



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18th CONGRESS, SECOND REGULAR SESSION
House of Representatives

Vol. 5

Thursday, March 25, 2021

No. 19a

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 9:00 a.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Weslie T. Gatchalian presiding.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the Additional Reference of Business and that the Secretary General be directed to read the items on First Reading, titles of the bills and resolutions as well as committee reports and communications.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian).
Secretary General, you are recognized.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the titles of House Bills and Resolutions on First Reading, Messages from the Senate, Communications, and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 9058, entitled:

“AN ACT TO FURTHER ENHANCE THE BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM BY PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUBJECT ON SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS IN THE SECONDARY EDUCATION CURRICULUM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Garin (Sharon) and Quimbo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 9059, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ENSURE GENDER RESPONSIVE AND INCLUSIVE PROTOCOLS AND PROGRAMMING TO ADDRESS THE GENDER-DIFFERENTIATED NEEDS OF WOMEN DURING COVID-19 AND OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS, EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS”

By Representatives Acosta-Alba, Arenas, Legarda, Herrera-Dy, Zubiri, Fortun, Roman, Romualdez (Yedda), Aragonés, Vergara, Arroyo, Tambunting, Mariano-Hernandez, Limkaichong, Alonte, Baronda, Saulog, Robes, Radaza, Deloso-Montalla, Nava, Vargas, Suarez (Aleta), Loyola, Belmonte and Sangcopan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 9060, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE VICTORIAS TELEPHONE SYSTEM, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, MAINTAIN, ESTABLISH AND OPERATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN THE CITY OF VICTORIAS, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL”

By Representative Benitez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 9062, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ILOCOS

NORTE SPORTS INSTITUTE AND RESEARCH (INSPIRE) IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Barba
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 9063, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ALL BARANGAYS TO CREATE A REGISTRY OF PROFESSIONALS AND SKILLED WORKERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Barba
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 9064, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL POLICY IN PREVENTING ADOLESCENT PREGNANCIES, INSTITUTIONALIZING SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR TEENAGE PARENTS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 9065, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT (CDD) APPROACH AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION, MANDATING ALL NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING THEIR ATTACHED AGENCIES, OFFICES AND BUREAUS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES TO IMPLEMENT THEIR COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 9066, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR AS THE ‘NATIONAL DWARFISM AWARENESS MONTH’ AND OCTOBER 25 AS THE ‘NATIONAL DWARFISM AWARENESS DAY’ ”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

House Bill No. 9067, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR INDIGENT PRE-KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 9068, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MARCH 7 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ISLAND GARDEN CITY OF SAMAL (IGACOS), PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY”

By Representative Dujali
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 9069, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 21 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY DAY IN THE DAVAO DEL SUR STATE COLLEGE IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY”

By Representative Cagas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 9071, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING LINKSERVE TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH,

MAINTAIN, LEASE AND OPERATE
WIRE AND/OR WIRELESS
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS
THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Pineda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 9076, entitled:

“AN ACT BANNING THE SALE OF MOBILE
PHONES AND OTHER GADGETS
WITHOUT IN-BOX ACCESSORIES SUCH
AS CHARGERS AND HEADPHONES IN
THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 9077, entitled:

“AN ACT PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF
BUYERS AND PENALIZING ACTS
OF FORCEFUL AND DECEIVING
IMPOSITION OF MANDATORY IN-
HOUSE FINANCING BY DEALERS”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 9078, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN E-LIBRARY
IN BARANGAY 3 IN CAGAYAN DE
ORO CITY AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 9079, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN E-LIBRARY
IN BARANGAY 8 IN CAGAYAN DE
ORO CITY AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 9080, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN E-LIBRARY
IN BARANGAY 13 IN CAGAYAN DE
ORO CITY AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 9081, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN E-LIBRARY
IN BARANGAY 18 IN CAGAYAN DE
ORO CITY AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 9082, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN E-LIBRARY
IN BARANGAY 23 IN CAGAYAN DE
ORO CITY AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 9083, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN E-LIBRARY
IN BARANGAY 28 IN CAGAYAN DE
ORO CITY AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 9084, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN E-LIBRARY
IN BARANGAY 33 IN CAGAYAN DE
ORO CITY AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 9085, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN E-LIBRARY
IN BARANGAY 38 IN CAGAYAN DE
ORO CITY AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 9089, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A TEN

THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000) EMERGENCY CASH AID FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE SEVERE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN AND SERIES OF CALAMITIES AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC”

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

House Bill No. 9090, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CIVIL CODE, ARTICLE 1723, ON THE LIABILITY OF ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS OR CONTRACTORS ARISING FROM NON-OBSERVANCE OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS OR THE USE OF MATERIALS OF INFERIOR QUALITY”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 9091, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6713, ALSO KNOWN AS AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES TO UPHOLD THE TIME-HONORED PRINCIPLE OF PUBLIC OFFICE BEING A PUBLIC TRUST, GRANTING INCENTIVES AND REWARDS FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE, ENUMERATING PROHIBITED ACTS AND TRANSACTIONS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

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

House Bill No. 9092, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 245 OF THE PENAL CODE, ENTITLED ‘ABUSE AGAINST CHASTITY,’

BY RENAMING THE FELONY TO ‘SEXUAL HARASSMENT BY PUBLIC OFFICERS’ AND ADDING ANOTHER PARAGRAPH TO BE CITED AS PARAGRAPH THREE (3) DEALING WITH CASES NOT FALLING WITHIN THE COVERAGE OF PARAGRAPHS ONE (1) AND TWO (2) OF THE SAME ARTICLE”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 9093, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CARRY OUT PROGRAMS AND GRANTS REGARDING THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF ASTHMA AND RELATED RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 9094, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AVIATION NOISE MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 9095, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ENSURE EVERY PREGNANT WOMAN’S ACCESS TO A SKILLED BIRTH ATTENDANT AT THE TIME OF CHILDBIRTH AND IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 9096, entitled:

“AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF BEACHES AND COASTAL RECREATION WATER”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 9097, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT HEALTH PLANS PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR A MINIMUM HOSPITAL STAY FOR MASTECTOMIES, LUMPECTOMIES, AND LYMPH NODE DISSECTION FOR THE TREATMENT OF BREAST CANCER AND COVERAGE FOR SECONDARY CONSULTATIONS”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 9098, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF VOLCANOLOGY AND SEISMOLOGY (PHIVOLCS) AND THE PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA) TO ESTABLISH THE NATURAL CALAMITIES’ HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 9099, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO REGISTER ALL OFFENDERS CONVICTED OF ANY ACT INVOLVING CHILD ABUSE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 9100, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REDUCE AND PREVENT CHILDHOOD OBESITY BY ENCOURAGING SCHOOLSTO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT LOCAL, SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO REDUCE AND PREVENT CHILDHOOD OBESITY, PROMOTE INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, AND IMPROVE NUTRITIONAL CHOICES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 9101, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE EYE EXAMINATIONS TO CHILDREN”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 9102, entitled:

“AN ACT CRIMINALIZING THE FAILURE OF OWNERS AND LESSORS OF RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS TO COMPLY WITH NATIONAL AND LOCAL FIRE SAFETY LAWS”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 9103, entitled:

“AN ACT SECURING THE PHILIPPINE’S BORDERS TO MAKE MORE EFFECTIVE THE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE ENTRY OF ILLEGAL DRUGS INTO THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 9104, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS, PREVENTION, AND EDUCATION AMONG ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, AND COLLEGE STUDENTS, THEIR PARENTS, AND GUARDIANS”

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

House Bill No. 9105, entitled:

“AN ACT TO INCLUDE IN THE CURRICULA OF ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES A COMPREHENSIVE COURSE ON ETHICS AND VALUES FORMATION”

By Representative Villafuerte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC
EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND
THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 9106, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING
DISCRIMINATION IN THE
PAYMENT OF WAGES ON
ACCOUNT OF SEX”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 9107, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROTECT CHILDREN
FROM FOODS THAT POSE A
SIGNIFICANT CHOKING HAZARD”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 9108, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR
FREE COMMUNICATION BY
PROHIBITING CENSORSHIP IN
ALL FORMS OF MEDIA THAT
INTERFERES WITH THE RIGHTS OF
FREE SPEECH, FREE PRESS, AND
FREE EXPRESSION”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
INFORMATION

House Bill No. 9109, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE USE
OF ETHANOL AS ALTERNATIVE
TRANSPORT FUEL, ESTABLISHING
FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL
FUEL ETHANOL PROGRAM,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 9110, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING CIVIL PENALTIES
ON UNREASONABLE PRICE
INCREASES FOR CRUDE OIL,
RESIDUAL FUEL OIL, OR REFINED
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 9111, entitled:

“AN ACT TO MANDATE A
COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH FOR
THE PREVENTION, CONTROL,
AND MEDICAL MANAGEMENT OF
HEPATITIS C VIRUS INFECTION”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 9112, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING ACT NO.
3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE PENAL CODE,
ARTICLES 171 AND 172, IMPOSING
STIFFER PENALTIES FOR THE
FALSIFICATION OF TORRENS
CERTIFICATES OF TITLE”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 9113, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE
FOR START-UP COSTS OF
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS TO
PREVENT RESIDENTIAL LEAD-
BASED POISONING IN CHILDREN”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 9114, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WELFARE
AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM TO FAMILIES LEFT
BEHIND BY OVERSEAS FILIPINO
WORKERS”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS
WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 9115, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING THAT ALL
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS,
WHETHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE,
SHALL HOLD MANDATORY
CONSULTATION WITH STUDENTS,
PARENTS OR GUARDIANS,
ALUMNI, TEACHERS, AND OTHER

NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL ASSOCIATIONS, BEFORE INCREASING AND/OR ADDING MISCELLANEOUS FEES, OTHER FEES, AND PAID SERVICES"

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

House Bill No. 9116, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PENAL CODE, SECTION 248, TO DEFINE AND PENALIZE THE CRIME OF MURDER COMMITTED UNDER EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES"

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 9117, entitled:

"AN ACT TO PREVENT LUXURIOUS CONDITIONS IN PRISONS"

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 9118, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PENAL CODE, ARTICLE 310, TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES IN CERTAIN INSTANCES OF QUALIFIED THEFT"

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 9119, entitled:

"AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 386, ALSO KNOWN AS THE CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, ARTICLE 1032, ON UNWORTHINESS TO SUCCEED"

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 9120, entitled:

"AN ACT REPEALING ACT NO. 7160 ALSO KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, SECTION 17 (B), PARAGRAPH 1(V), ON THE OBLIGATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO MAINTAIN BARANGAY ROADS, BRIDGES AND WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS"

