elected Deputy Majority Leaders.

REP. FARIÑAS. 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 all our Members that all of us must be here by 3:00 p.m. before the session at four o'clock.

THE SPEAKER. The remarks of the Majority Leader are duly noted.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, to give way to the Joint Session at four o'clock this afternoon, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 26, 2016, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 26, 2016, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 1:51 p.m.

