



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
*House of Representatives*

Vol. 4

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

No. 13b

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 3:02 p.m. the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano presiding.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
The session is resumed.  
Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the Additional Reference of Business and request the Secretary General to read the titles of the bills on First Reading.  
I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General is hereby directed to read the titles of the bills.

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

*The Secretary General read the following House Bills and Resolution on First Reading, Communications and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:*

## BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 8219, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAPAS IN THE PROVINCE OF TARLAC INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF CAPAS"

By Representative Yap (Victor)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 8220, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE UNIVERSAL DISABILITY SUPPORT ALLOWANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

House Bill No. 8222, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 13 ARTICLE XVI OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11054, THE ORGANIC LAW FOR THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXTENDING THE TRANSITION PERIOD TO ENSURE THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANNEX ON NORMALIZATION UNDER THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON THE BANGSAMORO (FAB), ALLOWING THE FIRST REGULAR ELECTION FOR THE BANGSAMORO PARLIAMENT TO BE SYNCHRONIZED WITH THE 2028 NATIONAL ELECTIONS"

By Representative Dimaporo (Khalid)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS, THE COMMITTEE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND UNITY

House Bill No. 8223, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NATIONAL HIGHWAY IN THE MUNICIPALITIES

OF MATUNGAO, POONA PIAGAPO, KAUSWAGAN, ANDBALO-I, LANA DEL NORTE FROM THE LINAMON-ZAMBOANGA NATIONAL HIGHWAY IN KAUSWAGAN TO THE MIRAIC NATIONAL HIGHWAY IN MATUNGAO TO MISAMIS ORIENTAL - MA. CRISTINA NATIONAL HIGHWAY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Dimaporo (Khalid)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8229, entitled:

"AN ACT INSTITUTING UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FOR FORMAL AND INFORMAL SECTOR WORKERS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 8230, entitled:

"AN ACT EXPANDING THE PATERNITY LEAVE TO TWENTY-FIVE (25) DAYS WITH FULL PAY TO ALL MALE EMPLOYEES IN THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS FOR THE DELIVERIES OF THE SPOUSE OR THE COMMON LAW PARTNER WITH WHOM HE IS COHABITING WITHOUT ANY LEGAL IMPEDIMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 8231, entitled:

"AN ACT TO OUTLAW THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES, NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY, NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT (CPP-NPANDF) AND ALL ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THEM IN THEIR

RECRUITMENT, OPERATIONS, FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

By Representative Cardema  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 8232, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FREE AND ACCESSIBLE COVID-19 TESTING AND VACCINATION PROGRAM NATIONWIDE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 8233, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9646 ALSO KNOWN AS THE 'REAL ESTATE SERVICE ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES' "

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

House Bill No. 8234, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR STRICTER ENFORCEMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SAFETY SIGNAGES"

By Representatives Sarmiento, Bustos and De Jesus  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8235, entitled:

"AN ACT INSTITUTING STANDARDS FOR THE USE OF EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF"

By Representatives Sarmiento, Bustos and De Jesus  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 8241, entitled:

"AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A COMPREHENSIVE LABOR RIGHTS

EDUCATION IN THE K TO 12 AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CURRICULA, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cabatbat  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 8244, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE USE AND REGISTRATION OF VINTAGE AUTOMOBILES AND OTHER HISTORICAL, CLASSIC, OR COLLECTOR MOTOR VEHICLES, PROVIDING EXEMPTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR IMPORTATION AND USE, AND ESTABLISHING A VINTAGE CAR REGISTRATION AND ASSESSMENT OFFICE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Daza, Gatchalian, Pineda and Dy (Faustino Michael)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 8245, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE INTEGRATION OF BASIC FIRST AID, AND SURVIVAL SKILLS TRAINING IN THE CURRICULA OF ALL INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING, AND PROVIDING THE APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lacson  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 8246, entitled:

“AN ACT BANNING THE PRODUCTION, TRANSPORTATION, AND SALE OF RAW WOOD CHARCOAL PRODUCTS AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representative Lacson  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 8247, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOOL IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KABACAN, PROVINCE OF COTABATO TO BE KNOWN AS THE ‘UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO - COLLEGE OF MEDICINE’ AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tejada  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

#### RESOLUTION

House Resolution No. 1421, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE HOUSE LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO EXTEND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE’S SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR SIX (6) YEARS FROM 2023 TO 2028”

By Representative Kho (Elisa)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated September 4, 2020 of Ferdinand C. Avila, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of San Isidro, Province of Northern Samar, informing the House of Representatives that their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the month of August 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities has been posted in three (3) conspicuous public places in their locality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated September 15, 2020 of Celso G. Regencia, City Mayor, City of Iligan, submitting to the House of Representatives

a copy of their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the month of August 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities which has been posted in their website.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 23, 2020 of Richard I. Gomez, DPA, City Mayor, Ormoc City, transmitting their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ending September 30, 2020, on the Local Government Support Fund – Financial Assistance to Local Government Units (LGSF-FA to LGUs) and on the Local Government Support Fund – Assistance to Cities (LGSF-AC).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

Email dated October 27, 2020 from the Municipality of San Juan, Province of Siquijor, submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the month of September 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities which has been posted in three (3) conspicuous public places in their locality, attested by Wilfredo Q. Capundag, Jr., Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 28, 2020 of Dale B. Corvera, Provincial Governor, Province of Agusan del Norte, forwarding to the House of Representatives a copy of their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the month of September 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Provinces which has been posted in their website and in three (3) conspicuous public places in their locality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated November 4, 2020 of Geraldford N. Balbin, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of New Bataan, Province of Davao de Oro, informing the House of Representatives that their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the month of October 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities has been posted in three (3) conspicuous public places in their locality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 5 November 2020 of Ryan R. Enriquez, Chairperson and CEO, National Youth Commission, informing the House of Representatives that their Report on the Utilization of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Mandatory and Continuing Training Fund FAR 1-Statement of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations, Disbursements and Balances as of the quarter ending September 30, 2020 has been posted to the agency's website on November 5, 2020.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated November 5, 2020 of Caesar R. Dulay, Commissioner, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Department of Finance, forwarding to the House of Representatives the following Budget and Financial Accountability Reports (BFARs) as of September 30, 2020:

1. Statement of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations, Disbursements and Balances (SAAODB) – FAR No. 1;
2. Summary of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations, Disbursements and Balances by Object of Expenditures – FAR No. 1-A;
3. List of Allotments and Sub-Allotments – FAR No. 1-B; and
4. Statement of Obligations, Disbursements, Liquidations and Balances for Inter-Agency Fund Transfers – FAR No. 1-C.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated November 6, 2020 of Michelle N. Rabat, City Mayor, City of Mati, Province of Davao Oriental, certifying that their Reports on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the months of September and October 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities have been posted in their website ([www.mati.gov.ph](http://www.mati.gov.ph)) and in three (3) conspicuous public places in their locality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated November 10, 2020 of Atty. Jason John A. Joyce, MPA, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Jose Abad Santos, Province of Davao Occidental, informing the House of Representatives that their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the month of October 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities has been posted in the website (<https://davaooccidental.gov.ph>) of the said Province and in three (3) conspicuous public places in their locality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 10 November 2020 of Adelino B. Sitoy, Secretary, Presidential Legislative Liaison Office, submitting to the House of Representatives their Quarterly Physical Report of Operations (BAR No. 1) as of 30 September 2020.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 11 November 2020 of Gian Carlo F. Occeña, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Sibalom, Province of Antique, submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the month of October 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities which has been posted in three (3) conspicuous public places in their locality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated November 11, 2020 of Damian G. Mercado, Provincial Governor, Province of Southern Leyte, notifying the House of Representatives that the said Provincial Government has complied with the posting and reporting requirements of their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the month of October 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Provinces in their website ([southernleyte.gov.ph](http://southernleyte.gov.ph)).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated November 11, 2020 of Emerson S. Lachica, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Kalibo, Province of Aklan, submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the month of October 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities which has been posted in their website and in three (3) conspicuous public places in their locality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated November 12, 2020 of Celso G. Regencia, City Mayor, City of Iligan, submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the month of October 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities which has been posted in their website.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

Email dated November 12, 2020 of Jera C. Baldado, Municipal Accountant, Municipality of Pamplona, Province of Negros Oriental, informing the House of Representatives that their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the month of October 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities has been posted in their Facebook page and in three (3) conspicuous public places in their locality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated November 12, 2020 of Sitti Djalia Turabin-Hataman, City Mayor, City of Isabela, Province of Basilan, submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the month of October 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities which has been posted in their website and in three (3) conspicuous public places in their locality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated November 13, 2020 of Dakila Carlo E. Cua, Provincial Governor, Province of Quirino, informing the House of Representatives that the said Provincial Government has complied with the posting and reporting requirements of the Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation for the month of October 2020 of the Bayanihan Grant to Provinces in their website and in three (3) conspicuous public places in their Province.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

CY 2019 Agency Action Plan and Status of Implementation on the Audit Observations and Recommendations as of October 31, 2020 of the Department of Budget and Management.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Financial Accountability Reports (FARs) and Budget Accountability Reports (BARs) for the Supreme Court of the Philippines and the Lower Courts (SCPLC) and the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) for the second quarter of 2020 that were uploaded in the Supreme Court website on August 26, 2020.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Human Rights and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 688), re H.B. No. 8242, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 486, 1532, 4649 and 5279

Sponsors: Representatives Deloso-Montalla, Nograles (Jericho), Villafuerte, Belmonte and Suntay

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Human Rights and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 689), re H.B. No. 8243, entitled:

“AN ACT PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE RIGHTS TO EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF RACE, ETHNICITY AND RELIGION”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 55, 487, 522, 1579 and 4586

Sponsors: Representatives Cabochan, Deloso-Montalla, Aglipay, Hataman, Sangcopan, Belmonte and Suntay

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Population and Family Relations (Committee Report No. 690), re H.R. No. 1419, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA), THROUGH THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA), TO FAST-TRACK THE INTEGRATED IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11055, THE ‘PHILIPPINE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM ACT,’ AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11315, THE ‘COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM ACT,’ IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A UNIFIED, DIGITAL DATABASE THAT WILL

SERVE AS A VITAL MECHANISM TO ALLOW GOVERNMENT TO SWIFTLY IDENTIFY TARGET BENEFICIARIES, AND PROVIDE SEAMLESS AND EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, ESPECIALLY IN TIMES OF DISASTERS AND NATIONAL CRISES OR EMERGENCIES”

recommending its adoption pursuant to House Resolution No. 834 and in substitution of House Resolution No. 937