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 9121, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH ON WOMEN'S HEALTH"

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 9122, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR RESTRICTIONS ON GARNISHMENT OF COMPENSATION DUE FOR PERSONAL SERVICES"

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 9123, entitled:

"AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR APPLYING AIRPORT BUBBLES AS A METHOD OF IDENTIFYING, ASSESSING, AND REDUCING THE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE AIRPORT GROUND AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS AND IMPROVING THE OVERALL QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT"

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 9124, entitled:

"AN ACT TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS FOR SUPERVISED VISITATION CENTERS"

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 9125, entitled:

“AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE
SAFETY OF NON-MOTORIZED
TRANSPORTATION, INCLUDING
PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY,
IN THE VICINITY OF SCHOOLS”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 9126, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT
OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE
AMONG HIGH RISK YOUTH”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 9127, entitled:

“AN ACT TO EMPOWER THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
(DEPED), THE COMMISSION ON
HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), AND
THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION
AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (TESDA) TO REQUIRE
ALL THE SCHOOL HEADS TO
REPORT ALL THE INCIDENTS
OF STUDENT SUICIDE IN THEIR
RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS, WHETHER
CONSUMMATED, FRUSTRATED, OR
ATTEMPTED, AND TO PROVIDE A
PROGRAM FOR STUDENT SUICIDE
EARLY INTERVENTION AND
PREVENTION”

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

House Bill No. 9128, entitled:

“AN ACT TO SUPPORT BUSINESS
INCUBATION IN ACADEMIC
SETTINGS”

By Representative Villafuerte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 9129, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THERAPEUTIC
EQUIVALENCE REQUIREMENTS
FOR GENERIC DRUGS”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 9130, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR UNIFORM
WARNINGS ON PERSONAL
PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR
OCCUPATIONAL USE”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 9131, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE TRAINING
ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION TO
PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK WITH
CHILDREN”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 9132, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A
NATIONAL PROGRAM THAT
WILL PROVIDE PREGNANT
WOMEN WITH ALTERNATIVES
TO ABORTION”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND
GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 9133, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN
REFORM AND THE DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE TO SUBMIT AN
ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS
ON STATISTICS RELATING TO THE
CONVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL
LAND TO NON-AGRICULTURAL
USES INCLUDING A REVIEW
OF EXISTING POLICIES
AND PROCEDURES”

By Representative Villafuerte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 9134, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING ENTERPRISE-BASED EDUCATION AND TRAINING, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 9135, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE TELECOMMUTING ACT AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR TELECOMMUTING EMPLOYEES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE TELECOMMUTING ACT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 9136, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE POSITION OF THE MUNICIPAL GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, AMENDING SECTION 443 (a) AND SECTION 490 (a) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 9137, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7925, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES’, BY REQUIRING PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES AND INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS TO INSTITUTE A

REFUND MECHANISM FOR SERVICE OUTAGES AND DISRUPTIONS”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 9138, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE YOUTH SUICIDE INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 9139, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPROVING TEACHER QUALITY THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TEACHER EDUCATION FOR ACHIEVERS PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1669, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PHILIPPINE TAEKWONDO ASSOCIATION AND OTHER ENTITIES INVOLVED IN THE ALLEGED MISTREATMENT ACTS AGAINST TAEKWONDO ORGANIZATIONS”

By Representatives Duterte, Yap (Eric), Gatchalian, Enverga and Fariñas (Rudys Caesar)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1670, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE AUDIT

FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT (COA) ON THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) REGARDING VARIOUS ERRORS ON ITS LEARNING MATERIALS AND MODULES FOR PURPOSES OF INSTITUTING REFORMS, REVIEW OF POLICIES, AND ASSESSMENT OF THE DEPED”

By Representative Singson
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1671, entitled:
“RESOLUTION URGING CONCERNED AGENCIES TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE REFORMS AND INNOVATIONS IN THE HEALTH SECTOR IN THE NEW NORMAL AND VIS-À-VIS THE MANDATE OF THE MANDANAS-GARCIA RULING”

By Representative Daza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated March 24, 2021, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 7488, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF DAVAO A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN DAVAO CITY”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Message dated March 24, 2021, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 7332, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO MINDANAO ISLAMIC TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC., PRESENTLY KNOWN AS DITO TELECOMMUNITY CORPORATION, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8627, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE

MINDANAO ISLAMIC TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE WIRE AND/OR WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES’ ”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Message dated March 24, 2021, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 8860, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING HIGHLAND BROADCASTING NETWORK CORP. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN MINDANAO”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Message dated March 24, 2021, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 7615, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING INSTANT DATA, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Message dated March 24, 2021, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 8553, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING PALAWAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

Message dated March 24, 2021, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 7616, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8160 TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE FOR EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER RELATED PURPOSES RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES AND IN OTHER AREAS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF ITS OPERATIONS”.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated December 28, 2020 of Jayvee Tyron L. Uy, MPA, Provincial Governor, Province of Davao de Oro, informing the House of Representatives that their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation of the Bayanihan Grant to Provinces as of November 30, 2020 has been posted on their official website and in three (3) conspicuous public places in their Province.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated February 15, 2021 of Roque S. Verzosa, Jr., Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Tagudin, Province of Ilocos Sur, informing the House of Representatives that their Consolidated Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities from April 2020 to December 2020 has been posted on their official website (www.tagudin.gov.ph).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated February 22, 2021 of Jerry P. Treñas, City Mayor, City of Iloilo,

informing the House of Representatives that their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities for the month of January 2021 has been posted on their website (www.iloilocity.gov.ph) and in three (3) conspicuous public places in their locality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated February 23, 2021 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 of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities for the month of December 2020 which has been posted on their website.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated February 26, 2021 of Maritess B. Cayaco-Marcos, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Pastrana, Province of Leyte, informing the House of Representatives that their Reports on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities for the months of June, July, August, September, October and November 2020 have been posted in three (3) conspicuous public places in their locality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated March 2, 2021 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 of the Bayanihan Grant to Provinces for the month of January 2021 which has been posted on their website and in three (3) conspicuous public places in their Province.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated March 2, 2021 of Reynaldo V. Tuanda, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Jimalalud, Province of Negros Oriental, informing the House of Representatives that their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities as of February 28, 2021 has been posted on their website and in three (3) conspicuous public places in their locality on March 2, 2021.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated March 2, 2021 of Florencio C. Garay, City Mayor, City of Bislig, Province of Surigao del Sur, notifying the House of Representatives that their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities for the month of February 2021 has been posted on their website.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated March 3, 2021 of Roberto M. Luna, Jr., Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Lingig, Province of Surigao del Sur, informing the House of Representatives that their Reports on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation of the Bayanihan Grant to Cities and Municipalities for the months of April, May, June and December 2020 have been posted on their Facebook page and in three (3) conspicuous public places in their locality.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated March 3, 2021 of Carlos M. Padilla, Provincial Governor, Province of Nueva Vizcaya, informing the House of Representatives that their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation of the Bayanihan Grant to Provinces for the month of February 2021 has been posted on their website and in three (3) conspicuous public places in their Province.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated March 5, 2021 of Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Provincial Governor, Province of Apayao, transmitting to the House of Representatives copies of their Reports on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project/Activity Implementation of the Bayanihan Grant to Provinces for the months of January and February 2021 which have been posted on their Facebook page on March 5, 2021.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated March 16, 2021 of Janice G. Ayson-Zales, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), transmitting to the House of Representatives duly certified copies of the following BSP issuances:

Circular Letter No. CL-2021-020 dated 9 March 2021; and

Circular Letter No. CL-2021-021 dated 11 March 2021.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 882), re H.B. No. 9061, entitled: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A PHYSICIAN'S ACT REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2382, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'MEDICAL ACT OF 1959' "

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1103, 1443, 6573 and 7540

Sponsors: Representatives Siao and Yap (Eric)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology (Committee Report No. 883), re H.B. No. 9070, entitled:

“AN ACT DEREGULATING SATELLITE-BASED TECHNOLOGIES, MANDATING RELEVANT AGENCIES TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SATELLITE-BASED TECHNOLOGIES DEDICATED TO EDUCATION AND OTHER CIVIC CAUSES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 7081

Sponsors: Representatives Yap (Victor) and Salceda

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 884), re H.B. No. 9072, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FREE ANNUAL MEDICAL CHECK-UP FOR FILIPINOS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4093

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina), Yap (Eric) and Defensor (Michael)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 885), re H.B. No. 9073, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE ILOCOS TRAINING AND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER IN THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PROVINCE OF LA UNION, FROM THREE HUNDRED (300) TO EIGHT HUNDRED (800) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4290

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 886), re H.B. No. 9074, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE DON JOSE S. MONFORT MEDICAL CENTER EXTENSION HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAROTAC NUEVO, PROVINCE OF ILOILO, INTO A TERTIARY HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE DON JOSE S. MONFORT MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6536

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 887), re H.B. No. 9075, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PINAMUNGAJAN EXTENSION CAMPUS OF THE CEBU TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (CTU) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PINAMUNGAJAN, PROVINCE OF CEBU, INTO A REGULAR CAMPUS OF THE CTU, TO BE KNOWN AS THE CTU-PINAMUNGAJAN CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 7924

Sponsors: Representatives Go (Mark), Yap (Eric) and Garcia (Pablo John)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 888), re H.B. No. 9086, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE JUDICIARY MARSHALS SERVICE, DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS, AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 3409, 5403, 5528, 5654, 5686, 5691 and 5736

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Yap (Eric), Oaminal, Biazon, Pimentel, Villafuerte, Garcia (Pablo John), Hernandez and Rodriguez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 889), re H.B. No. 9087, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING SURVIVORSHIP BENEFITS TO THE SURVIVING LEGITIMATE SPOUSE AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF A DECEASED RETIRED MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL PROSECUTION SERVICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 6348 and 7588

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Yap (Eric), Flores and Hernandez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Justice, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 890), re H.B. No. 9088, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATE COUNSEL (OGCC), FURTHER PROFESSIONALIZING ITS ORGANIZATION, UPGRADING THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION, COMPENSATION, AND BENEFITS OF ITS OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 4745, 4806, 4809, 4943, 5019, 5078 and 5348

Sponsors: Representatives Veloso, Yap (Eric), Salceda, Oaminal, Romero, Pineda, Velasco, Olivarez, Rodriguez, Nograles (Jericho) and Gonzaga
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations

(Committee Report No. 891), re H.B. No. 9140, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SPECIFIC FOREST LIMITS OF THE PROVINCE OF SIKUIJOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6592

Sponsors: Representatives Villa, Barzaga and Yap (Eric)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology (Committee Report No. 892), re H.B. No. 9142, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TRANSCENDENT UNIFIED GOVERNMENT MOBILE APPLICATION FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES, SETTING A FRAMEWORK AND COMMON STANDARDS FOR GOVERNMENT MOBILE APPLICATIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6303

Sponsors: Representatives Yap (Victor) and Garcia (Pablo John)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 893), re H.B. No. 9143, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NATIONAL POLICY ON ACCESS, AND BENEFIT-SHARING FROM THE UTILIZATION OF PHILIPPINE GENETIC RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 260

Sponsors: Representatives Aumentado and Ramirez-Sato

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Labor and Employment (Committee Report No. 894), re H.B. No. 9144, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING GREATER RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 10361, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘BATAS KASAMBAHAY’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1116

Sponsors: Representatives Pineda and Atienza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS ON THIRD READING

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bills Nos. 8930, 8944, 8945, 8956, 8960, 8962, 8963, 8965, 8966, 8967, 8968, 8969, 8987, 8988, 8961, 9000, 9001, 9002, 9003, 9005, 8996, 8997, 8958, 9008, 9009, 8955, 8975, 8985 and 4950, 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. Gatchalian).
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 March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8930, entitled: “AN ACT CREATING THE METROPOLITAN DAVAO DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 8944, entitled: “AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALAMINOS, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 8945, entitled: “AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALER IN THE PROVINCE OF AURORA AS THE ‘BIRTHPLACE OF PHILIPPINE SURFING’, DECLARING IT AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION AND PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT”;

House Bill No. 8956, entitled: “AN ACT DECLARING THE AGUSAN MARSH LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF TALACOGON, SAN FRANCISCO, ROSARIO, BUNAWAN, LORETO, LA PAZ AND VERUELA, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 8960, entitled: “AN ACT DECLARING THE MURCIELAGOS ISLAND PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LABASON, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 8962, entitled: “AN ACT DECLARING PAGAYAWAN FALLS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BACOLOD, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE, A TOURIST SPOT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 8963, entitled: “AN ACT DECLARING MIGHTY CAVE PARK LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAGOLOAN, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 8965, entitled: “AN ACT DECLARING WAWA DAM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RODRIGUEZ, PROVINCE OF RIZAL, AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 8966, entitled: “AN ACT DECLARING THE DOWNSTREAM AGNO RIVER IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF URBIZTONDO, MANGATAREM, AGUILAR, BUGALLON AND LINGAYEN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 8967, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING REGINA RICA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TANAY, PROVINCE OF RIZAL, AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

House Bill No. 8968, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING THE QUINALASAG GROUP OF ISLANDS AND THE LAMIT GROUP OF ISLANDS, ALL LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GARCHITORENA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, AS ECOTOURISM ZONES, TO BE COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS THE SISIRAN ECOTOURISM ZONE";

House Bill No. 8969, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING THE BUTAWANAN ISLAND AREA, CONSISTING OF BARANGAYS BUTAWANAN AND SAN RAMON, AND THE SIRUMA SOUTH COASTAL AREA, CONSISTING OF BARANGAYS VITO, CABUGAO, SULPA AND BOBOAN, ALL LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SIRUMA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, AS ECOTOURISM ZONES, TO BE COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS THE SIRUMA ECOTOURISM ZONE";

House Bill No. 8987, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING NARURON FALLS LOCATED IN BARANGAY OYAO, MUNICIPALITY OF DUPAX DEL NORTE, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA, AN ECOTOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

House Bill No. 8988, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP, POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE BACLARAN CHURCH, LOCATED ALONG ROXAS BOULEVARD, PARAÑAQUE CITY, A HERITAGE SITE AND TOURIST DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

House Bill No. 8961, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF DOLORES, PROVINCE OF QUEZON, AS A CENTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS, AND A TOURIST DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

House Bill No. 9000, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING THE CITY OF BUTUAN

A HERITAGE TOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

House Bill No. 9001, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING 'KWEBA NG HAPON' LOCATED IN BARANGAY MANLOCBOC, MUNICIPALITY OF AGUILAR, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

House Bill No. 9002, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING TINAGO FALLS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LINAMON, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE, A TOURIST SPOT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

House Bill No. 9003, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING THE MINDANAO CIVIC CENTER COMPLEX LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBOD, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE, A SPORTS TOURISM DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

House Bill No. 9005, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF SIQUIJOR A RESPONSIBLE, COMMUNITY-BASED CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ECOTOURISM ZONE";

House Bill No. 8996, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY LACARON, MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL, TO BE KNOWN AS LACARON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

House Bill No. 8997, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BAYBAY CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL FOR SPORTS IN BAYBAY CITY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

House Bill No. 8958, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 6 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN QUEZON CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE 'TANDANG SORA DAY' IN COMMEMORATION OF THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF MELCHORA AQUINO";

House Bill No. 9008, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 5 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANINI-Y, PROVINCE

OF ANTIQUE TO BE KNOWN AS 'ARAW NG ANINI-Y' IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION DAY";

House Bill No. 9009, entitled: "AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER 4 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEZON IN COMMEMORATION OF THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF REVOLUTIONARY HERO, APOLINARIO DE LA CRUZ, POPULARLY KNOWN AS 'HERMANO PULI' ";

House Bill No. 8955, entitled: "AN ACT CONVERTING THE BAY DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAY, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA INTO A GENERAL HOSPITAL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE LAGUNA REGIONAL HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR";

House Bill No. 8975, entitled: "AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO CALAPAN TELEPHONE SYSTEM, INC., FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE CALAPAN TELEPHONE SYSTEM, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8351, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE CALAPAN TELEPHONE SYSTEM, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE LOCAL EXCHANGE NETWORK IN THE PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO' ";

House Bill No. 8985, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEYTE, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, A CAMPUS OF THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (PUP), TO BE KNOWN AS THE PUP-LEYTE CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"; and

House Bill No. 4950, entitled: "AN ACT RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THE STRIP OF LAND FIVE (5) KILOMETERS FROM EITHER SIDE OF THE ASPIRAS HIGHWAY FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF AGOO, PROVINCE OF LA UNION TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBA, PROVINCE OF BENGUET COVERED BY PROCLAMATION NO. 1754 AS ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LANDS."

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measures is reflected in Journal No. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). With 179 affirmative votes, no negative vote and one abstention, House Bill No. 8975 is approved on Third Reading.

With 180 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bills Nos. 8996, 8997, 8958, 9008, 9009, 8955 and 8985 are approved on Third Reading.

With 174 affirmative votes, six negative votes and no abstention, House Bill No. 4950 is approved on Third Reading.

Likewise, with 177 affirmative votes, no negative vote and six abstentions, House Bills Nos. 8930, 8944, 8945, 8956, 8960, 8962, 8963, 8965, 8966, 8967, 8968, 8969, 8987, 8988, 8961, 9000, 9001, 9002, 9003 and 9005 are approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Edgar M. Chatto from the First District of Bohol to avail of the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The Hon. Edgar Chatto is hereby recognized.

We cannot hear you, volume please.

REP. CHATTO. Mr. Speaker, am I now heard, Mr. Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Yes, please proceed.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

REP. CHATTO. Mr. Speaker, can you now hear me?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Yes, we can hear you. Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CHATTO

REP. CHATTO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My distinguished colleagues in the Eighteenth Congress, good morning.

On March 8, 2020, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed Proclamation No. 922, placing the entire Philippines under a state of public health emergency because of the COVID-19 threat that was then looming. On March 12, 2020, President Duterte announced the Community Quarantine in Metro Manila, which started at 12:00 midnight on March 15, 2020 up to April 14, 2020. The said Community Quarantine covered 16 cities and one municipality. Under the Community Quarantine, travelling through land, the domestic air and domestic sea from Metro Manila, was suspended but with exceptions. For international travel, restrictions were imposed on those who came from countries with localized COVID-19 transmissions, except for citizens of the Philippines, including their foreign spouses and children or holders of permanent resident visas and diplomat visas. Mass transportation or vehicles were allowed to operate provided that persons riding these vehicles comply with the social distancing guidelines. Curfew was also put in place in local government units of Metro Manila. On March 16, 2020, the government declared the Luzon-wide Enhanced Community Quarantine in compliance with Proclamation No. 929, on the declaration of a state of calamity in the whole Philippines due to COVID-19, Proclamation No. 922 and Republic Act No. 11332, the law providing for the reporting on communicable diseases to the general public.

Subsequently, community quarantines of varying degrees of leniency such as General Community Quarantine and Modified General Community Quarantine were implemented. Now, a year later, COVID-19 has mutated into several variants that are deemed to be more potent than the original strain. Today,

COVID-19 cases in our country are steadily rising and have now reached more than 7,000 cases per day. Instead of another ECQ, Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal are placed on GCQ again with localized lockdowns.

On August 27, 2020, during the Forest Policy e-Talks Webinar, entitled: *Impact of COVID-19 on Air Quality in Metro Manila of the Forestry Development Center, College of Forestry and Natural Resources* that was held via Zoom, Dr. Willie Abasolo, Dean of CFNR, mentioned in his welcome remarks that the Philippines ranked 57th out of 98 in the world's most polluted countries before the COVID-19 pandemic. The most common indicator of air pollution is the particulates or particulate matter. This parameter is further subdivided in terms of sizes to PM10 and PM2.5. PM10 emissions are particulate matter that are 10 micrometers or less in diameter, such as dust, pollen, and molds. On the other hand, PM2.5 emissions are very fine particulate matter that are 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter, such as metals and combustion particles resulting from burning fuels, and are fine enough to penetrate the lungs. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued a statement, saying that "On March 22, 2020, the 24-hour average level of PM10 in Las Piñas and Marikina went down to 31.67 and 27.21 micrograms per normal cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$) from a high of 57.81 and 31.28 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$, respectively, on March 9, 2020. The acceptable threshold standard level of PM10 is 60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{Ncm}$."