Sponsors: Representatives Nava, Aragonés, Torres-Gomez, Barba, Alonte, Malapitan, Ferrer (Juliet), Cabochan, Panotes, Umali (Maria Victoria), Mariano-Hernandez, Garcia (Jose Enrique), de Venecia, Romualdo, Savellano and Abu

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development (Committee Report No. 691), re H.B. No. 8248, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ON-SITE, IN-CITY, NEAR-CITY, OR OFF-CITY LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM FOR INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PEOPLE’S PLAN AND MANDATING THE IMPLEMENTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, JOINTLY WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, IN CASES OF NEAR-CITY OR OFF-CITY RESETTLEMENT, TO PROVIDE OTHER BASIC SERVICES AND LIVELIHOOD COMPONENTS IN FAVOR OF THE RECIPIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 42, 156, 236, 2861, 3041, 3227, 4245 and 4869

Sponsors: Representatives Revilla, Benitez, Belmonte, Vargas, Salo, Nograles (Juan), Aguinaldo, Nieto, Abaya and Rodriguez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education (Committee Report No. 692), re H.R. No. 1422, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONOR AND PRESTIGE BROUGHT TO THE PHILIPPINES THROUGH THEIR EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENTS IN RETAINING THEIR RESPECTIVE SPOTS IN THE LATEST WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS RELEASED BY THE LONDON-BASED TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 1195

Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark) and Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Muslim Affairs (Committee Report No. 693), re H.B. No. 8249, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE FIRST DAY OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL HIJAB DAY AND PROMOTING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE MUSLIM TRADITION OF WEARING A HIJAB”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1582

Sponsors: Representatives Adiong and Sangcopan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 694), re H.B. No. 8254, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING IN THE CITY OF PANABO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE, A DISTRICT HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE

PANABO CITY DISTRICT HOSPITAL,  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR"

recommending its approval in substitution  
of House Bill No. 3111

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina),  
Yap (Eric) and Dujali

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Basic Education  
and Culture and the Committee on  
Appropriations (Committee Report No.  
695), re H.B. No. 8255, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF DIPLAHAN,  
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA  
SIBUGAY, A SEPARATE SCHOOLS  
DIVISION OFFICE FOR THE FIRST  
DISTRICT OF ZAMBOANGA  
SIBUGAY, AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR"

recommending its approval in substitution  
of House Bill No. 3019

Sponsors: Representatives Romulo and  
Yap (Eric)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Ways and Means  
(Committee Report No. 696), re H.B. No.  
8259, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING INCOME TAX  
RELIEF TO MEDICAL FRONTLINERS  
FOR TAXABLE YEAR TWO  
THOUSAND TWENTY"

recommending its approval in substitution  
of House Bills Numbered 984, 2901,  
3751, 7351, 7523 and 7978

Sponsors: Representatives Salceda and  
Cuaresma

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the  
Committee on Appropriations (Committee  
Report No. 697), re H.B. No. 8260, entitled:

"AN ACT CONVERTING THE QUEZON  
MEDICAL CENTER IN THE CITY OF  
LUCENA, PROVINCE OF QUEZON,  
INTO A TERTIARY LEVEL HOSPITAL  
AND REGIONAL TRAINING  
CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR"

recommending its approval in  
substitution of House Bills Numbered  
1617 and 2478

Sponsors: Representatives Tan  
(Angelina), Yap (Eric), Suarez  
(Aleta), Suarez (David) and  
Villaraza-Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Metro Manila  
Development (Committee Report No.  
698), re: *Motu Proprio* inquiry, in aid  
of legislation, on the issues affecting  
several barangays in Quezon City  
along the alignments of Segment  
8.2 of the North Luzon Expressway  
Circumferential Road 5 (NLEX-C5)  
Link Project

informing the House of its findings and  
recommendations

Sponsors: Representatives Lopez and  
Belmonte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Public Order and  
Safety (Committee Report No. 699), re H.B.  
No. 8261, entitled:

"AN ACT LOWERING THE  
MINIMUM HEIGHT  
REQUIREMENT AND  
REMOVING THE HEIGHT  
WAIVER FOR APPLICANTS TO  
THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL  
POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE  
PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU  
OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND  
PENOLOGY (BJMP), AND  
BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS  
(BUCOR), AMENDING FOR THE  
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.  
6975, AS AMENDED, REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 8551, REPUBLIC ACT  
NO. 9263, AS AMENDED, AND  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10575"

recommending its approval in substitution  
of House Bills Numbered 2242, 3639,  
5340, 6635, 7520, 7639, 7960 and Senate  
Bill No. 1563

Sponsors: Representatives Bravo and  
Cabochan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Metro Manila Development (Committee Report No. 700), re: *Motu Proprio* inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the North Luzon Expressway-South Luzon Expressway (NLEX-SLEX) Connector Road and North-South Commuter Railway Projects as these affect several barangays in the City of Manila

informing the House of its findings and recommendations

Sponsors: Representatives Lopez and Maceda

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Special Committee on Bicol Recovery and Economic Development (Committee Report No. 701), re H.R. No. 1430, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE TO DIRECT THE CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE BICOL REGION REHABILITATION PROGRAM THAT WILL EFFECTIVELY AND COMPREHENSIVELY COUNTER THE EFFECTS OF THE DEVASTATION WROUGHT BY TYPHOONS QUINTA, ROLLY, AND ULYSSES, ENSURING THEREBY THE REBUILDING OF A BETTER BICOL REGION”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Resolution No. 1326

Sponsors: Representatives Villafuerte and Fortuno

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

*The Secretary General read the following House Bills and Resolutions on First Reading, and Messages from the Senate, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:*

## BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 8250, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROADS FROM SINACABAN TO DON VICTORIANO, STRETCHING FROM CAGAY-ANON BOUNDARY, TRAVERSING BARANGAYS SAN VICENTE, DINAS, KATIPUNAN AND SAN LORENZO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SINACABAN; BARANGAY NAMUT WITH EXIT POINT TO BARANGAY TIGDOK, BARANGAYS COLAMBUTAN SETTLEMENT, COLAMBUTAN BAJO, AND CASILAK SAN AGUSTIN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUDELA; BARANGAY CANIBUNGAN DAKU WITH EXIT POINT TO BARANGAY LUPAGAN, BARANGAYS CANIBUNGAN PUTOL, MALIBANGCAO, GUBA AND SEBASI IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CLARIN; BARANGAY MONTOL WITH EXIT POINT TO BARANGAY BAÑADERO, BARANGAYS TRIGOS, GUINGONA, GUIMAD, AND KINUMAN NORTE WITH EXIT POINT TO BARANGAY BAGAKAY, AND BARANGAY GALA IN THE CITY OF OZAMIZ; BARANGAYS BANGLAY, VILLABA, STA. MARIA, AND BONGABONG WITH EXIT POINT TO BARANGAY STA. MARIA, BARANGAYS CATAGAN, CANIANGAN, PAITON, AND SIMASAY IN THE CITY OF TANGUB; BARANGAYS MONTOL, BUENAVISTA, AND DULLAN WITH EXIT POINT TO BARANGAY POBLACION, AND BARANGAY KANAO-KANAO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BONIFACIO; BARANGAYS MARAMARA, PETIANAN, BAGONG CLARIN, LAMPASAN WITH EXIT POINT TO BARANGAY JOSEFINA, BARANGAYS TONO, LALUD, NAPANGAN, GANDAWAN, UP TO THE LAKE DUMINAGAT BOUNDARY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DON VICTORIANO, ALL IN

THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL INTO A SECONDARY NATIONAL HIGHWAY”

By Representative Oaminal  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8251, entitled:

“AN ACT NAMING THE ROADS FROM SINACABAN TO DON VICTORIANO, STRETCHING FROM CAGAY-ANON BOUNDARY, TRAVERSING BARANGAYS SAN VICENTE, DINAS, KATIPUNAN AND SAN LORENZO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SINACABAN; BARANGAY TONGO WITH EXIT POINT TO BARANGAY TIGDOK, BARANGAYS COLAMBUTAN SETTLEMENT, COLAMBUTAN BAJO, AND CASILAK SAN AGUSTIN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUDELA; BARANGAY CANIBUNGAN DAKU WITH EXIT POINT TO BARANGAY LUPAGAN, BARANGAYS CANIBUNGAN PUTOL, MALIBANGCAO, GUBA AND SEBASI IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CLARIN; BARANGAY MONTOL WITH EXIT POINT TO BARANGAY BAÑADERO, BARANGAYS TRIGOS, GUINGONA, GUIMAD, AND KINUMANNORTE WITH EXIT POINT TO BARANGAY BAGAKAY, AND BARANGAY GALA IN THE CITY OF OZAMIZ; BARANGAYS BANGLAY, VILLABA, AND BONGABONG WITH EXIT POINT TO BARANGAY STA. MARIA, BARANGAYS CATAGAN, CANIANGAN, PAITON, AND SIMASAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TANGUB; BARANGAYS MONTOL, BUENAVISTA, AND DULLAN WITH EXIT POINT TO BARANGAY POBLACION, AND BARANGAY KANAO-KANAO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BONIFACIO; BARANGAYS MARA-MARA, PETIANAN, BAGONG CLARIN, LAMPASAN WITH EXIT POINT TO BARANGAY JOSEFINA,

BARANGAYS TONO, LALUD, NAPANGAN, GANDAWAN, UP TO THE LAKE DUMINAGAT BOUNDARY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DON VICTORIANO, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL AS MALINDANG ECO-TOURISM OAMINAL HIGHWAY”

By Representative Oaminal  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8252, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINO ACT OF 1995, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10022, FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE STANDARD OF PROTECTION OF THE WELFARE OF MIGRANT WORKERS BY EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF COMPULSORY INSURANCE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Vargas Alfonso  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 8253, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROFESSIONALIZE THE SPORTS COACHING OCCUPATION”

By Representative Dy (Faustino Michael)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 8256, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE YOUTH AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 8257, entitled:  
“AN ACT MANDATING AN ACCIDENT  
AND LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE  
FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS”  
By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND  
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 8258, entitled:  
“AN ACT EXPANDING THE RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL  
MEDICINE, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”  
By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 8262, entitled:  
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A 100-BED  
CAPACITY DISTRICT HOSPITAL  
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF  
CARAMORAN, PROVINCE OF  
CATANDUANES TO BE KNOWN AS  
CARAMORAN MEDICAL CENTER  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”  
By Representative Sanchez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 8263, entitled:  
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-  
SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN  
THE MUNICIPALITY OF TIBIAO,  
PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”  
By Representative Legarda  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES  
REOURCES

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1423, entitled:  
“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE  
TROOPERS OF THE 44<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY  
BATTALION, PHILIPPINE ARMY FOR  
THEIR VALUABLE ACHIEVEMENTS  
IN COUNTER-INSURGENCY,  
ANTI-VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND  
SUCCESSFUL DISMANTLING  
OF GUERRILLA FRONTS OF