During the previously mentioned Forest Policy e-Talks Webinar, Joel Michael Tugano and Engr. Paul Nathan Vallar, both from the Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR, presented a study supporting the claim that air pollution significantly decreased in Metro Manila during the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine. In the said study, the EMB gathered data and monitored the air quality levels in Metro Manila before and during the implementation of ECQ from March 17 to April 30. And based on the Air Quality Index, the air quality in Metro Manila scored from "Good" to "Fair" during the ECQ. They attributed the cleaner air to be largely due to the reduction of human

activities, suspension of public transportation and decreased number of vehicles on major roads, since that said study also indicated that Metro Manila experienced an 86-percent reduction in vehicle volume during that ECQ. According to their findings, the lesser number of cars on the road led to an emission estimate of as low as 32,000 particulates, as compared to the usual 241,000 particulates that the National Capital Region recorded in 2018.

On a separate news item, the DENR attributed the PM10 reduction specifically to lessened utilization of machines that crush and grind, as well as low dust exposure from cemented and dirt roads while PM2.5 emissions were significantly decreased, specifically due to low emissions from motor vehicles, fossil fuel power plants and wood burnings, among others. To maintain the air quality even after the pandemic, Tugano and Vallar of the DENR-EMB said that it is important to implement long-term policy changes since the levels of pollution will only revert once their sources also begin producing the same amount of pollutants as before. They recommended that the data gathered from their observation be used to formulate new policies in the future, such as promotion of bike lanes, improving public transport, promoting carpooling, and work from home programs. They also suggested minimizing mall hours, implementing curfew with the help of local government units, and better urban planning in cities and regions to decrease crowd concentration and lessen transport demand in Metro Manila.

Dr. Priscila Dolom, Director of FDC, said that these findings only highlighted that human activities are indeed a major source of pollution.

Greenpeace campaigner, Rhea Jane Pescador-Mallari, said: "Air pollution doesn't have to be an inescapable reality. The ECQ gave Filipino citizens a glimpse of what cities can be like with healthy, clean air. It also showed us that air pollution can be solved without sacrificing people's access to mobility."

"Moving forward, if the government is willing to use the opportunities and lessons learned from the pandemic and amplify them

through policies and infrastructure, active mobility and micro mobility, as well as invest in efficient and safe mass public transport, then a return to the massive pollution levels before COVID-19 can really be avoided."

"As epicenters of growth, cities need to provide an environment that puts in high premium the health and wellness of both people and the planet. Solving air pollution, particularly from fossil fuels, is not only good for people's health, it is also a solution to the climate crisis. At the local level, addressing air pollution is a key aspect in making cities livable and sustainable. At the national level, it means addressing the climate crisis while helping build climate resilient communities."

Dr. Mylene Cayetano, an Associate Professor from the Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology, stated that "If we wish to maintain 'good air quality' to be the 'new normal', we have to make conscious choices in our activities pre-ECQ." She also "called on all sectors to consider putting the issue and solutions to the air pollution problem in the higher agenda for a post-enhanced community quarantine (post-ECQ) 'new normal' Philippines."

"Dr. Cayetano, who advocates clean air for all, called on the government to (1) strengthen the long-term solutions that are being discussed x x x; (2) increase transparency in the emission testing system, proper and rightful apprehension to emission testing violators; (3) set up more motor vehicle inspection systems; (4) ensure road worthiness compliance to all vehicles including armored vehicles, x x x nothing and nobody should be exempt; and most importantly, (5) think about protecting our hospital zones, which are located along major thoroughfares with trucks and pre-euro vehicles fleeing along."

"For individuals, Dr. Cayetano recommends the following choices: (1) if you own a vehicle, avoid unnecessary idling; (2) avoid burning solid wastes in open spaces; (3) avoid smoking in public places; (4) be responsible for your own vehicle. Follow the periodic maintenance schedule and minimum protocols, and drive a roadworthy vehicle; (5) inform as many people as you can about the disadvantages and benefits of clean air,

because knowledge is power; and, finally (6) learn more about the science of air pollution and how you can help prevent it by checking Airtoday.ph before you head out.”

Professor Jeffrey Sachs, the President of Sustainable Development Solutions Network, advocated for the electrification of transportation and a connection to clean energy power grid during the recent Parliamentary Leadership for the 2030 Agenda Webinar Series on Climate Leadership, preparing for COP26, held on March 22, 2021. The experts all agreed that there must be changes or amplification in policies in order to make good air quality become the new normal. Most, if not all, experts advocated for greener and cleaner forms of transportation. Some of the suggestions of Dr. Cayetano were already embodied under the Clean Air Act and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, and should serve as a reminder to all of us.

Clearly, fossil fuel emissions, whether from motor vehicles or fossil fuel-based power plants, were the main sources of air pollution in our cities and, in view of these, this humble Representation would like to enjoin the House of Representatives to promote the shift to electric vehicles as well as the shift to alternative sources of electricity for without the shift to alternative sources of energy or electricity, the shift to electric vehicles will just be in vain. Vehicles running on electricity connected to a clean energy power grid is a must. Let us do good—let us not rather do nothing.

During this Holy Week, as we reflect our Lord’s ultimate sacrifice, let us also reflect on the way that we are aiding and abetting the degradation of the environment that He has given to all of us, stewards, especially on the quality of air which the Lord has freely given to us to breathe in order to live in this planet of Earth. Let us all be part of the solution and not part of its pollution.

Thank you very much and I hope that we all stay safe during this period of Lent.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian).
Thank you, Hon. Edgar Chatto.

Majority Leader.

I think we have another one.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Ed Chatto to the Committee on Rules for its proper disposition.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian).
Are there any objections? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the motion is carried.

Majority Leader.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, our honorable and esteemed Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Loren Legarda, Senator and Representative from the Lone District of Antique, was supposed to deliver a privilege speech this morning. She was overtaken by other important events, Mr. Speaker, and wishes to have her privilege speech entered into the records. She will submit it to the Committee on Rules.

I move that her privilege speech be entered into the records.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian).
Are there any objections? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the motion is carried.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8783 ON THIRD READING

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 8783 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. Gatchalian).
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 March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL.
House Bill No. 8783, entitled: “AN ACT

STRENGTHENING THE PRIVATE SECURITY INDUSTRY, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5487, ENTITLED, 'AN ACT TO REGULATE THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF PRIVATE DETECTIVE, WATCHMEN OR SECURITY GUARD AGENCIES', AS AMENDED."

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. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). With 188 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8783 is approved on Third Reading.

The Hon. Ferdinand Gaité is recognized to explain his vote on House Bill No. 8783 via Zoom.

REP. GAITE EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. GAITE. Salamat po, kagalang-galang na Speaker, at isang magandang umaga sa lahat ng ating mga kasamahang Kinatawan sa Kongreso, at lahat ng nanonood at nakikinig sa ating pagpupulong sa umagang ito.

Sa ipinapanukalang batas, partikular sa pangangalaga sa proteksiyon ng ating mga security guards at iba pa ay bumoboto ng "Yes" ang Kinatawang ito with reservations. Batay na rin sa batas na umiiral, ang Labor Code, ang isang mahalagang usapin na inaalala ng Kinatawang ito ay ang probisyon hinggil sa mga ibinabawas o salary deductions sa tinatanggap na nga na minimum wage ng ating mga security guards na napakaliit na. Ngunit ang masakit niyan, under the mandatory deductions including, of course, Pag-IBIG, PhilHealth, SSS, kung may unyon sila at iba pa, binabawasan pa sila ng tinatawag na cash deposit.

Sa Article 114 ng Labor Code, apparently, sinasabing, "*Deposits for loss or damage.* – No employer shall require his worker to make deposits from which deductions shall be made for the reimbursement of loss of or damage

to tools, materials, or equipment supplied by the employer, except when the employer is engaged in such trades, x x x." So, ito'y pinahihintulutan, "where the practice of making deductions or requiring deposits is a recognized one, or is necessary or desirable as determined by the Secretary of Labor and Employment, and appropriate rules and regulations," and as such, the Department of Labor and Employment issued Department Order No 150-16, series of 2016, na binabanggit nga po na ino-authorize ito. Sa liit ng suweldo ng ating mga security guards, sana po ay may ibang mekanismo para maprotektahan naman iyong ating security guards, and I would rather appreciate it if wordings to the said Bill would have been included para po mapangalagaan ang ating maliliit na security guards. So, maraming salamat po at mabuhay po kayo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Maraming salamat, Honorable Gaité. Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8818 ON THIRD READING

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 8818 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. Gatchalian). 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 March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8818, entitled: "AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

(PDIC), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 18, 22, 24, 26 and 28 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3591, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PDIC CHARTER.”

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. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). With 185 affirmative votes, six negative votes and one abstention, House Bill No. 8818 is approved on Third Reading.

We now recognize the Hon. Carlos Zarate to explain his vote.

REP. ZARATE EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good morning.

This Representation votes “No” on House Bill No. 8818 or the Bill amending the Charter of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The Bill makes the PDIC a mere attached agency of the BSP, yet, Mr. Speaker, it expands and indirectly amends the Bank Deposits Secrecy Law. Without the presentation of an evaluation report that would warrant a demotion, the proposed Bill relegates PDIC as an attached agency of the BSP. Upon the mere determination of the BSP of unsafe, unsound and unlawful banking practices, the BSP bestowed upon itself in the Charter of the PDIC the power to examine and investigate bank deposits and records. This was an authority exclusive before to the PDIC, but now, it is already with the BSP.

While also relegating the PDIC to an agency of the BSP, it expands PDIC’s authority to examine bank records that used to be limited to cases due to capital deficiency. With the proposed amendment, the examination and investigation shall now include cases where the BSP finds fraud, unsafe or unsound banking. Whenever the BSP deems it appropriate and necessary such as when there is a finding of

fraud or unsafe or unsound banking related to deposit-taking, it will have the power to examine the records, books of accounts, and require information and reports from depository institutions.

Through the amendment of the PDIC Charter, the BSP also modified the purpose for which examination and investigation of bank records are made. In the current PDIC Charter, the purpose was to assess financial safety and soundness of banks and their adherence to banking and deposit insurance rules and regulations, and extend financial assistance to eligible distressed banks. But with the proposed amendment, the purpose is no longer to help distressed banks but to prosecute banks for unsafe, unsound and unlawful banking practices.

The State policy of protecting bank depositors for the purpose of encouraging them to invest in banks and to help the economy is rendered nugatory by the proposed Bill. If the Bill becomes a law, the confidential nature of bank deposits are, apparently, no longer effectual.

Prohibitive provisions for examination of bank records were deleted. This practically opens the floodgates to the examination or investigation of bank records by any person the BSP would authorize. The confidentiality of bank deposits is no longer essentially true as this was also confirmed by the Sponsor during interpellation. Bank deposits shall be included among the documents and records that are known to be subject to examination and investigation.

Finally, I hope this would not result in the downsizing of employees of the PDIC. It would really be an upsetting situation if the demotion of a financially and administratively autonomous agency would result in the streamlining of human resources considering that the unemployment rate at present has been increasing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Thank you, Honorable Zarate. Majority Leader.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8943
ON THIRD READING

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 8943 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. Gatchalian). 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 March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8943, entitled: "AN ACT REQUIRING DISASTER-RELATED INFORMATION TO BE STATED IN ACCESSIBLE LANGUAGE TO ENSURE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING THEREOF."

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. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). With 193 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8943 is approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8974
ON THIRD READING

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 8974 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. Gatchalian).

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 March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8974, entitled: "AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO POLARIS TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC., PRESENTLY KNOWN AS RADIUS TELECOMS, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8955, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE POLARIS TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE 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. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). With 193 affirmative votes, no negative vote and two abstentions, House Bill No. 8974 is approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8986
ON THIRD READING

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 8986 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. Gatchalian). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8986, entitled: "AN ACT RENAMING TERMINALS 1 AND 2 OF THE MACTAN-CEBU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AFTER THE BRAVE AND FEARLESS CHIEFTAIN, LAPULAPU, IN COMMEMORATION OF THE QUINCENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY AT MACTAN."

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. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). With 195 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8986 is approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8990
ON THIRD READING

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 8990 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. Gatchalian). 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 March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8990, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING EVACUATION CENTERS

IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, AND 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. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). With 195 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8990 is approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8736
ON THIRD READING

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 8736 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. Gatchalian). 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 March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8736, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RENTAL HOUSING SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES AND 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. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). With 189 affirmative votes, six negative votes and no abstention, House Bill No. 8736 is approved on Third Reading.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

May we now recognize Hon. Arlene Brosas to explain her vote.

REP. BROSAS EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, ang panukalang rental subsidy para sa informal settler families ay hindi programa para tulungang makapanatili ang mga mahihirap sa kanilang tirahan. Sa aktwal, pampadulas ito para mas madaling maisagawa ang mga demolisyon ng mga komunidad at bigyang daan ang mga proyektong pang-imprastruktura ng “Build, Build, Build.”

As stated in the Bill, the rental subsidy of P3,500 per month will only be provided to eligible beneficiaries until the date of completion of the permanent housing project. Nakasaad din na para maging eligible sa rental subsidy, hindi ka dapat bumalik sa pinanggalingan mong area. Ibig sabihin, panandalian ito at nakadiseno para i-facilitate ang dislokasyon ng mga pamilya. Sa katunayan, ginagamit itong iskemang rental subsidy sa Tondo para silawin ang mga residente ng lump-sum cash assistance kapalit ng pag-alis nila sa kanilang tirahan sa Vitas-Katuparan Housing Project kahit wala pa itong batas.

Malinaw din sa panukala na nakabalangkas ang programa para tulungan ang transisyon ng mga pamilya sa formal housing market na pinagtutubuan ng maraming developers. This measure is clearly gearing to primarily aid the formal housing market amid falling occupancy rates and low returns in the time of grave crisis and pandemic.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

For these reasons, we vote “No” to House Bill No. 8736.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Thank you, Honorable Brosas. Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8817
ON THIRD READING

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill

No. 8817 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. Gatchalian). 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 March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8817, entitled: “AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION FOR FREELANCE WORKERS.”

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. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). With 195 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, House Bill No. 8817 is approved on Third Reading.

The Hon. Arlene Brosas is recognized to explain her vote.

Ma’am Arlene.

REP. BROSAS EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, noong 2018, naitala na isa ang Pilipinas sa mga bansang may mataas na bilang ng mga freelance workers, dalawang porsiyento o 1.5 hanggang two million na populasyon ng ating bansa ay nasa industriya ng freelancing. Sa kasalukuyan, papataas ang bilang nito. Ngayong nasa gitna tayo ng matinding krisis, pandemya at kawalan ng trabaho, maghahanap ang ating mga manggagawa ng ibang mapagkakakitaan upang mabuhay, and one of the options of Filipino workers is to do freelance work. Sa ganitong industriya, hindi na kakailanganin

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

ng mga manggagawa na lumabas ng kanilang tahanan, hawak nila ang oras ng kanilang trabaho, at maaari silang pumili ng trabahong kanilang tatanggapin. Ngunit sa kabila nito, napakabulnerable ng ating freelancers sa mga paglabag sa kanilang karapatan. Nakakaranas sila ng hindi tamang pasahod o kadalasan pa nga ay hindi nila nakukuha ang bunga ng kanilang serbisyo. Ngayong paparami ang pumipili sa industriya ng freelancing upang kumita, dapat lamang na protektahan ang kanilang karapatan.

This Representation believes that House Bill No. 8817 seeks to uphold the rights and welfare of our freelance workers. It aims to provide protection to freelancers as it requires a written contract between the hiring party and the freelance workers, nightshift differential, hazard pay, and a notice for violations of workers' rights.

For these reasons, this Representation votes "Yes" on House Bill No. 8817. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian).
Thank you, Honorable Brosas.
Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8970
ON THIRD READING

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 8970 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. Gatchalian).
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 March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8970, entitled: "AN ACT RENEWING

FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO MERIDIAN TELEKOMS, INC., PRESENTLY KNOWN AS SMART BROADBAND, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8337, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE MERIDIAN TELEKOMS, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, LEASE AND OPERATE WIRE AND/OR WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE 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. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian).
With 194 affirmative votes, no negative vote and two abstentions, House Bill No. 8970 is approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8971
ON THIRD READING

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 8971 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. Gatchalian).
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 March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL.
House Bill No. 8971, entitled: "AN ACT GRANTING ISMO INCORPORATED, A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS IN THE PHILIPPINES."

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

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. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). With 194 affirmative votes, no negative vote and two abstentions, House Bill No. 8971 is approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8972
ON THIRD READING

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 8972 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. Gatchalian). 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 March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8972, entitled: "AN ACT GRANTING FICTAP TELECOMMUNICATIONS INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES AND WITH INTERNATIONAL POINTS."

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. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). With 197 affirmative votes, no negative vote and two abstentions, House Bill No. 8972 is approved on Third Reading.

Majority Floor Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8973
ON THIRD READING

REP. SANGCOPAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 8973 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. Gatchalian). 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 March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8973, entitled: "AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO NATION BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8623, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE NATION BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE 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. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). With 199 affirmative votes, no negative vote and two abstentions, House Bill No. 8973 is approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8976
ON THIRD READING

REP. SANGCOPAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

No. 8976 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. Gatchalian). 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 March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8976, entitled: "AN ACT GRANTING FICTAP RADIO BROADCASTING NETWORK INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING, AND CABLE TELEVISION STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE 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. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). With 199 affirmative votes, no negative vote and two abstentions, House Bill No. 8976 is approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8977
ON THIRD READING

REP. SANGCOPAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 8977 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. Gatchalian). 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 March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8977, entitled: "AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO GV BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., PRESENTLY KNOWN AS SIGNAL TV, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8169, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8591, ENTITLED 'AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8169, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING GV BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE ISLAND OF LUZON AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES'."

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. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). With 199 affirmative votes, no negative vote and two abstentions, House Bill No. 8977 is approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8992
ON THIRD READING

REP. SANGCOPAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 8992 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. Gatchalian). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8992, entitled: "AN ACT PROMOTING THE USE OF DIGITAL PAYMENTS FOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ALL MERCHANTS."

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. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). With 201 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 8992 is approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8999 ON THIRD READING

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

Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 8999 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. Gatchalian). 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 March 22, 2021, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8999, entitled: "AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS AND 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. 19, dated March 25, 2021.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). With 195 affirmative votes, six negative votes and no abstention, House Bill No. 8999 is approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

REP. SUNTAY. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize Rep. Carlos Zarate to explain his vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The Honorable Zarate is recognized. Please proceed.

EXPLANATION OF VOTES

REP. ZARATE EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

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

Bumoboto ng "No" ang Kinatawang ito sa House Bill No. 8999 or "AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR."

Habang kaisa ang Kinatawang ito, Ginoong Speaker, sa pagpapalakas ng pagtugon ng pamahalaan tuwing may sakuna, kalamidad at pandemya, naninindigan ang Kinatawang ito na hindi matutugunan ang problemang pangkalusugan sa pamamagitan lamang ng pagbubuo ng bagong militarisadong istruktura sa loob ng Department of Health. Ngayong nasa gitna tayo ng pandemya ng COVID-19, lantad na lantad ang kakulangan ng ospital, mga doktor at nurse, mga PPE, gamot at marami pang iba. Sa pagtatayo ng Medical Reserve Corps, nililihis nito ang limitadong health workers, pondo at rekurso na sana ay magagamit natin para mapalakas ang health care system ng Pilipinas, lalong-lalong na ang public health care system.

Kailangan nating palakasin ang mga nakatayo nang mga sibilyang mga istruktura

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

tulad ng Health Human Resource Development Bureau at Health Emergency Management Bureau ng Department of Health, na sila ang nagsasanay at nagre-recruit ng mga bagong health professionals at nagbibigay ng serbisyong medikal tuwing may kalamidad at health emergency. Ngunit, sa halip na palakasin ang mga ito sa pamamagitan ng paglalaan ng mas malaking pondo ay naglilikha tayo ng bagong militarisadong istruktura sa Department of Health.

Malinaw din sa Panukalang Batas na ito, Ginoong Speaker, ang planong pag-deploy ng mga retiradong mga doktor, medical health professionals, medical students, at iba pang licensed allied health professionals tuwing may giyera at lawless violence. Naninindigan ang Kinatawang ito na solusyong medical, hindi military, ang tamang tugon. Pinatutunayan na ng karanasan natin sa pandemya ng COVID na hindi sa pamumuno ng militar matutugunan ang pandemya o anumang problema at krisis pangkalusugan.

Muli, bumoboto ng “No” ang Kinatawang ito sa Panukalang Batas ng House Bill No. 8999. Maraming salamat, Ginoong Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian).
Maraming salamat, Honorable Zarate.

We now recognize Hon. Sarah Elago via Zoom.

REP. ELAGO EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. ELAGO. Maraming salamat, Ginoong Speaker.

Ngayon, higit kailanman, sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemic, nasaksihan natin ang kahalagahan ng pagpapalakas ng sektor ng kalusugan at kabuuang public healthcare system, compassionate at competent leadership, gayundin ang pagkakaroon ng scientific at rights-based approach sa pagresponde sa panahon ng emergency. Sa pagtugon sa public health emergency, kailangan ng solusyong medikal at mga eksperto na may kaalaman at karanasan sa pamumuno sa partikular na kalamidad ang dapat nasa harap ng laban, gayundin ang kritikal na papel ng community empowerment sa panahon ng mga kalamidad. Ang mga

pangunahing kakulangan at kakapusan sa mga ito ay hindi tinutugunan ng Medical Reserve Corps Bill.