COMMUNIST TERRORIST GROUPS  
IN WESTERN MINDANAO”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL  
DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Resolution No. 1424, entitled:  
“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE  
TROOPERS OF THE 54<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER  
BRIGADE, PHILIPPINE ARMY FOR  
THEIR VALUABLE ACHIEVEMENTS  
AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
PROMOTION AND MAINTENANCE  
OF PEACE AND INTERNAL  
STABILITY IN WESTERN  
MINDANAO”  
By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL  
DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Resolution No. 1425, entitled:  
“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE  
TROOPERS OF THE 102<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY  
BRIGADE, PHILIPPINE ARMY FOR  
THEIR VALUABLE ACHIEVEMENTS  
IN COUNTER-INSURGENCY,  
ANTI-VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND  
SUCCESSFUL DISMANTLING  
OF GUERRILLA FRONTS OF  
COMMUNIST TERRORIST GROUPS  
AND TO THE PROMOTION AND  
MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND  
INTERNAL STABILITY IN WESTERN  
MINDANAO”  
By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL  
DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Resolution No. 1426, entitled:  
“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE  
TROOPERS OF THE 547<sup>TH</sup> ENGINEER  
BATTALION, PHILIPPINE ARMY FOR  
THEIR VALUABLE ACHIEVEMENTS  
AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
PROMOTION AND MAINTENANCE  
OF PEACE AND INTERNAL  
STABILITY IN WESTERN  
MINDANAO”  
By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL  
DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Resolution No. 1427, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED IRREGULARLY-ISSUED SEARCH WARRANTS RESULTING TO ARRESTS AND FILING OF TRUMPED-UP CHARGES AGAINST RED-TAGGED ACTIVISTS AND PROGRESSIVE ORGANIZATIONS”

By Representatives Gaité, Zarate, Cullamat, Brosas, Castro (France) and Elago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1428, entitled:

“RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE AGAINST COVID-19 FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO EQUAL ACCESS OF CORONAVIRUS VACCINE SUPPLY FROM ALL SOURCES WHILE ENSURING HIGHEST EFFICACY, SAFETY AND LOWEST COST”

By Representative Nograles (Juan)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Resolution No. 1429, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE FILIPINO ARTISTS MR. ERICK PANGILINAN, MS. JAN ‘GABBY’ LLANILLO, AND THE STUDIO OF SECRET6, INC., FOR THEIR IMMEASURABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VIDEO GAME ‘THE LAST OF US PART II,’ WHICH WON SEVEN AWARDS OUT OF ELEVEN NOMINATIONS DURING THE GAME AWARDS 2020”

By Representatives de Venecia, Benitez, Maceda, Biazon, Tambunting, Rodriguez, Co (Angelica), Arroyo, Nograles (Jericho), Ong (Ronnie), Gatchalian, Vergara, Nieto, Vargas, Alonte, Savellano, Robes, Singson-Meehan, Garcia (Jose Enrique), Lim, Revilla, Sagarbarria, Santos-Recto, Aragonés, Bagatsing and Belmonte  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CREATIVE INDUSTRY AND PERFORMING ARTS

House Resolution No. 1431, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING TO THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS THE CONFERMENT OF THE NATIONAL ARTIST AWARD TO MR. RICARDO ARREOLA LEE, POPULARLY KNOWN AS ‘RICKY LEE’ ”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CREATIVE INDUSTRY AND PERFORMING ARTS

House Resolution No. 1432, entitled:

“RESOLUTION ORGANIZING THE PHILIPPINES-CAMBODIA PARLIAMENTARIANS’ FRIENDSHIP GROUP”

By Representative Eriguel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INTER-PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

House Resolution No. 1433, entitled:

“RESOLUTION ORGANIZING THE PHILIPPINES-SINGAPORE PARLIAMENTARIANS’ FRIENDSHIP GROUP”

By Representative Eriguel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INTER-PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

House Resolution No. 1434, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE TROOPERS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION, PHILIPPINE ARMY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MAJ. GEN. GENEROSO M. PONIO PA FOR THEIR VALUABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN COUNTER-INSURGENCY, ANTI-VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND SUCCESSFUL DISMANTLING OF GUERRILLA FRONTS OF COMMUNIST TERRORIST GROUPS IN WESTERN AND NORTHERN MINDANAO”

By Representative Babasa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Resolution No. 1435, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS (NCCA) AND OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO ENSURE THE CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE ANTIQUE RICE TERRACES OF THE IRAYNON-BUKIDNON AS AN IMPORTANT CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR THE SAKE OF CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS”

By Representative Legarda

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Resolution No. 1436, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE RICARDO BACUNAWA BUTALID, FORMER ASSEMBLYMAN REPRESENTING REGION V DURING THE INTERIM BATASAN PAMBANSA”

By Representatives Velasco, Romualdez (Ferdinand) and Paduano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated December 15, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1849 and House Bill No. 6816, entitled:

“AN ACT ENSURING PHILIPPINE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY RESILIENCY AGAINST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 16, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on December 15, 2020 passed with amendments House Bill No. 8063, entitled:

“ AN ACT EXTENDING THE AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11494 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘BAYANIHAN TO RECOVER AS ONE ACT’ ”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Message dated December 16, 2020, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on December 15, 2020 passed with amendments House Bill No. 6656, entitled:

“ AN ACT EXTENDING THE AVAILABILITY OF THE 2020 APPROPRIATIONS TO DECEMBER 31, 2021, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 60 OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11465 OR THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF FISCAL YEAR 2020”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8097  
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, under the Calendar of Business for the Day, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8097, as contained in Committee Report No. 616, and request the Secretary General to read the title of the Bill.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General is hereby directed to read the title of the Bill.\*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8097, entitled: “AN ACT GRANTING

\* Copies of the bill were distributed to the members earlier. Section 53, Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides that “[a] bill or joint resolution on Second Reading shall be read in full unless copies thereof have been distributed to the Members.”

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO SOLO PARENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'SOLO PARENTS WELFARE ACT OF 2000'."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate on House Bill No. 8097.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Arlene Brosas of the GABRIELA Party-List for her sponsorship speech.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
The honorable Rep. Arlene Brosas is hereby recognized.

#### SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. BROSAS

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments to RA 8972 or the Solo Parents' Welfare Act has always been one of the priority measures of the Gabriela Women's Party as it first filed the proposed amendments in 2006 or during the Thirteenth Congress. We have continuously refiled this Bill, and in fact it is one of the first bills we filed this Eighteenth Congress.

According to the second impact assessment of the Department of Social Welfare and Development's database, a total of 2,000,000 individuals are solo parents. This data is conservative, considering that not all households are covered by the DSWD's list. Data considered by the DSWD from its solo parents' survey from the local government units also show that only 29,219 solo parents in nine regions were issued with identification cards, and only 21,266 of them have availed of their entitlements. RA 8972 recognizes that solo

parents are among the vulnerable members of our society. They singly bear parental burden and, as such, they have special needs that vary from psychological and emotional, to financial and economical, that must be addressed by the State. RA 8972 provides for benefits for qualified solo parents, however, we recognize that it is truly not enough.

Layunin ng panukalang batas na ito na magdagdag ng ilan pang benepisyo at pribilehiyo sa mga solo parent sa ngalan ng pagkilala sa mga pagsubok na kanilang ikinakaharap at bigat ng mag-isang nag-aaruga at sumusuporta sa kanilang mga anak. Lalo ngayon sa panahon ng pandemya ng COVID-19, sa patuloy na pagtaas ng mga biling kasabay ng pagbaba ng kita o kawalan ng kabuhayan, sa sunod-sunod na bagyo at sakuna, sa implementasyon ng online classes na mga magulang sa tahanan ang punong abala. Alam natin na ang mismong nag-iisang mga magulang na ito ang pangunahing nagpapanatili ng kaayusan sa tahanan at pamilya bilang bahagi ng lipunan, na hindi nila epektibong magagampanan kung wala ang mga proteksyon at serbisyo na makakaagapay sa pang araw-araw nilang buhay.

The Gabriela Women's Party originally pushed for discounts for 10 categories, namely, clothing and clothing materials; baby's milk; food and food supplements; medicines, vaccines and other medical supplements/supplies; basic necessities; school tuition fees; school supplies; hospital bills, consultation and laboratory diagnostic fees; and basic personal exemption from individual income tax. Ang mga ito ay ibinunga ng konsultasyon sa mga solo parents organizations, kabilang na ang nationwide organization na National Federation of Solo Parents LuzViMin, ang Kaisa sa Karapatan at Katatagan tungo sa Kinabukasan (4Ks) for Solo Parents Quezon City, Inc. at marami pang iba.

Pinagsalubong ang nilalaman ng mga panukala sa Komite at ngayon ang ating substitute Bill ay magbibigay ng benepisyo sa pamamagitan ng 10 percent na diskwento sa sumusunod na kategorya: una, children's clothing materials; ikalawa, baby's milk, food and supplements, and sanitary diapers; ikatlo,

medicines, vaccines and medical supplements; ikaapat, medical and dental services, diagnostic and laboratory fees, and professional fees; at ikalima, basic school supplies. For working solo parents, the seven days of parental leave with pay is such a big help and this proposed measure expanded its coverage to all workers regardless of employment status as long as the solo parent has rendered at least six months of service. Malaking pakinabang at malaking hakbang din sa pagsulong ng karapatan, kagalingan, kalusugan, at kabuhayan ng ating mga solo parents at ng kanilang mga anak ang nilalaman nitong panukala.

I am confident that the Honorable Members of this Congress are all in support of the struggles of solo parents. Thus, this Representation, together with the rest of the authors, hopes for the immediate passage of this Bill.

Thank you very much. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Majority Leader.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the honorable Chairman of the Committee on Revision of Laws, the Honorable Deloso-Montalla, for her sponsorship speech.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

The Hon. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla is hereby recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH  
OF REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, a pleasant afternoon to each and everyone of us. I am here this afternoon to ask for your support for the approval of House Bill No. 8097, as contained in Committee Report No. 616, or AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO SOLO PARENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.

8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SOLO PARENTS WELFARE ACT OF 2000." This piece of legislative measure aims to grant additional benefits to solo parents, among others.

The World Health Organization, in a recent study, noted that the Philippines has around 15 million solo parents and 95 percent of these are women. This number is likely far greater today. Figures from the National Housing or Household Targeting Office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) show that as of December 2017, there were only two million employed solo parents. This number may have doubled now as a result of this pandemic. The disparity in the statistics of government agencies regarding the actual number of solo parents is disturbing, considering that statistics play a vital role in the effective and efficient implementation of R.A. No. 8972.