Una, ito ay malinaw na creeping militarization ng mga civilian agencies and institutions sa enlistment ng AFP para sa organization at structure ng MRC kahit pa mayroon nang existing bureaus sa Department of Health, tulad ng Health Human Resource Development Bureau at Health Emergency Management Bureau, at Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Speaker, pangalawang dahilan, pinapahintulutan din ng Section 8 ang paglalabas ng deployment order sa mga licensed physicians, medical students at licensed allied health professionals sa ilalim ng state of war at lawless violence kahit pa ang Philippine Army ay may sarili nang medical corps. Pangatlo, sinusupportahan nito ang militaristikong tugon ng kasalukuyang administrasyon sa krisis pangkalusugan na nagdulot ngayon ng mabagal at palpak na kontrol sa pag-iwas sa pagkalat ng COVID-19. Pang-apat, inililihis nito papunta sa Medical Reserve Corps ang nararapat na funding para sa kalusugan. Imbes na sapilitang pagdagdag ng medical personnel sa ilalim ng MRC, dapat tugunan ang brain drain at kakapusan ng humane work opportunity sa health care. Overworked at understaffed ang mga ospital at mga komunidad, hindi lang dahil kulang ng tao kundi matagal nang hugely underfunded ang sektor ng kalusugan sa bansa. Kaya naman dapat paunlarin at pagtibayin ang kabuuang public health system, lalo na ang mental at lahat ng essential healthcare services upang mapataas ang kakayahan nito na tumugon sa mga sakuna, epidemya at iba pang public health emergencies. Panahon na upang maglaan ng 10 percent ng GDP para sa kalusugan at muling isabansa ang public healthcare system.

Kailangan ng pondo para sa 14,000 na unfilled plantilla positions sa DOH, magdagdag ng budget para sa sapat na bilang ng mga human resources for health na may tamang kompensasyon at seguridad sa trabaho sa pagsisilbi sa kanilang mga pamayanan, na para rin sa mga facilities at equipment batay sa pangangailangan ng bansa. Panahon na upang palakasin ang

Health Human Research Development Bureau, Emergency Management Bureau at Emergency Medical Services sa ilalim ng DOH. Kailangan ding paunlarin ang access at kalidad ng serbisyong pangkalusugan sa antas ng barangay, munisipyo, lungsod at mga lalawigan para sa mga surgical interventions, mga essential medical services, upang pataasin ang mga kapasidad nitong makatugon sa panahon ng health emergency.

Muli, nananawagan ang KABATAAN na tayo ay tumugon at magbigay-diin sa mga solusyong medikal, hindi militar. Sa mga kadahilanang ito, ang boto ng KABATAAN ay "No" sa Medical Reserve Corps Bill.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Maraming salamat, Hon. Sarah Elago.

Before we proceed, the Secretariat informed us that we have a technical glitch in the recording of votes a while ago. So, in view thereof, allow me to read the correct results of the voting on the said measures and let the records reflect the following votes:

For House Bills Nos. 8930, 8944, 8945, 8956, 8960, 8962, 8963, 8965, 8966, 8967, 8968, 8969, 8987, 8988, 8961, 9000, 9001, 9002, 9003, and 9005, the results are: 179 affirmative votes, no negative vote and six abstentions;

For House Bills Nos. 8996, 8997, 8958, 9008, 9009, 8955 and 8985, the results are: 185 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention;

For House Bill No. 8975: 184 affirmative votes, no negative vote and one abstention;

For House Bill No. 4950: 179 affirmative votes, six negative votes and no abstention;

For House Bill No. 8783: 189 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention;

For House Bill No. 8818: 186 affirmative votes, six negative votes and one abstention; and

For House Bill No. 8943, the results are: 194 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention.

May we ask the Secretary General to put them on record.

Majority Leader.

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

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Are there any objections? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the motion is carried.

Majority Leader.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, I move to nominate and elect the following Members to the Committee on Rules:

Deputy Majority Leader Bondoc read the names of the House Members elected to the Committee on Rules, per Journal No. 19, dated March 25, 2021.

As Deputy Speaker:

Rep. Marlyn "Len" B. Alonte

As Deputy Majority Leader:

Rep. Jesus "Bong" C. Suntay vice Rep. Marlyn "Len" B. Alonte

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Are there any objections? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the motion is carried.

Congratulations to Congressman Suntay and to Congresswoman Alonte.

Majority Leader.

RATIFICATION OF CONF. COMM. RPT. ON H.B. NO. 8512 AND S.B. NO. 2027

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

We are in receipt of a Bicameral Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 8512 and Senate Bill No. 2027, granting the President of the Philippines the power to defer the increases in contributions of the Social Security System for the duration of the state of calamity under Proclamation No. 929.

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

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). All those in favor of the ratification of the said Report, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). All those who are not in favor, say *Nay*. (*Silence*) The *ayes* have it; the said Bicam Report is hereby approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. SUNTAY. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of Messages from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments the following House bills:

House Bill No. 7332, renewing for another twenty-five (25) years the franchise granted to Mindanao Islamic Telephone Company, Inc., presently known as Dito Telecommunity Corporation;

House Bill No. 7488, granting the city government of Davao a franchise to construct, install, operate, and maintain radio broadcasting stations in Davao City;

House Bill No. 7615, granting Instant Data, Inc., a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain telecommunications systems throughout the Philippines;

House Bill No. 7616, renewing for another twenty-five (25) years the franchise granted to the University of the Philippines System under Republic Act No. 8160 to construct, establish, maintain, and operate for educational and other related purposes radio and television broadcasting stations within the University of the Philippines and in other areas within the scope of its operations;

House Bill No. 8553, granting Palawan Broadcasting Corporation a franchise to construct, install, operate, and maintain radio and television broadcasting stations in the Philippines; and

House Bill No. 8860, granting Highland Broadcasting Network Corp. a franchise

to construct, install, establish, operate, and maintain radio and television broadcasting stations in Mindanao.

Mr. Speaker, we have been advised that the Committee on Legislative Franchises, sponsor of the said House bills, as well as the respective authors thereof, has no objections to the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate.

In accordance with our rules, may I put an omnibus motion to concur with the Senate amendments to House Bills Nos. 7332, 7488, 7615, 7616, 8553, and 8860.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). There is an omnibus motion to concur with the Senate amendments to House Bills Nos. 7332, 7488, 7615, 7616, 8553 and 8860.

Are there any objections? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the motion is carried.

CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF CERTAIN MEASURES

REP. SUNTAY. Mr. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of the following measures:

House Bills Nos. 1745, 2320, 4332, 8171, and 8924 – creating the National Film Archive of the Philippines, from the Committee on Public Information to the Special Committee on Creative Industry and Performing Arts, and the Committee on Public Information;

House Bill No. 6702 – penalizing the dishonesty or untruthful declaration of any patent in times of public health emergency or pandemic, from the Defeat COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee to the Committee on Health;

House Bill No. 7718 – prohibiting all forms of sexual exploitation of children, from the Committee on Welfare of Children to the Committee on Revision of Laws;

House Bill No. 7825 – regulating access of minors to pornographic materials and obscene shows, from the Committee on Welfare of Children to the Committee on Revision of Laws;

House Bill No. 8597 – providing an additional cash assistance program for Filipinos to aid in mitigating the effects of the current coronavirus pandemic, from the Committee on Social Services to the

Committees on Economic Affairs, and Social Services; and

House Bill No. 8628 - providing for additional mechanisms to accelerate the recovery and bolster the resiliency of the Philippine economy, from the Committee on Economic Affairs to the Committees on Economic Affairs, and Social Services.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). There is a motion to refer the said bills to the said Committees. Are there any objections? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the motion is carried. Majority Leader.

REP. SUNTAY. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our rules, I move that we authorize all Committees to conduct virtual meetings or virtual public hearings, if deemed necessary, during the House recess, from March 26, 2021 to May 16, 2021.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Are there any objections? (*Silence*) Hearing none, all Committees are hereby authorized to conduct meetings or public hearings from March 26 to May 16. Are there any objections? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the motion is carried. Majority Leader.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move for the Additional Reference of Business. Could the Secretary General be directed to read the title of bills and resolutions on First Reading as well as committee reports and communications?

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Secretary General.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the titles of the following House Bills and Resolutions on First Reading, and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

House Bill No. 9141, entitled:

"AN ACT RENAMING THE LABOYAO BRIDGE LOCATED IN BRGY. LONOY,

CALBAYOG CITY, PROVINCE OF SAMAR AS MAYOR RONALDO P. AQUINO BRIDGE"

By Representative Sarmiento

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 9146, entitled:

"AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO DANIEL HONGJUM"

By Representative Angara

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 9148, entitled:

"AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO CONTINENTAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8579, ENTITLED 'AN ACT GRANTING THE CONTINENTAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, MAINTAIN, ESTABLISH AND OPERATE LOCAL EXCHANGE NETWORK IN THE PROVINCES OF BATANGAS, LAGUNA AND MASBATE' "

By Representative Agarao

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 9149, entitled:

"AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF FIFTY-FOUR BILLION AND SIX HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P54,600,000,000.00) AS SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR THE PENSION AND GRATUITY FUND"

By Representatives Velasco, Romualdez (Ferdinand), Yap (Eric) and Paduano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1672, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION URGING THE PROPER COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE NEED TO PROVIDE OUR FIRE OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS WITH THE PROPER EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING FOR THEM TO MORE EFFECTIVELY PERFORM THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES”

By Representative Reyes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1673, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11203, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE RICE TARIFFICATION LAW, PARTICULARLY ON THE UTILIZATION AND ALLOCATIONS OF THE RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND FOR THE BENEFIT MOST ESPECIALLY OF FARMWORKERS, AND ON ADDRESSING THE HARMFUL, FRAUDULENT AND ABUSIVE PRACTICES RELATED THERETO”

By Representative Vergara
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1674, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, TO CONDEMN AND INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE HARASSMENT AND RED-TAGGING OF MANDALUYONG REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH 209 JUDGE MONIQUE QUISUMBING-IGNACIO”

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

House Resolution No. 1675, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH

THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDEMN AND CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PRESENCE OF MORE THAN 200 CHINESE VESSELS IN JULIAN FELIPE REEF”