Being a solo parent is no mean feat. Despite the hardships, solo parents are unwilling to compromise the welfare of their children. Take the case of Michelle Silvertino, a solo parent who supported her four young children with a job as a nurse, who was declared dead on arrival at Pasay City General Hospital in June 5, 2020, as a result of severe Coronavirus infection. As a solo parent of four, Silvertino never had the option of being unemployed. The community quarantine left her stranded for five days waiting for a bus that would have ferried her home but never arrived due to community quarantine restrictions. Despite contracting the virus, she was not brought to the hospital immediately upon being picked up by the police who were concerned about her symptoms. Instead, she was shuttled between the barangay hall and the police station but was never allowed to remain in one location due to her symptoms. She was eventually found unconscious on a footbridge where the icy finger of death touched her frail body.

Mr. Speaker, Michelle Silvertino became the face of a solo parent who fell victim to the cruelty, the biases and prejudices of Filipino society towards solo parents. Whether becoming a solo parent is by the death of a spouse, by choice or decision is a matter that

must not be taken against the solo parent. For parenthood with both parents present is a very challenging task, but parenthood with only one parent present is arduous, where the task is multiplied, if not compounded.

My dear colleagues, an author of a local study in solo parenting averred that the growing number of solo-parent families are now so prominent in society that they have become an important subculture and they need to be accepted as a legitimate and valid unit of society. We need progressive State policies on the evolving nature of the Filipino family that will acknowledge, recognize, respect the existence of “alternative families” or the varying compositions of the family. It is high time that the government took a second look at our outdated policies in order that we can uplift the lives and the status of solo parents and their children by providing them with additional benefits under the law.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Revision of Laws, which was ably assisted by Rep. Lawrence Fortun, the Chairperson of the Technical Working Group and in consultation with all the stakeholders, consolidated 22 bills of almost 100 authors, all proposing to grant additional benefits to solo parents and came up with this substitute Bill whose key provisions include:

1. the shortening of the required period of detention or duration of a sentence and the period of separation or abandonment of the spouse in availing the benefits provided in this Act;

2. defining a qualified solo parent as a solo parent earning less than P250,000 annually who may avail of the additional benefit of a 10-percent discount in the purchase of basic necessities of a child or children under the sole responsibility of the said qualified solo parent;

3. enhancing the educational benefits provided under the current law by guaranteeing full scholarship for a child of the solo parent and prioritizing the other children, if any, in the educational programs of the government;

4. promoting child-minding centers, breastfeeding in the workplace and social safety assistance to all kinds of solo parents and their children;

5. prioritizing solo parents in livelihood, training and poverty alleviation programs of the government;

6. encouraging establishments to hire qualified solo parents by providing tax incentives;

7. tax deductions from the gross sales or gross receipts to establishments which give discounts on the basic necessities of the children of solo parents;

8. ensuring the medical and health welfare of the solo parents by giving them priority in the medical/surgical services offered by government hospitals and medical facilities;

9. mandating local government units to create Solo Parent Offices (SPO) in every city or province or Solo Parent Divisions (SPD) which are attached to the Municipal Social Welfare Offices for every municipality;

10. providing stricter requirements and monitoring of the applicant solo parent and their children through the SPO or SPD;

11. creating an inter-agency coordinating and monitoring committee which is comprised of the different government agencies involved in providing additional benefits to the solo parents and their children;

12. mandating the establishment of a database consisting of information on all solo parents and their children based on the community-based monitoring system;

13. creating a congressional body to oversee the implementation of this proposed measure, recommend remedial legislation or executive measures to enhance or strengthen the implementation of the law; and

14. penalizing any person who refuses or fails to provide additional benefits granted under this Act or misrepresents a status or falsifies any document in order to avail of such additional benefits.

Mr. Speaker, let us not allow a repeat of what happened to Michelle Silvertino. Punan po natin ang puwang na nilikha ng malupit na tadhana sa buhay at pamilya ng mga solo parents na kagaya ni Michelle Silvertino.

Being a solo parent is twice the work, twice the stress, twice the tears. Being a single parent is not a life full of struggles but a journey for

the strong. Let us join them and be with them in their journey. In this season of giving and sharing, may these solo parents find solace in the fact that the government is there to help them, to share in their hardships and struggles, and to be with them at all times as part of its huge responsibility to the nation. This is the perpetual hope which is the reason for the season.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, I implore all of you to see the reason. Let us all do our part in our shared responsibility to solo parents as the duly elected representatives of our respective legislative districts in this House of the People. Let the passage of this Bill be the proof of our collective resolve to be cognizant of their plight.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, and Merry Christmas to one and all.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Thank you, honorable Representative Deloso-Montalla.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we now open the period of amendments.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The session is suspended.

## SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8097

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 8097.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The session is suspended.

*It was 3:36 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 3:37 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The session is resumed.  
Majority Leader.

## CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8097 *Continuation*

### PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 8097. The parliamentary status is that we are in the period of— may we request that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the Bill.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The Secretary General is hereby directed to read the title of the Bill.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8097, entitled: "AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO SOLO PARENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'SOLO PARENTS WELFARE ACT OF 2000'."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we proceed to the individual amendments and recognize Rep. Kit Belmonte for his individual amendments.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
The honorable Rep. Kit Belmonte is hereby recognized.

REP. BELMONTE. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Majority Floor Leader.

Will the Chairman of the Committee accede to a few proposed amendments? I am making these amendments on behalf of Cong. Lawrence Fortun of the Minority who is actually on his way; however, to expedite things, if the Chairman will allow me to read on his behalf, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. We accept, Mr. Speaker.

#### INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. BELMONTE. Amendment number one, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, on page 10, Section 12, paragraph(A)4, line eight, replace the phrase "a solo parent's" into SOLO PARENTS OR THEIR, hence the entire paragraph should read as follows:

"(4) Medical and dental services, diagnostic and laboratory fees, and professional fees in all private hospitals, medical facilities, outpatient clinics, and health care services rendered to SOLO PARENTS OR THEIR child or children from birth of the child until six (6) years of age in accordance with the rules and regulations issued for the purpose by the DOH."

That is the first proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
The Sponsor.

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. We accept the proposed amendment of Honorable Belmonte, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
What does the House say?

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve and adopt the proposed amendment accepted by the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the amendment is approved.

REP. BELMONTE. For the second amendment, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, on the same page, page 10, Section 12, line 18, insert the following paragraphs:

"(6) UTILIZATION OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLIED BY PUBLIC UTILITIES. - PROVIDED, THAT THE INDIVIDUAL METERS FOR THE FOREGOING UTILITIES ARE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SOLO PARENT RESIDING THEREIN; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE MONTHLY CONSUMPTION DOES NOT EXCEED ONE HUNDRED KILOWATT HOURS (100KWH) OF ELECTRICITY AND THIRTY CUBIC METERS (30 M<sup>3</sup>) OF WATER; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE PRIVILEGE IS GRANTED PER HOUSEHOLD REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF SOLO PARENTS RESIDING THEREIN."

That is the second proposed – number seven, I am sorry.

"(7) FARES FOR LAND TRANSPORTATION TRAVEL IN PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES;

(8) ACTUAL FARES FOR DOMESTIC AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES AND SEA SHIPPING VESSELS; AND

(9) GOODS AND SERVICES IN RESTAURANTS, RECREATIONAL CENTERS, HOTELS AND SIMILAR LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS."

That is the second amendment, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
What does the Sponsor say?

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. We accept, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the proposed amendment, as accepted by the Sponsor.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the amendment is carried.

Hon. Kit Belmonte.

REP. BELMONTE. For the third proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, on the same page, page 10, Section 12, line 40, delete the word "CHILDREN'S."

I so move—I so propose, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Sponsor.

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. I accept, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the amendment proposed and as accepted by the Sponsor.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the amendment is carried.

Hon. Kit Belmonte.

REP. BELMONTE. For the fourth and last amendment as proposed by the Hon. Lawrence Fortun, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, on the same page, page 10, Section 12, line 41, insert the phrase AND THEIR CHILD OR CHILDREN after the phrase "SOLO PARENTS" and then delete the proviso so the entire paragraph shall read as follows: "IN THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES ON PROMOTIONAL DISCOUNT, SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILD OR CHILDREN MAY AVAIL OF SUCH

DISCOUNT OR THE DISCOUNT PROVIDED HEREIN, WHICHEVER IS HIGHER."

I so propose, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
What does the Sponsor say?

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. We accept the proposed amendment of Hon. Kit Belmonte, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. ... I move that we approve the amendment proposed and as accepted by the Sponsor.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved. The amendment is carried.

REP. BELMONTE. On behalf of the Hon. Lawrence Fortun, I would like to thank the Chairman, the Majority and the House for accepting these amendments.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Thank you, Hon. Kit Belmonte.  
Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who wants to propose individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Second Reading on House Bill No. 8097.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

## VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). All those who are in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8097,  
AS AMENDED,  
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). All those who are not in favor, say *Nay*. (*Silence*) The *ayes* have it; said House Bill, as amended, is passed on Second Reading.

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Merry Christmas po sa ating lahat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Merry Christmas.  
Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8145  
ON SECOND READING

## PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8145, contained in Committee Report No. 629, and request the Secretary General to read the title of the House Bill.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Secretary General is hereby directed to read the title of the Bill.\*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8145, entitled: "AN ACT EXTENDING THE IMPLEMENTATION

OF THE LIFELINE RATE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 73 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we now open the period of sponsorship and debate.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Apid Delos Santos of the ANG PROBINSIYANO Party-List to sponsor House Bill No. 8145.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The Hon. Apid Delos Santos is hereby recognized.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

May the Explanatory Note of the bill be considered as my sponsorship speech on the measure.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Majority Leader. Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no interpellators for House Bill No. 8145, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

\* Copies of the bill were distributed to the members earlier. Section 53, Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides that "[a] bill or joint resolution on Second Reading shall be read in full unless copies thereof have been distributed to the Members."

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we now open the period of Committee amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we proceed to the individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none, then the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to propose individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Second Reading on House Bill No. 8145. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). All those who are in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8145 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).

For those who are not in favor, say *Nay*. (*Silence*) The *ayes* have it; the said House Bill is passed on Second Reading.

Majority Leader.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8149 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8149, under Committee Report No. 633, and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the Bill.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The Secretary General is hereby directed to read the title of the Bill.\*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8149, entitled: "AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NEW FILIPINO GESTURE OF RESPECT, GOODWILL, AND PRAISE."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Bayani Fernando of the First District of Marikina for his sponsorship speech.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The Hon. Bayani Fernando is hereby recognized.

REP. FERNANDO. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and my Explanatory Note will serve as my sponsorship speech. I think everyone anyway is aware of this "bating Pilipino" as we had it approved as a resolution early on, about February, before the onset of the COVID pandemic. So, the timing is quite right but we opted to have this now be approved by the House as a House bill instead of a resolution. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

\* Copies of the bill were distributed to the members earlier. Section 53, Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides that "[a] bill or joint resolution on Second Reading shall be read in full unless copies thereof have been distributed to the Members."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Thank you, Honorable Fernando.  
Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.  
Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none, then the motion is approved.  
Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of Committee amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.  
Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, may we proceed to the individual amendments.  
I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.  
Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to propose individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.  
I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 8149.  
I so move, Mr. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
All those who are in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8149 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
For those who are against, say *Nay*. (*Silence*)  
The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 8149 is approved on Second Reading.  
Majority Leader.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1436

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1436 and request that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the Resolution.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
The Secretary General is hereby directed to read the title of the measure.\*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1436, entitled: "RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE RICARDO BACUNAWA BUTALID, FORMER ASSEMBLYMAN REPRESENTING REGION V DURING THE INTERIM BATASANG PAMBANSA."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1436.  
I so move, Mr. Speaker.

\* Copies of the resolution were distributed to the members earlier. Section 53, Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides that "[a] bill or joint resolution on Second Reading shall be read in full unless copies thereof have been distributed to the Members."

## ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1436

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). All those who are in favor—is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved. Said House Resolution is hereby adopted.

Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8216  
ON SECOND READING

## PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8216, contained in Committee Report No. 664, and request that the Secretary General read the title of the House Bill.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Secretary General is hereby directed to read the title of Bill.\*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8216, entitled: “AN ACT MANDATING OWNERS OR OPERATORS OF HOTELS AND RESORTS WITH SWIMMING POOLS AND BEACHFRONT FACILITIES TO EMPLOY THE SERVICES OF CERTIFIED LIFEGUARDS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF.”

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Chairman of the

Committee on Tourism, Rep. Sol Aragones of San Pablo City.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The honorable Chairperson Sol Aragones is hereby recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH  
OF REP. ARAGONES

REP. ARAGONES. Mr. Speaker, I am sponsoring House Bill No. 8216, not only as the Chairperson of the Committee on Tourism, which considered and approved this Bill but, likewise, as the principal proponent of this measure.

Your Honors, tourism has become one of the major and fastest-growing industries in the country, contributing significantly to our economic growth. But our tourism industry is one of the worst-hit industries by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the past eight months or so, tourism in the country was practically at a standstill. Now, domestic tourism is slowly being revived as our tourist destinations are now starting to open up and tourism-related economic activities are gaining ground. However, the pandemic has brought about changes in the market demands and preferences of tourists. Many of our tourists would now want to go to places and destinations that are less crowded and just swim in our beautiful beaches or go on staycations in hotels or resorts and enjoy a dip in their pools. This is why we have to ensure our tourists and guests are protected and safe while using and enjoying these facilities.

This Representation introduced House Bill No. 8216 with the objective of ensuring the protection and safety of tourists who go on vacation or short breaks in hotels or resorts, and use their swimming pools or beachfront facilities. Many of these vacationers are families, particularly now that the children and senior citizens are already permitted to go on vacation, or groups who go out to relax and spend some bonding time with friends. While swimming in pools and beaches can certainly be exciting

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and can offer fun activities, it can however pose a threat and result in serious injuries and even death if proper safety protocols are not established and followed.

As such, Mr. Speaker, House Bill No. 8216 seeks to mandate hotel or resort owners, and operators with swimming pools and beachfront facilities to employ the services of lifeguards for every 250 square meters of swimming area. These lifeguards must likewise be properly trained and certified by such reputable agencies as the Department of Health, Philippine Coast Guard or the Philippine Red Cross. Moreover, the Bill also provides certain penalties and fines for violation of these provisions once it becomes a law.

It is our hope, Your Honors, that with this measure, accidents will be prevented. The protection and safety of the pool swimmers and our beach-going public will be ensured and the state of readiness of the swimming areas will be maintained. With this, Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, we earnestly seek your support for the approval and passage of this Bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, at magandang hapon po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Thank you, Honorable Aragon. *Silence*  
Majority Leader.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member of the House who wishes to interpellate the honorable Sponsor, we move for the termination of the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? *(Silence)* I hear none; the motion is approved.  
Majority Leader.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? *(Silence)* I hear none; the motion is approved.  
Majority Leader.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of Committee amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? *(Silence)* I hear none; the motion is approved.  
Majority Leader.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee amendment, we proceed to the period of individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? *(Silence)* I hear none; the motion is approved.  
Majority Leader.

REP. AGABAS. There being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? *(Silence)* I hear none; the motion is approved.  
Majority Leader.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 8216. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
All those who are in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8216 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
All those who are against, say *Nay*. *(Silence)*  
The *ayes* have it, House Bill No. 8216 is approved on Second Reading.  
Majority Leader.

#### RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. RPT. ON H.B. NO. 6816 AND S.B. 1849

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, we are in

receipt of the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 6816 and Senate Bill No. 1849, AN ACT ENSURING PHILIPPINE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY RESILIENCY AGAINST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our Rules, I move that we ratify the said Conference Committee Report.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.\*

Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF CTTEE. RPT. NO. 665  
ON H. RES. NO. 1417

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1417, as contained in Committee Report No. 665, and request the Secretary General to read the title of the House Resolution.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Secretary General is hereby directed to read the title of the Resolution.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1417, entitled: "RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CASHLESS TOLL PAYMENTS THROUGH RADIO-FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION (RFID) SYSTEM UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT THE SYSTEMS ARE READY TO BE FULLY OPERATIONAL AND ARE INTEROPERABLE."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that

we now open the period of sponsorship and debate on House Resolution No. 1417. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize honorable Rep. Edgar Sarmiento, Chairman of the Committee on Transportation, for his sponsorship of the Resolution.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The Hon. Edgar Sarmiento is hereby recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH  
OF REP. SARMIENTO

REP. SARMIENTO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader.

This Representation, Mr. Speaker, as the Chairman of the Committee on Transportation, would like to sponsor, under Committee Report No. 665, House Resolution No. 1417, a resolution, Mr. Speaker, urging the Department of Transportation to defer the implementation of cashless toll payment through the radio frequency identification system until January of 2021. For your kind consideration, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. France Castro of the ACT TEACHERS Party-List for her interpellation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The Hon. France Castro is hereby recognized.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Maraming salamat, Ginoong Speaker.

Ang Kinatawan po bang ito ay papayagan ng kagalang-galang na Sponsor na maglinaw

\* Copies of the resolution were distributed to the members earlier. Section 53, Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides that "[a] bill or joint resolution on Second Reading shall be read in full unless copies thereof have been distributed to the Members."

dito sa Resolusyon? Bagamat, Mr. Speaker, ako po ay sang-ayon doon sa deferment noong pagpapatupad ng mandatory cashless payment using the RFID, pero minarapat ko po, Mr. Speaker, Ginoong Sponsor, na magtanong ng ilang mga paglilinaw kaugnay nitong RFID na ito para malinawan po ng ating mga kababayan kaugnay nito. Pangalawa po, binabati ko po ang ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor na siyang Chairman ng ating Committee on Transportation sa pagbibigay ng inisyatiba para ito ay maimbestigahan at makapag-come up po tayo, Mr. Speaker, Ginoong Sponsor, ng isa pong resolusyon po na magiging kapaki-pakinabang sa ating mga mamamayan. So, iyong unang tanong, Mr. Speaker, ano po ba iyong coverage nitong deferment na ito ng RFID?

REP. SARMIENTO. Mr. Speaker, kagalang-galang na Hon. France Castro, ang coverage po nito ay lahat po ng expressways. Hiningi po muna natin, lalo't lalo na po sa NLEX, na i-defer muna kasi hindi pa nga po handa ang sistema po nila.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Iyon po bang pino-propose nating sistema, Mr. Speaker, ito po ba ay later on magko-cover po ito ng both, halimbawa po, later on, makaka-develop ng isang sistema for SLEX and NLEX kaya?

REP. SARMIENTO. Tama po iyan. Iyan pong isa nga – para po sa kaalaman po ng lahat, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Castro, ito pong ginagawa po natin ay binibigyan po natin ng kahulugan talaga ang trabaho po ng Toll Regulatory Board na dapat po gawin po nila talaga ang trabaho at nararapat po.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Para po sa kaalaman ng ating mamamayan, Mr. Speaker, Ginoong Sponsor, ilan po ba iyong araw-araw na nagko-commute o gumagamit ng NLEX?

REP. SARMIENTO. Doon po sa sinasabi na report ng NLEX management, sumosobra po sa isang milyon na sasakyan. Ito po ay sa pre-COVID, pero, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Castro, ngayon po, sa panahon po ng COVID,

bumaba po ang volume nila. Sinasabi po nila nasa 400,000, pero ngayon po na bumabalik na naman po ang ekonomiya, bumabalik na naman po, more or less po, naglalapit po sa isang milyon.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Nakuha po ba natin, Mr. Speaker, Ginoong Sponsor, kung magkano po kaya iyong kinikita noong NLEX sa arawan o mayroon po ba tayong data kaugnay noong revenues na nade-derive?

REP. SARMIENTO. Iyon po ay hinihingi natin kaya lang, Mr. Speaker, hindi pa po nabibigay ng management ng NLEX. Pero sumulat na po tayo sa kanila tungkol po rito sa revenue na kinikita po ng NLEX management sa arawan po.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Ginoong Speaker, naitanong ko lang po ito dahil ako po ay dumadaan parati dito sa NLEX at namonitor ko po iyong presyuhan o iyong pagtaas ng toll fee parati dito sa NLEX. At napapansin ko, Mr. Speaker, Ginoong Sponsor, na talagang parang madalas iyong pagtaas. Inabot ko nga diyan iyong P45, naging P54, naging P58 iyong toll fee. Mayroon po ba tayong – kasama po ba sa resolusyon or sa pag-iimbestiga natin, Ginoong Speaker, Ginoong Sponsor, iyong kaugnay doon sa kung paano po nade-determine iyong pagpapresyo ng toll fee?

REP. SARMIENTO. Hindi po natin naisama po rito sa resolution, Mr. Speaker, kaya lang dito sa ginagawang technical working group hearing po natin tungkol po rito sa interoperability ng expressways, isasama po natin iyan, Honorable Castro.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you po, Ginoong Sponsor, Ginoong Speaker. Natutuwa po ako na maisama natin ito kasi parang sa tingin po natin, sa mga pangkaraniwang commuter na dumadaan po sa NLEX, parang nagiging too much o nagiging burden sa kanila iyong madalas na pagtaas nitong toll fee. At hindi natin malaman, Mr. Speaker, kung paano, hindi ba, hindi pa natin alam kung gaano na iyong kinikita nitong NLEX na ito.