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

House Resolution No. 1676, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT-NATIONAL WAGES PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION (DOLE-NPWC) AND ITS TRIPARTITE REGIONAL WAGE BOARDS, ON ITS MANDATE OF WAGE-SETTING AND OTHER POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, IN THE LIGHT OF THE DEMAND OF THE WORKERS FOR A NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE ESPECIALLY AMID THE PANDEMIC”

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

House Resolution No. 1678, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE FOOD SECURITY CRISIS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE OUTBREAK OF THE AFRICAN SWINE FEVER (ASF) AND TO LOOK INTO THE GOVERNMENT’S ADOPTION OF POLICY SOLUTIONS CONTINGENT ON IMPORTATION WHICH IS FORESEEN TO CAUSE

BILLIONS OF REVENUE LOSSES AND FURTHER PERPETRATE TECHNICAL SMUGGLING OF POULTRY AND PORK PRODUCTS THAT WILL ULTIMATELY LEAD TO THE DEMISE OF THE LOCAL INDUSTRIES AND ADVERSE PUBLIC HEALTH EFFECTS IF NO APPROPRIATE MEASURES WILL BE ADOPTED"

By Representatives Velasco, Enverga and Aglipay
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 895), re H.B. No. 9145, entitled:

"AN ACT RE-NUMBERING THE CEBU FIRST, SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICES TO CONFORM AND CORRESPOND, RESPECTIVELY, WITH THE NUMBERING OF THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU"

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6097

Sponsors: Representatives Madrona, Salimbangon, Garcia (Pablo John), Gullas, Caminero, Frasco, Ouano-Dizon, Radaza and Calderon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development (Committee Report No. 896), re H.R. No. 1677, entitled:

"RESOLUTION DECLARING A HOUSING CRISIS AND URGING THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT TO MOBILIZE RESOURCES TO ACCELERATE HOUSING PRODUCTION AND PROVIDE ADEQUATE HOUSING TO UNDERSERVED FAMILIES"

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 1468

Sponsor: Representative Benitez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Ecology and the

Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 897), re H.B. No. 9147, entitled: "AN ACT REGULATING THE PRODUCTION, IMPORTATION, SALE, DISTRIBUTION, PROVISION, USE, RECOVERY, COLLECTION, RECYCLING, AND DISPOSAL OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS"

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 103, 139, 499, 546, 574, 635, 1754, 1837, 2396, 2484, 2811, 2969, 3140, 3338, 3536, 3537, 3723, 3725, 4339, 4435, 4644, 4724, 4827, 5048, 5312, 5383, 5411, 5489, 5623, 5772, 5773, 6076, 6085, 6180, 6279, 6640 and 6744; and House Resolutions Numbered 213, 261, 553 and 1024

Sponsors: Representatives Velasco, Labadlabad, Salceda, Benitez, Suansing (Estrellita) and Biazon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Information and Communications Technology (Committee Report No. 898), re H.R. No. 1680, entitled:

"RESOLUTION URGING THE COVID-19 INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES TO ESTABLISH A UNIFIED NATIONAL CONTACT TRACING PROTOCOL FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE HEALTH EMERGENCY DATA MONITORING SYSTEM, AND TO DESIGNATE A GOVERNMENT AGENCY OR BODY TO SERVE AS THE CENTRAL REPOSITORY OF A UNIFIED CONTACT TRACING INFORMATION AND DATABASE THAT STRICTLY COMPLY WITH REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10173, OR THE DATA PRIVACY ACT OF 2012"

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 1536

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (Angelina), Yap (Victor) and Velasco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1680

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move for the consideration of House Resolution No. 1680, as embodied in Committee Report No. 898. Could the Secretary General be directed to read the title of said Resolution?

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Secretary General.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1680, entitled: "RESOLUTION URGING THE COVID-19 INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES TO ESTABLISH A UNIFIED NATIONAL CONTACT TRACING PROTOCOL FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE HEALTH EMERGENCY DATA MONITORING SYSTEM, AND TO DESIGNATE A GOVERNMENT AGENCY OR BODY TO SERVE AS THE CENTRAL REPOSITORY OF A UNIFIED CONTACT TRACING INFORMATION AND DATABASE THAT STRICTLY COMPLY WITH REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10173, OR THE DATA PRIVACY ACT OF 2012."

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1680.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Those in favor to adopt House Resolution No. 1680, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Those who are not in favor, say *Nay*. (*Silence*)

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1680

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian).

The *ayes* have it; House Resolution No. 1680 is adopted.

Majority Leader.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, with leave of the House, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). Are there any objections? (*Silence*) Hearing none; the motion is carried.

REP. BOLILIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Eufemia Cullamat of BAYAN MUNA Party-List to avail of the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian). The Honorable Cullamat is recognized via Zoom.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CULLAMAT

REP. CULLAMAT. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Magandang tanghali, Mr. Speaker, at sa lahat ng mga kapwa ko Mambabatas na nasa plenaryo at maging ang sa Zoom, magandang tanghali uli.

Ang pamagat po ng aking privilege speech, Mr. Speaker, ay "Itigil ang Atake sa mga Tagapagtanggol ng Karapatang Pantao."

Ginoong Speaker, noong Marso 21, may isa na naman akong kababayang ginawan ng karahasan ng Estado. Halos magbubukang-liwayway, alas-singko ng umaga nang magsagawa ng pinagsamang operasyon ang militar at pulis sa Barangay Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro para arestuhin si Bb. Renalyn Tejero dahil sa mga gawa-gawang kaso sa kaniya na hindi niya ginawa. Ginoong Speaker, isa na naman itong pangyayari ng gawa-gawang kaso. Sa unang mga oras ay hindi namin malaman ng kaniyang mga kaanak kung saan siya dinala ng kapulisan at militar. Pagkatapos ay nabalitaan naming na dinala pala siya sa kustodiya ng pulis sa Police Regional Office

* 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."

XIII at dinala sa Headquarter ng Camp Colonel Rafael C. Rodriguez sa Butuan City.

Si Renalyn ay isang batang edad na 25, at isang kilalang human rights worker sa Rehiyon ng CARAGA. Mataas ang kaniyang dedikasyon sa kaniyang gawain bilang isang human rights worker. Kabilang sa kaniyang trabaho ang buong tapang na pagharap sa kaliwa't kanang harassment at red-tagging. Masinop din niyang sinusubaybayan at inaasikaso ang mga bilanggong pulitikal at ang mga nakaranas sa karahasan sa aming rehiyon.

Ginoong Speaker, si Renalyn ay isang Lumad-Manobo at graduate siya sa Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and Livelihood Development, iyong ALCADDEV, noong 2013. Kumuha siya ng kurso ng Bachelor's degree in Sociology sa Caraga State University. Naging chairperson din siya sa Student Christian Movement of the Philippines sa CSU Chapter at naging parte din siya ng student leader bilang senator sa kanilang council. Noong nag-graduate siya taong 2018, naging isa siyang full-time human rights worker bilang paralegal ng Karapatan-CARAGA. Ginoong Speaker, hindi kriminal at lalong hindi terorista si Renalyn. Walang batayan ang mga kasong ibinibintang laban sa kaniya. Ito ay gawa-gawa lamang para takutin siya at patahimikin, para gambalain ang pagpapatuloy niya sa kaniyang trabaho bilang isang human rights worker. Bago pa siya inaresto, si Renalyn ay biktima ng walang pakundangang red-tagging ng Estado sa ilalim ng administrasyong Duterte dahil siya ay graduate ng ALCADDEV at dahil siya ay human rights worker. Si Renalyn ay isang biktima rin ng samu't saring black propaganda sa Facebook at tarpaulins na nakakabit sa iba't ibang lugar sa CARAGA. Maging ang inyong lingkod ay kasama rin sa mga naglipanang tarpaulin na nag-akusa sa akin bilang isang miyembro ng NPA, kasama pa ang mga maraming mga progresibong lider at aktibista sa aming rehiyon.

Ginoong Speaker, si Renalyn ay isang paralegal ng Karapatan at dagdag na bilang sa mga human rights defenders na nakapiit ngayon dahil sa gawa-gawang kaso. Noong Marso 7, isang paralegal din ng Karapatan, si

Nimfa Lanzanas, ang hinuli noong naganap na "Bloody Sunday" sa Southern Tagalog. Napakaraming human rights workers and defenders na ang siyang ikinulong ngayon at sinampahan ng gawa-gawang kaso. Ang pag-arestong ito sa gitna ng tumitinding red-tagging at attack ng Estado sa pangunguna ng NTF-ELCAC ay dapat kondenahin ng mamamayan at imbestigahan ng Kongreso.

Ginoong Speaker, labanan natin ang sumisidhing mga atake ng Estado at ng pilit na pagpapatahimik sa mga katutubo, kritiko, progresibong organisasyon at iba pang indibidwal na nagpapahayag ng mga kamalian sa sistema! Tuligsain ang red-tagging, mga ilegal na pag-aresto at pagpaslang! Palayain si Renalyn Tejero! Palayain ang mga bilanggong pulitikal!

Maraming salamat, Ginoong Speaker. Muli, magandang tanghali sa ating lahat.

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

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, I move to refer the privilege speech of Congresswoman Cullamat to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian).
Are there any objections? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the motion is approved.

REP. COLLANTES. Mr. Speaker, we would like to recognize Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda to avail of the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gatchalian).
The honorable Deputy Speaker Legarda is recognized via Zoom.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Gatchalian relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Kristine Singson-Meehan.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. LEGARDA

REP. LEGARDA. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

My esteemed colleagues, I would like to

acknowledge the message of our colleague from the Party-List Cong. Eufemia Cullamat and I join her this Women's Month, on this day as well, on her concern for women, especially in rural areas, that whatever she said that I saw, felt and heard, these must be addressed by the authorities. But I speak also in observance of National Women's Month as we draw to a close, not just our session but this month, after one year of the pandemic.

I rise today on a matter of personal and collective privilege to draw special attention to the country's potential in leading the global effort to achieve gender equality and women economic empowerment.

The Philippines has been consistently in the top 10 out of 153 countries in the gender equality rankings since the World Economic Forum launched its annual Global Gender Gap Report way back in 2006 until 2018. However, in the 2020 Report findings of the WEF, the Philippines' rank has dropped 8 notches, falling out of top 10, from 8th in 2018 to 16th in 2020. Despite the slip, this is still something to be proud of given that we are the best performing country in Asia for closing the gender gap, followed by Laos at rank 43. The Geneva-based organization measures the annual gender gap index in four key areas: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment. The Philippines has closed 78 percent of our overall gender gap, showing good performances in three out of four key areas. The report showed that we have closed 80 percent of our labor force gap, with women outnumbering men in senior and leadership roles, as well as in professional and technical professions.