So, ilan na lang pong katanungan ano. Isa po sa nakita ko dito ay iyong Toll Regulatory Board. Mr. Speaker, mayroon palang ganito. Ngayon ko lang parang narinig iyong kanyang function na hindi natin naririnig. Ako, sinasang-ayunan ko si Mayor Rex Gatchalian doon sa Valenzuela, doon sa sinasabi niya na talagang may kakulangan ang TRB at ito talaga nagdulot talaga ng ano, 'no, ng perwisyo sa mga mamamayan, itong pagpapatupad ng RFID. So, Mr. Speaker, ako po ay ah – tutol po ako doon sa mandatory na pagpapatupad nitong RFID dahil alam po natin, Mr. Speaker, may karapatan ang bawat mamamayan na mamili kung ano iyong kaniyang ano, 'no, kakayanin na sistema. Kaya ang huli ko pong tanong, ano, sa atin pong Ginoong Sponsor, sa mga susunod po natin, ano, na mga pagdinig, puwede po ba na mai-ano natin, ano, mai-assert natin iyong karapatan ng ating mga mamamayan para sa pagpili kasi ginagawa po kasi itong mandatory, Mr. Speaker, Ginoong Sponsor?

REP. SARMIENTO. Salamat po, Kagalang-galang na Castro.

Mr. Speaker, napakaimportante po ng sinasabi po ng Interpellator natin.

Sa kaalaman po ng lahat, noong pinalabas po ang Department Order No. 2020-12 ng Department of Transportation noong Agosto po, ang Kamara, the House of Representatives, tayo'y nagka-hearing kaagad rito noong September. At sinasabi po ng resource persons natin dito po, specifically ng Department of Trade and Industry, na hindi po sila sang-ayon na talaga pong full RFID kasi kailangan po binibigyan po natin ng option iyong cash lane. At kami ay sang-ayon po roon sa sinasabi po ng Department of Trade and Industry.

Dito po sa Kamara, the House of Representatives, hindi pa man napapag-usapan ang counterpart, binigyan na po natin ng lunas kasi nakikita na po natin na mangyayari po at nangyari na po, napahirapan po ang mamamayan, kanya lang, nahuli na po ang ginawa nilang pagpayag sa pakiusap natin na huwag munang isarado kasi hindi kaya. Ngayon, bumalik po tayo sa cash. Sayang po kasi nagkaroon po ng chaos, napahirapan ang publiko. Dapat po sana 'pag may programa ang

gobyerno, lalo't lalo na rito sa transportation, sana uunahin muna ang sistema, huwag muna ang kawawain ang publiko po.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Sumasang-ayon po ako, 'no, Mr. Speaker, sa tinuran po ng ating Sponsor na dapat binigyan po ng plano bago siguro nagpatupad o nagbigay ng ano, ng mga deadline-deadline ang NLEX at iyang TRB na iyan sa ating mga mamamayan. Dapat nagkaroon talaga ng plano. Alam ninyo po, sa aking pagre-research, may mga ilang mga bansa, halimbawa po ang USA, it took them three years para po talagang totally mailagay iyong plano noong kanilang mga cashless toll lane. Kaya po tayo, parang three months or six months, hindi po talaga sapat iyong panahon ano. At siyempre po, ako po bilang isang consumer, dapat po mabigyan po ano, later on mabigyan iyong ating mga mamamayan ng ano, ng choice whether RFID or cash, at dapat hindi mawala din iyong option na cash, lalong-lalo na po doon sa mga commuter natin na hindi rin naman gaanong dumadaan doon sa NLEX.

So, ito na lang po, Mr. Speaker. Nagpapasalamat po ako sa ating Sponsor, sa ating Chairman, Chairman Sarmiento ng Committee on Transportation, sa mga paglilina ng Kinatawag ito at para makita rin po ng ating mga mamamayan na ang Kapulungang ito ay talagang nakikipaglaban para po sa kapakanan ng ating mga mamamayan, lalong-lalo na po iyong mga gumagamit ng NLEX. Salamat po, Mr. Speaker, Ginoong Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Thank you, Honorable France Castro.

REP. SARMIENTO. Mr. Speaker, ako po'y nagpapasalamat rin sa Kinatawan po ng ACT Teachers Party-List sa mga tanong niya para maintindihan po ng mamamayan ano po'ng ginagawa ng Kamara tungkol po rito sa RFID.

Maraming, maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Majority Leader.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to adopt the findings and recommendation

contained in Committee Report No. 638 of House Resolution No. 1409.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 1409.

I so move, Mr. Speaker

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, one-minute suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The session is suspended.

*It was 4:10 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:10 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The session is resumed.

Majority Leader.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, may we now proceed to consider House Resolution No. 1417, as contained in Committee Report No. 665, and request...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). We have already adopted House Resolution No. 1417.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. AGABAS. One-minute suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The session is suspended.

*It was 4:11 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:11 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The session is resumed.

Majority Leader.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 665 on House Resolution No. 1417.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

#### ADOPTION OF FINDINGS AND RECOM. IN CTTEE. RPT. NO. 665 ON H. RES. NO.1417

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

#### CONSIDERATION OF CTTEE. RPT. NO. 638 ON H. RES. NO. 1409

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 638 on House Resolution No. 1409.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Secretary General is hereby directed to read the title of the measure.\*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, House Resolution No. 1409, entitled: "RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ROADWORTHY PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES TO ADDRESS THE TRANSPORTATION SHORTAGE AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT IN

\* Copies of the resolution were distributed to the members earlier. Section 53, Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides that "[a] bill or joint resolution on Second Reading shall be read in full unless copies thereof have been distributed to the Members."

THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO REVIVE THE ECONOMY, SUBJECT TO EXISTING HEALTH PROTOCOLS AND SUCH OTHER REQUIREMENTS AS MAY BE IMPOSED BY THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE AGAINST COVID-19."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Majority Leader.

ADOPTION OF FINDINGS AND RECOM.  
IN CTTEE. RPT. NO. 638  
ON H. RES. NO. 1409

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 638 on House Resolution No. 1409.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. AGABAS. One-minute suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
The session is suspended.

*It was 4:13 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:13 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
The session is resumed.  
Majority Leader.

RECONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION  
OF THE FINDINGS AND RECOM. IN  
CTTEE. RPT. NO. 638 ON H. RES. NO. 1409

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the reconsideration of the adoption of House Resolution No. 1409.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize honorable Rep. Edgar Sarmiento of the Committee on Transportation for his sponsorship of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
The honorable Chairman, Edgar Sarmiento, is hereby recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH  
OF REP. SARMIENTO

REP. SARMIENTO. Mr. Speaker, this Representation would like to sponsor House Resolution No. 1409, under Committee Report No. 638, a resolution, Mr. Speaker, urging the Department of Transportation to increase the number of roadworthy public utility vehicles to address the transportation shortage and provide the necessary support in the government effort to revive the economy. With your kind consideration, the approval of the Committee Report is sought by this Representation, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. France Castro of the ACT TEACHERS Party-List for her interpellation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The Hon. France Castro is hereby recognized.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Maraming salamat po, Ginoong Speaker.

Ang Kinatawan pong ito ay sumusuporta sa ating Chairman ng Committee on

Transportation muli doon sa pag-i-initiate ng ganitong resolution at sa Komite para po mataasan iyong capacity po ng ating mga public utility vehicle. Isa po ako doon sa advocates na sana po ay iyong ating mga drivers, iyong ating transportation ay talagang ano 'no, mapagana na dahil kahit naman po panahon ng pandemya, kailangan po ring sumulong iyong ating ekonomiya at isa sa susi para ito ay sumulong ay iyong mobilization ng mga tao, mobilization ng mga workers, ng mga produkto at iba pa. So, papayagan po ba ng ating Sponsor ang ilang mga paglilinaw kaugnay po doon sa findings noong resolution, Mr. Speaker?

REP. SARMIENTO. Opo, Mr. Speaker, Madam Interpellator.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, ito po bang resolution na ito covers all kinds of public utility vehicles?

REP. SARMIENTO. Kasama po lahat ng public utility vehicles. Hinihingi po natin na iangat po sana ang numero dahil nga bumabalik ang ekonomiya.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). So, kasama po ba dito, Mr. Speaker, Ginoong Sponsor, iyong mga provincial buses natin?

REP. SARMIENTO. Provincial buses, lahat po, hinihingi rin natin.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Kasi po, Mr. Speaker, iyong mga provincial buses ay talagang ano 'no, pangangailangan na ito ng ating mga mamamayan, lalong-lalo na po marami naman pong mga lugar sa ating bansa na low-risk naman na sa COVID-19. Bagama't siyempre, priority pa rin natin na mapangalagaan iyong kalusugan ng ating mga mamamayan at maiadya iyong ating mga mamamayan from COVID-19, pero with proper and strict implementation of health protocols – so, maganda ring masama na natin iyong mga public utility vehicle na maka-move na, maka-move on. Ang halimbawa po, doon sa mga jeepney, Mr. Speaker, Ginoong Sponsor, ano po ba iyong prino-propose

nating increased capacity sa mga jeepneys natin?

REP. SARMIENTO. Noong una po, Mr. Speaker, noong pinayagan na po ang public transportation at binaba po tayo sa GCQ, noong una po ay lugin-lugin po kasi may one-meter distance, practically 30 percent lang po ang ridership. Pagkatapos po, ito ay inangat to 50 percent. Sana naman kami ay nakikiusap na kung may barrier lang, puwede na po siguro na magkaroon na ng full capacity basta may plastic barriers lang. Puwede naman ilagay siguro one-inch lang po, pu-puwede naman po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Ganoon po ba rin, Mr. Speaker, sa mga buses natin?

REP. SARMIENTO. Iyong sa mga buses naman po, balikan ko lang, Mr. Speaker, Kagalang-galang na Castro, iyong provincial buses, kung mababasa ninyo po kahapon, pinayagan na po sila na gagawa lang po ng guidelines ang LTFRB doon sa point-to-point. Pero ako'y nakikiusap rin po, ako ay nakiusap po sa IATF dahil po sa natatanggap natin na sulat sa mga may-ari po ng provincial buses na lugin-lugin na po sila, siyam na buwan wala po silang kita, at nasama po natin ito sa trabaho natin at buti naman napayagan na. Balik po tayo rito po sa tanong natin: Kasama po iyong provincial buses, tatal naman kung mapapansin po may mandatory requirement naman. Basta importante magsuot po tayo ng mask at saka iyong face shield. Kanya lang, Mr. Speaker, Kagalang-galang na Castro, hihintayin pa po natin iyong IATF tungkol po rito kung puwede na ba i-increase pa natin ang kapasidad po ng buses.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Okay. Salamat po, Ginoong Sponsor.