Whereas we have closed gender gaps in both educational attainment and health and survival, there is, however, a considerable widening of the political empowerment gap which is attributed to the low female representation in Philippine Congress and in the Cabinet. Such reports should serve as a challenge for us to further strengthen our women empowerment measures and initiatives. We have already passed landmark laws on women's rights and empowerment. In my three-terms in the Senate and in

my one-year-and-a-half in the House of Representatives I have either authored, co-authored, sponsored and supported pro-women legislation from 1998: the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act, the Magna Carta of Women, the Anti-Child Labor Law, the passage of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, and its expanded version, the first anti-trafficking law in South East Asia. Despite our efforts to eliminate various forms of violence, discrimination and abuse among women, it is still alarming to know that based on the 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey of the Philippine Statistics Authority, one in four Filipino women aged 15 to 49 has experienced physical, emotional or sexual violence from their husband or partner and most of them chose to stay silent primarily because they themselves rely on the financial economic support of their husbands, partners, parents or other relatives.

It is time for us to provide more economic opportunities and opportunities in education, in the workplace, in rural development, in governance and leadership roles. We must also give equal importance to providing women better access and control over economic resources that they need to be empowered economically. Let us give them the financial independence and confidence to generate their own income. Let us empower women to make use of their skills and talents by providing the viable income alternatives, trainings, and opportunities for startups for those who want to be micro-entrepreneurs. In my effort to promote the important role that our women play in pursuing economic development, I collaborated with the UN Women WeEmpower Asia Philippines in the conduct of a dialogue with different women organizations to provide a venue for them to share their respective dynamics, programs and challenges. And through this dialogue, we were able to understand more their concerns and find ways to provide support and assistance in order for them to flourish and to thrive. Their persistence and their resourcefulness gave me hope that by bringing government programs such as the Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program of the DOLE closer to them, we will

be able to provide long-term solutions to help alleviate poverty in the areas they serve while giving members of the organizations the opportunity to maximize their capabilities and to achieve their full potential.

For this month, we also dedicated episodes of our online webinars, *Stories for the Better Normal*, to women in different sectors and highlight their contribution to economic development, to reducing disaster risk, to adapting to climate change, agricultural sustainable development and the national pandemic recovery. In fact, in one of the webinars, a Filipina coffee enthusiast discussed the state of the local coffee industry, challenges and opportunities amid the pandemic and in the Philippines where agriculture is mostly dominated by men and only 16 percent are women, based on statistics of the PSA, we have to increase the appreciation and support for women coffee producers, women agripreneurs and agriculturists who continuously uplift our agriculture industry, and in this case, pertaining to coffee. And it is inspiring to see our female coffee farmers and all our women in the agriculture sector also perform labor-intensive tasks like the men do, but they are usually deprived with the same assistance, income and salary.

So, I am hoping that through our humble initiatives, we are able to give women the platform to share their accomplishments, challenges, and even grievances. Women in the agriculture sector should be given equal access to education, agricultural training, perhaps through the ATI, tools and technologies through the DTI-SSF, DOLE-Pangkabuhayan, DOST-CEST Programs, credit and financing markets through the DA-ACPC and many others, and legal rights to help them improve even their decision-making skills.

One of our sustainable development goals, also the SDGs, is to end hunger and malnutrition. I believe that women's participation in agriculture and rural development can be a way to further advance the campaign against hunger and better nutrition for all. In another webinar, we invited women champions of resilience to put a spotlight in the innovative work of women in building disaster resilient communities.

As a United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Global Champion for Resilience, I am grateful to know that more women are now treading the path of climate action locally, resilience and sustainable development. We recall Petra Kelly, a founding member of the German Green Party, and she said and I quote that, "While men's revolutions have often been about dying for a cause, feminists-conceived transformation is about daring to live for a cause."

We know women have the ability to lead our communities towards resilience when we empower women to ensure that they are able to adapt to climate and disaster risks and be leaders and active communicators in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures. We do not only prevent them from becoming victims of disasters but we are also enabling them to be champions of resilience. We must design adaptation programs specifically for women in food security. We must invest in gender-sensitive green technologies. We must empower women in disaster risk reduction efforts locally. We must ensure that women and girls have access to clean water and renewable energy. We must provide basic health opportunities and harness the strength of women in reducing our social vulnerability.

I also encourage more women to help preserve our culture and our tradition by engaging in culture-based livelihoods which we have long advocated such as weaving, crafts making, using our resources that are abundant in their respective areas and districts. We just had a webinar with DS DV Savellano a few hours ago on the use of bamboo and many other resources in our respective districts—abaca, coconut, buri, bariw and other raw materials. So, we have been supporting women entrepreneurs, especially those who uphold micro-enterprises, culture, and tradition. We have also supported the TESDA Women Center which trains women in entrepreneurship and livelihood skills. We hope that more TESDA centers all over the country would do so. We also have the Schools of Living Traditions under the NCCA, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, which make sure that the community's

art and indigenous practices are protected and conserved. And almost nine years ago, we launched the Hibla Pavilion of Textiles and Weaves of the Philippines which opened the doors of opportunities to weaving communities and SLTs to showcase the indigenous products and weaving tradition mostly of women.

Again, in recognition of the vital role of our micro, small and medium enterprises or MSMEs in economic growth and poverty alleviation, we have bridged our MSMEs to the national and even global market by giving them the opportunity to participate in our national arts and crafts' fairs of the DTI and even the harvest fairs of the DOT. In promoting and supporting MSMEs and culture-related enterprises like weaving, natural dye and crafts-making which many of our women in the rural areas and indigenous cultural communities actually do, we will be able to make traditional industries economically viable while also preserving our tangible and intangible heritage and boosting local or domestic tourism and strengthening our domestic trade.

Again, as author and sponsor of the laws on livelihood assistance, the Magna Carta for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and the Barangay Kabuhayan and Skills Training Act implemented by DTI on the first law and TESDA on the second law I mentioned, we further encourage Filipino women to avail of these national programs under DTI, the Shared Services Facilities; under DSWD, the Sustainable Livelihood Program; under DOST, the Community Empowerment; CEST Program under DOLE, Pangkabuhayan and many others, so that women can finally have financial independence. This is also what I emphasized in my message of commitment that I delivered at the 65th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, CSW65 Side Event yesterday, UNESCAP, where we talked about unpaid care and domestic work. For the longest time, Madam Speaker, we have taken for granted care and domestic work usually done out of parental, filial, family love, generously given and considered part of our duties to our families, to our communities. And in partnership again with UN Women

and the Philippine Commission on Women and partner organizations, we have committed to work on programs and measures that will begin to put long-deserved value to these labors and ensure recognition, reduction, redistribution, rewarding and representation within the national and local policymaking and budgeting sphere.

Lastly, to ensure that our country goes beyond the ranking prestige brought about by the Global Gender Gap Report and that we remain steadfast in our commitment to maintain gender equality and to promote women economic empowerment, I filed a resolution calling for the conduct of a legislative inquiry into the implementation of pertinent women-related laws and policies all these years if not decades, in line with the Updated Philippine Development Plan 2017 to 2022. This is to further promote and safeguard the equitable economic opportunities, rights of and benefits for women in the vulnerable basic sectors; the barangay micro business enterprises or BMBE; the micro and small enterprises, social enterprises, associations, movements and cooperatives.

Let us champion equality and inclusivity in our society's decision-making processes, not only during this month, Women's Month. Let us continue to provide women the needed support to have the confidence and the wherewithal to lead and be at the forefront of efforts to improve Filipino communities and pursue sustainable initiatives that will contribute decisive actions towards the nation's sustainable and equitable progress and development.

I thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you to our colleagues for their patience and for joining me in our shared advocacy.

As we say it in Antique, duru-duru gid nga salamat. Palangga ko kamo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). Majority Leader.

REP. COLLANTES. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize Cong. Sarah Elago from KABATAAN Party-List for her manifestation. I so move, Madam Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). The Hon. Sarah Elago is hereby recognized.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. ELAGO

REP. ELAGO. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would like to manifest the support of this Youth Representation to the call of Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda and Rep. Eufemia Cullamat to address the serious issues surrounding human rights defenders and women's empowerment advocates beyond the observance of the National Women's Month this March.

Now, more than ever, we need more women's voices in addressing the heightened inequalities and compounded impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls. Women must be empowered and supported in becoming strong political leaders. We must work together to support all women and to increase the possibilities of them in various sectors leading and garnering more victories with and alongside the marginalized and underrepresented sectors. We also have to continue looking after each other so we can continue working together to advance the women's agenda. Having more women who are speaking up for women and making change for women means better representation. So, we must eliminate barriers women face in effective and meaningful political participation. We can also build partnerships with women's organizations in the grassroots and online communities to support women's empowerment and well-being. There can also be targeted provision of scholarship and professional development for women and girls in the community. We must also step-up efforts to combat gender-based discrimination and sexist behaviors, especially in the workplace at present, because all these are discouraging the next generation of women who could also be vulnerable to harassment, threats or political persecution in the future. We must work together to protect our women workers and leaders from multiple forms of discrimination, sexism and misogyny, and ensure that we are able to fulfill our mandate or work effectively without fear of reprisal.

Katulad po ng naibahagi ni Representative Cullamat hinggil kay Renalyn Tejero, ang 25-years old na babaeng human rights worker na nakaranas ng panggigipit at panunupil nang dahil sa kaniyang trabaho para sa pagtatanggol ng karapatan, we join Representative Cullamat in the call for the immediate release and the junking of trumped-up charges against Renalyn Tejero and all political prisoners. Itaguyod natin ang karapatan, katarungan at proteksyon ng kalikasan sa ating bayan.

Ngayon po, sobra na kinakailangan sa harap ng patong-patong na krisis, mauuna at mananaig ang ating pagkakaisa. Kaya nagpapasalamat tayo sa lahat ng affirmative actions na naibahagi rin ni Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, ni Rep. Cullamat, at ng ating colleagues dito sa loob ng Kongreso na ipauna ang paglalagay sa puso ng plano at ng aksyon ang mga karapatang pantao. Maraming salamat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). Majority Leader.

REP. COLLANTES. Madam Speaker, I move to refer the speech of honorable DS Loren Legarda to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Madam Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). Are there any objections? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. COLLANTES. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the session for a few minutes.

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

It was 12:41 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:14 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Juan Pablo "Rimpy" P. Bondoc presiding.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Bondoc).
The session is adjourned until May 17, 2021,
at three o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 1:15 p.m.