Bukod sa increasing the capacity, Mr. Speaker, Ginoong Sponsor, mahalaga din po na dapat 100 percent nang mapayagan iyong ating mga public utility jeep, mga vehicles at iba pa dahil – ako po ay dumadaan sa Commonwealth ano, iyong akin pong ruta na jeep na sinasakyan,

iyong Novaliches to Quezon City, hindi pa po sila pinapayagan, Mr. Speaker, ng LTFRB na pumasada. At nakikita natin iyong mga driver dito, 'no, na nakakalat sa lansangan at nanghihingi at nanlilimos na. So siguro po, maaari din po na mamungkahi na sana payagan na 100 percent iyong ating mga public utility jeep na makapamasada kung masusunod lang iyong mga health protocol at syempre iyong sinasabing roadworthiness. So, sinusupportahan ko po ito, Mr. Speaker, at nagpapasalamat po ako dito sa ating Sponsor, sa ating Chairman ng Committee on Transportation, sa ganitong inisyatiba. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Thank you, Congresswoman Castro.

REP. SARMIENTO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Ulitin ko po, maraming salamat, kagalang-galang na Castro.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Majority Leader.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 1409, together with the findings and recommendations as contained in Committee Report No. 638.

ADOPTION OF FINDINGS AND RECOM.  
IN CTTEE. RPT. NO. 638  
ON H. RES. NO. 1409

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. AGABAS. One-minute suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The session is suspended.

*It was 4:21 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:22 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The session is resumed.  
Majority Leader.

ADOPTION OF S.B. NO. 1396 AS  
AN AMENDMENT TO H.B. NO. 8136

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, the House and the Senate have approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 8136 and Senate Bill No. 1396, respectively, declaring the Coconut Levy Assets as a trust fund, providing for its management and utilization.

We have been informed that the Committee on Agriculture, sponsor of House Bill No. 8136, and the authors thereof are in concurrence with the provisions of Senate Bill No. 1396. In accordance with our Rules, I move that we adopt Senate Bill No. 1396 as an amendment to House Bill No. 8136.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

CONCURRENCE WITH SENATE  
AMENDMENTS TO H.B. NO. 6656

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 6656, extending the availability of the 2020 appropriations to December 31, 2021.

We have been informed that the Committee on Appropriations, sponsor of House Bill No. 6656, and the authors thereof are in concurrence with the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our Rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 6656.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved. The amendments to House Bill No. 6656 are adopted.

Majority Leader.

#### CONCURRENCE WITH SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.B. NO. 8063

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 8063, EXTENDING THE AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE BAYANIHAN TO RECOVER AS ONE ACT.

We have been informed that the Committee on Appropriations, sponsor of House Bill No. 8063, and the authors, thereof, are in concurrence with the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our Rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 8063.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved. The amendments to House Bill No. 8063 are adopted.

Majority Leader.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. LACSON-NOEL. A minute suspension of session, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The session is suspended.

*It was 4:24 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:25 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The session is resumed.

Majority Leader.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NOS. 8040 AND 8041 ON THIRD READING

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bills Nos. 8040 and 8041 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measures, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the titles of the measures, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on December 10, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8040, entitled: "AN ACT INTEGRATING THE CONSOLACION COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CONSOLACION, PROVINCE OF CEBU, INTO THE CEBU TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (CTU), TO BE KNOWN AS THE CTU-CONSOLACION CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"; and House Bill No. 8041, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RESOURCE AND TRAINING CENTER IN THE NUEVA VIZCAYA STATE UNIVERSITY, DEFINING ITS FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR."

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. The results of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measures are reflected in Journal No. 13, dated December 16, 2020.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The result of the nominal voting on House Bills Nos. 8040 and 8041: 204 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention.

House Bills Nos. 8040 and 8041 are approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the consideration for approval of bills on Third Reading.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none, the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

RECONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL  
OF H.B. NO. 7950  
ON SECOND READING

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move for the reconsideration of the approval on Second Reading of House Bill No. 7950.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we reconsider the termination of the period of amendments of House Bill No. 7950.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7950  
*Continuation*

PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider on Second Reading House Bill No. 7950, as contained in Committee Report No. 571, and may we direct the Secretary General to read the title of the Bill.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The Secretary General is hereby directed to read the title of House Bill No. 7950.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7950, entitled: "AN ACT CREATING A SYSTEM OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEOPLE'S COUNCIL IN EVERY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL SANGGUNIAN AND LOCAL BOARDS, COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES OR SIMILAR WORK GROUPS."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Majority Leader.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Rep. Rida Robes, Chair of the Committee on People's Participation, to sponsor House Bill No. 7950.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The honorable Chairman, Rida Robes, is hereby recognized.

REP. ROBES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Majority Floor Leader.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we recognize the honorable Minority Leader Joseph Paduano to introduce amendments to House Bill No. 7950.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The honorable Minority Leader Joseph Paduano is hereby recognized.

REP. PADUANO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Lady from San Jose del Monte, Bulacan yield to some amendments, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ROBES. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am very much willing to yield to the request of our Minority Leader Paduano.

## INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. PADUANO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Madam Sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, my first amendment is on page 5, line 13, Section 14. Mr. Speaker, I propose to delete all the content of Section 14, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ROBES. Mr. Speaker, I do accept the deletion...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). What does the Committee Chair say?

REP. ROBES. Yes, Mr. Speaker, sorry.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). What does the Committee Chair say?

REP. ROBES. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the deletion by our honorable colleague here, Mr. Speaker, accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). What about the House?

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, we concur with the amendment.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved. The amendment is carried.

REP. PADUANO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Honorable Paduano.

REP. PADUANO. Thank you, Majority Floor Leader.

My next amendment, Mr. Speaker, Madam Sponsor, is on page 6, line 21, Section 22, entitled "Repealing Clause." Delete all the first—the content of the first sentence, Mr. Speaker, Madam Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). What does the Chairwoman say?

REP. ROBES. Mr. Speaker, I, again, accept the deletion by the honorable colleague of ours. It is accepted again.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). How about the House?

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we concur with the proposed amendment.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved. The amendment is carried.

Majority Leader. Minority Leader Paduano.

REP. PADUANO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And lastly, Mr. Speaker, on page 4, Section 12, "Powers and Responsibilities of the People's Council," on page 5, line 1, letter (c), to delete the word "vote," Mr. Speaker, Madam Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Sponsor.

REP. ROBES. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, again, I concur and accept the deletion of the amendment given by our colleague here, our Minority Leader. Again, it is accepted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Majority Leader.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, I concur with the proposed amendment.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none, the motion is approved. The amendment is carried.

Minority Leader.

REP. PADUANO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And lastly, Mr. Speaker, just to be consistent with all the amendments being introduced and accepted by the Sponsor, on the same section, Mr. Speaker, Section 12, page 5, line 3, to delete the word "vote,» Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Honorable Sponsor.

REP. ROBES. Mr. Speaker, again, I do accept the deletion for the word "vote,» as introduced by our honorable colleague here. Again, it is accepted, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). For the House, Majority Leader.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, I concur with the proposed amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

The amendment is carried.  
Majority Leader. The Minority Leader.

REP. PADUANO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Majority Leader. Thank you, Madam Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano) Thank you, Minority Leader Joseph Paduano.

REP. ROBES. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our colleague here, Congressman Bordado, we would like to thank the august Body for this opportunity to take the amendments. Thank you so much, and again, Merry Christmas.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Thank you very much. Merry Christmas, Apo Chairman Rida.

Majority Leader.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to propose individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we vote on Second Reading on House Bill No. 7950.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). All those who are in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7950, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Those who are against, say *Nay*. (*Silence*)

The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 7950, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

Majority Leader.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8077 ON THIRD READING

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 8077 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on December 10, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8077, entitled: "AN ACT RECLASSIFYING AS AGRICULTURAL LAND A PARCEL OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN SITUATED AT LOURDES, ALUBIJID, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, TO BE UTILIZED AS THE SITE OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES."

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 13, dated December 16, 2020.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The result of the nominal voting: with 211 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8077 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5680  
ON THIRD READING

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 5680 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on December 10, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5680, entitled: "AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LICENSING CENTER IN BACOLOD CITY INTO A REGULAR LICENSING

CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE NEGROS OCCIDENTAL LICENSING CENTER, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR."

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 13, dated December 16, 2020.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The result of the nominal voting:

With 212 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 5680 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NOS. 8081 AND 8082  
ON THIRD READING

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bills Nos. 8081 and 8082 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measures, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the titles of the measures, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on December 10, 2020, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8081, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BILIRAN, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"; and

House Bill No. 8082, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FRESHWATER FISH HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TALACOGON, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR."

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. The results of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measures are reflected in Journal No. 13, dated December 16, 2020.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The result of the nominal voting: With 212 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bills Nos. 8081 and 8082 are hereby approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that all the bills approved on Third Reading be immediately transmitted to the Senate.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General is hereby directed to transmit all the bills to the Senate.

Majority Leader.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The session is suspended.

*It was 5:02 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:10 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The session is resumed.

Majority Leader.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8207 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that

we consider House Bill No. 8207, contained in Committee Report No. 660, and request that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the House Bill.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved. The Secretary General is hereby directed to read the title of the measure.\*\*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8207, entitled: "AN ACT ALLOWING THE CONVERSION OF A MUNICIPALITY WITH EITHER A POPULATION OF AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (100,000) INHABITANTS AS CERTIFIED BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA), OR A CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY OF AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED (100) HUNDRED SQUARE KILOMETERS, AS CERTIFIED BY THE LAND MANAGEMENT BUREAU (LMB), INTO A COMPONENT CITY, IF IT HAS A LOCALLY GENERATED AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME OF AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED FIFTY MILLION PESOS (P250,000,000.00), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 450 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none, then the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Tyrone D. Agabas of the Sixth District of Pangasinan to sponsor the measure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

\*\* Copies of the bill were distributed to the members earlier. Section 53, Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides that "[a] bill or joint resolution on Second Reading shall be read in full unless copies thereof have been distributed to the Members."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
The Hon. Tyrone Agabas is hereby recognized.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, may I request the honorable Speaker to consider the Explanatory Note, as contained in House Bill No. 8207, as the sponsorship speech on the said measure, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none, then the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of committee amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we now proceed to the individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to propose individual

amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Second Reading on House Bill No. 8207.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
All those in favor, say *Aye*.  
Louder, please.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8207 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
Those who are against, say *Nay*. (*Silence*) The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 8207 is approved on Second Reading.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
The session is suspended.

*It was 5:13 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:19 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
The session is resumed.  
Majority Leader.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1418

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move for

the consideration of House Resolution No. 1418, as contained in Committee Report No. 670, and direct the Secretary General to please read the title of House Resolution No. 1418.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Secretary General is hereby directed to read the title of the measure.\*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution 1418, entitled: "RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO SUBMIT ITS FIRST NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (NDC) TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC) ON OR BEFORE 31 DECEMBER 2020."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Rep. Ed Chatto from the First District of Bohol for his sponsorship.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The Hon. Ed Chatto is hereby recognized.

#### SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. CHATTO

REP. CHATTO. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

It is an honor and a privilege to sponsor the adoption of House Resolution No. 1418, contained in Committee Report 670, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO SUBMIT THIS FIRST NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (NDC) TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC) ON OR BEFORE 31 DECEMBER 2020.

There is urgency in this House Resolution, Mr. Speaker, because the deadline set for the submission of the Nationally Determined Contributions of the parties that ratified the Paris Agreement in 2017 has already been set at the end of this year. The country is expected to comply with such deadline.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 1418.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

#### ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1418

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. CHATTO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Thank you, Honorable Ed Chatto.

REP. AGABAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the Additional Reference of Business and request the Secretary General to read the titles of the committee reports.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The Secretary General is hereby directed to read the titles of the measures.

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

*The Secretary General read the following Committee Reports and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:*

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Justice (Committee Report No. 702), re H.B. No. 8268, entitled: "AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR PERJURY,

\* Copies of the resolution were distributed to the members earlier. Section 53, Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides that "[a] bill or joint resolution on Second Reading shall be read in full unless copies thereof have been distributed to the Members."

AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
ARTICLES 183 AND 184 OF ACT NO.  
3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS 'THE REVISED PENAL  
CODE' "

recommending its approval in substitution  
of House Bill No. 7668

Sponsor: Representative Veloso

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice  
(Committee Report No. 703), re H.B.  
No. 8269, entitled:

"AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE  
CITIZENSHIP TO LIANG XI WU"

recommending its approval in substitution  
of House Bill No. 5064

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso and  
Garin (Sharon)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and  
the Committee on Appropriations  
(Committee Report No. 704), re H.B. No.  
8270, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING IN THE  
CITY OF CANDON, PROVINCE  
OF ILOCOS SUR, A TERTIARY  
HOSPITAL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE  
ILOCOS SUR MEDICAL CENTER,  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR"

recommending its approval in substitution  
of House Bill No. 7146

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina),  
Singson-Meehan and Yap (Eric)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).

Majority Leader.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that  
we suspend the session for a few minutes.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).

The session is suspended.

*It was 5:23 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:29 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).

The session resumed.

Majority Leader.

#### OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the  
omnibus consideration on Second Reading of  
the following local Bills:

1. House Bill No. 8221, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 668;
2. House Bill No. 8224, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 669;
3. House Bill No. 8225, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 671;
4. House Bill No. 8226, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 672;
5. House Bill No. 8227, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 673;
6. House Bill No. 8228, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 674;
7. House Bill No. 94, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 675;
8. House Bill No. 4700, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 676;
9. House Bill No. 6066, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 677;
10. House Bill No. 5453, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 678;
11. House Bill No. 6152, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 679;
12. House Bill No. 6169, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 680;
13. House Bill No. 8236, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 681;
14. House Bill No. 6440, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 682;
15. House Bill No. 8237, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 684;
16. House Bill No. 8238, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 685;
17. House Bill No. 8239, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 686;
18. House Bill No. 8240, as contained in  
Committee Report No. 687;

19. House Bill No. 8254, as contained in Committee Report No. 694;

20. House Bill No. 8255, as contained in Committee Report No. 695;

21. House Bill No. 8260, as contained in Committee Report No. 697; and

22. House Bill No. 8270, as contained in Committee Report No. 704.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move to nominate and elect as Deputy Speakers, Rep. Abraham “Bambol” N. Tolentino and Rep. Isidro T. Ungab, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved. Congratulations.

Majority Leader.

#### ELECTION OF REP. SANCHEZ TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

REP. BOLILIA. I also move to nominate and elect Rep. Hector S. Sanchez as Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Congratulations.

Majority Leader.

#### ELECTION OF REP. VILLARICA TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, we also move to nominate Rep. Henry R. Villarica as member of the House contingent to the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal, vice Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved. Congratulations.

Majority Leader.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. BOLILIA. I move to elect the the following Members to various Committees.

*Rep. Bolilia read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 13, dated December 16, 2020.*

#### COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

As Chairperson:

Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr., vice Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez.

#### COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Ducielle Marie S. Cardema

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

As Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Jose “Bong” J. Teves Jr., vice Rep. Rogelio “Ruel” D. Pacquiao

#### COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

As members:

Rep. Ducielle Marie S. Cardema

Rep. Arnie B. Fuentesbella.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CREATIVE INDUSTRY AND PERFORMING ARTS

As Vice Chairpersons:

Rep. Roman T. Romulo

Rep. Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez

Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda

Rep. Lianda B. Bolilia.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CREATIVE  
INDUSTRY AND PERFORMING ARTS

As members:

Rep. Sharon S. Garin  
 Rep. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles  
 Rep. Ma. Lourdes T. Arroyo  
 Rep. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo  
 Rep. Victor A. Yap  
 Rep. Joy Myra S. Tambunting  
 Rep. Lorenz R. Defensor  
 Rep. Ann K. Hofer  
 Rep. Alfred Vargas  
 Rep. Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez  
 Rep. Geraldine B. Roman  
 Rep. Manuel T. Sagarbarria  
 Rep. Dan S. Fernandez  
 Rep. Jose Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III  
 Rep. Ronnie L. Ong  
 Rep. Claudine Diana D. Bautista  
 Rep. Alfred C. Delos Santos  
 Rep. Amihilda J. Sangcopan  
 Rep. Aloy Lim

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

As Chairperson:

Rep. Jose "Bonito" C. Singson Jr., vice Rep.  
 Michael T. Defensor

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
 Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the  
 motion is approved. Congratulations.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, in accordance  
 with our Rules, I move that we authorize all  
 Committees to conduct meetings or public  
 hearings, if deemed necessary, during the  
 adjournment of the House from December 17,  
 2020 to January 17, 2021.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep.  
 Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*)  
 The Chair hears none; so it is hereby  
 authorized that all Committees may  
 conduct meetings or public hearings, if  
 deemed necessary, during the adjournment  
 of the House from December 17, 2020 to  
 January 17, 2021.

Majority Leader.

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION  
OF LOCAL BILLS  
ON SECOND READING*Continuation*

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move  
 that we continue the consideration of the  
 previously mentioned local Bills for Second  
 Reading.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
 Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the  
 motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that  
 we open the period of sponsorship and debate  
 on the said local Bills.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
 Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the  
 motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, there being  
 no Member who wishes to interpellate the  
 Sponsor, I move that we close the period of  
 sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
 Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the  
 motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that  
 we open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
 Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the  
 motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, there being  
 no Committee amendments, I move that we  
 proceed to the individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano).  
 Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the  
 motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the omnibus approval on Second Reading the local Bills earlier manifested.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) All those who are in favor, say *Aye*. Louder. Those who are in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

#### OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Those who are against, say *Nay*. (*Silence*) The *ayes* have it; all the aforementioned local House bills are approved on Second Reading.

Majority Leader.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Kit Belmonte of Quezon City for his manifestation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The honorable Rep. Kit Belmonte is hereby recognized.

#### ELECTION OF REP. SINGSON TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

REP. BELMONTE. Good afternoon and thank you again, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minority, I move to nominate and elect as Chairman to the Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Jose "Bonito" C. Singson Jr., vice Hon. Mike Defensor.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved. Congratulations.

Majority Leader.

REP. BELMONTE. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I move to nominate and elect, in behalf of the Minority, the Hon. Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat as Deputy Minority Leader, vice the Hon. Jose "Bonito" C. Singson Jr.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved.

REP. BELMONTE. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I move to nominate and elect on behalf of the Minority, the Hon. Arlene Brosas as Assistant Minority Leader, vice the Hon. Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) I hear none; the motion is approved. Congratulations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). Thank you very much, the Hon. Kit Belmonte. Majority Leader.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. LACSON-NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Savellano). The session is suspended.

*It was 5:39 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:40 p.m., the session was resumed with Speaker Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco presiding.*

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed. Majority Leader.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). The Speaker of the House, Speaker Lord Allan Jay Velasco, will address the plenary for his December Report and his Christmas greetings.

THE SPEAKER. Thank you, Majority Leader.

The year 2020 has been a year full of challenges and upheaval but with these also came a distinct opportunity to create a better normal for the country and our people. I would like to recognize and thank all of you, dear colleagues, for all your hard work and perseverance amidst the pandemic.

I was in Marinduque when typhoons Quinta and Rolly battered our country and I knew at once that these were no ordinary typhoons. When Ulysses caused unprecedented flooding in various parts of the country, talaga pong naisip ko, may COVID na nga, sunod-sunod pa ang mga bagyo. Never have the mettle and resolve of the government and our public servants been collectively and consecutively tested in recent memory than they have been this year. Pero nandito pa rin po tayo, lumalaban at nagtratrabaho.

After all that we have been through, I could truly say, we are a stronger House. From the time we assumed office in October until today, we have processed a total of 185 measures, with seven Republic Acts, and at least 20 more measures we hope the President signs into law before the year ends, including the 2021 General Appropriations Act. We also approved 83 measures on Third Reading and 50 more measures on Second Reading, not yet counting the measures we just approved today.

Maraming, maraming salamat sa mga kasama, kina Majo, sa Rules Committee, sa lahat ng mga kasamahan rito sa Kongreso, sa ating mga staff sa patuloy na suportang at tiwala po ninyo. As the world continues to grapple with the pandemic, it may feel strange to celebrate the holidays but let us still celebrate

our small triumphs in the season of hope, compassion and charity.

It was my son's birthday last week and it was his 13<sup>th</sup> birthday that I missed. I went home over the weekend to make it up to him because I have always believed that my family and my children are the reason why I work for our country. He asked me how things are at work and if I get tired. I told him that we would never get tired of working for a better country for him and his siblings, and building a stronger nation for our people.

Dear colleagues, we can never get tired. Being tired is a small price to pay in a country that has felt the brunt of climate change and yet refuses to bow down. This is a proud country and people, and it is our humble privilege to ease the burden of our countrymen. With all of you by my side in the struggle to make the Philippines a better place for our children and the generations yet to come, the work continues. But let us pause for the holidays to celebrate our reasons for the season – family, friends, good health, life and most of all, love.

Maligayang Pasko sa ating lahat. Happy Holidays. "LAV" ko po kayo.

Maraming salamat po. (*Applause*)

Majority Leader. Majority Leader.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session until January 18, at 3:00 p.m., 2021.

Correction, Mr. Speaker.

We move to adjourn the session until January 18, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

THE SPEAKER. The session is adjourned until January 18, 2021.

Merry Christmas, everybody. (*Applause*)

*It was 5:45 p.m.*