



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 19th CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION
House of Representatives

Vol. 6

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

No. 74

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales Jr. called the session to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).
The session is called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).
Please rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

Everybody rose for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).
Please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer and meditation.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).
Majority Leader.

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the Roll of Members.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.).
Before we call the Roll of Members, I call for a suspension of the session.

It was 3:02 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:02 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Camille A. Villar presiding.

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

ROLL CALL

REP. NOLASCO. Mme. Speaker, may I reiterate my motion to call the Roll of Members.

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

The Secretary General will please call the Roll.

*The Secretary General called the Roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 74, dated May 17, 2023.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mme. Speaker, the roll call shows that 310 Members responded to the Call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villar). With 310 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.
Majority Leader.

REP. NOLASCO. Mme. Speaker, considering that copies of *Journal No. 72* of our session on May 15, 2023 have been previously distributed to the Members, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal*.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villar). There is a motion to dispense with the reading of *Journal No. 72*, dated May 15, 2023. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. The reading of the said *Journal* is dispensed with.

Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. NOLASCO. Mme. Speaker, I move for the approval of *Journal No. 72*, dated May 15, 2023.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villar). There is a motion to approve the said *Journal*. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; *Journal No. 72*, dated May 15, 2023, is hereby approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. VELOSO-TUAZON. Mme. Speaker, we would like to request that the presence of the guests of the Hon. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay from the National Senior Citizens Advocate Association of the Philippines, headed by Sultan Colonel Jerito Adigue, be acknowledged. Their names are as follows:

Apart from Sultan Adigue, we also have Qualita Casio, Nenita Galvez, Enrico Arellano Jr., Leticia Escalante, Benita Nuada, Zenaida Aguilar, Belen Moreno, Visitacion Maneclang, Elizabeth Soriano, Marina Soliven, Marina Valdez, Jaime Dela Cruz, Rodrigo Carlos, Perlita Aquino, Sonia Bantigue, Isabel Mijares, Luz Cleto, Anastacio Collado, Fe Orenio, Josie Baldovino, Eduardo Gonzales, Perla Jacinto, Lucina Palo, Enrico Arellano, Rodrigo Carlos, Perlita Aquino, Bernardo Gonzales, Norma Fajardo, Benjamin Galang, Rolando Apalit, Jose Tomas Madria, Teresita Beltran, Nena Carias, Nilda Merced, Virginia Belarmino, Francisco Bower, Lita Sevilla, Este Fernandez, Cresencia Uy, Teresa Carpio, Joel Beltran, Maria Cagang, and Isabel Mijares.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villar). To the guests of Hon. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

Majority Leader.

REP. NOLASCO. Mme. Speaker, before we

proceed, may I also move that we acknowledge the presence of the guest of Hon. Jose "Bong" Teves Jr.

He is the World Boxing Organization Global Super Bantamweight title holder, John Riel "Quadro Alas" Casimero. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villar). To Mr. John Riel "Quadro Alas" Casimero, welcome to the House of Representatives.

Majority Leader.

REP. NOLASCO. Mme. Speaker, may I also request that we acknowledge the presence of the guest of the Hon. Dimszar M. Sali of the Lone District of Tawi-Tawi. She is Ms. Fatima Ayesha Amirul. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villar). To the guest of Hon. Dimszar M. Sali, welcome po to the House of Representatives.

Majority Leader.

REP. NOLASCO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we now proceed with the Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 8081, entitled:

AN ACT MODIFYING THE SALARY SCHEDULE FOR CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL AND AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF ADDITIONAL BENEFITS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Recto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 8082, entitled:

THE REVISED ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE ANIMAL WELFARE BUREAU UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INSTITUTIONALIZE AND STRENGTHEN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE AND GOVERN ITS OPERATION AND ITS ENFORCEMENT.

By Representative Arenas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 8083, entitled:

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PAMBANSANG PABAHAY PARA SA PILIPINO PROGRAM

By Representative Garcia (A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 8084, entitled:

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 53 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT"

By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 8085, entitled:

AN ACT TO PROMOTE FAIR TRADE IN THE OIL INDUSTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8479, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "DOWNSTREAM OIL DEREGULATION ACT OF 1998"

By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 8086, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN OPT-IN MECHANISM FOR TELEPHONE AND MOBILE SUBSCRIBERS, PROTECTING SUCH SUBSCRIBERS FROM ELECTRONIC THREATS THROUGH THE MISUSE OF DIGITAL

TECHNOLOGY, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 8087, entitled:

AN ACT TO REFORM THE BUDGET PROCESS BY ENFORCING GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY IN PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (PFM), PROMOTING FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY, STRENGTHENING CONGRESS' POWER OF THE PURSE, INSTITUTING AN INTEGRATED PFM SYSTEM, AND INCREASING BUDGET TRANSPARENCY AND PARTICIPATION

By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 8088, entitled:

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF PARENTS ASSOCIATIONS AND CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL PARENT COUNCIL

By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8089, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE CORN RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 8090, entitled:

AN ACT DECLARING THE MARITIME ZONES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 8091, entitled:

AN ACT EXPANDING THE APPLICATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 100, 235 AND 272 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8092, entitled:

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE RICE SUBSIDY PROVIDED UNDER THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4PS) FOR THE PURCHASE OF PALAY FROM LOCAL FARMERS, MANDATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) AND THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA), TO BUY PALAY FROM LOCAL FARMERS AND DISTRIBUTE RICE INSTEAD OF CASH TO QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES

By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 8093, entitled:

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES AND INCENTIVES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARKS (STPs) IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 8094, entitled:

AN ACT PROMOTING THE USE OF AEROPONICS, HYDROPONICS

AND AQUAPONICS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF HIGH VALUE FISH, CROPS AND VEGETABLES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 8095, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SOLAR HOME SYSTEM FINANCING FOR SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 8096, entitled:

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 9497, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY ACT OF 2008

By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 8097, entitled:

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE WITNESS PROTECTION, SECURITY AND BENEFIT PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6981, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "WITNESS PROTECTION, SECURITY AND BENEFIT ACT"

By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 8098, entitled:

AN ACT MANDATING PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES TO DISCLOSE SERVICE COVERAGE DATA TO THE PUBLIC

By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 8099, entitled:
AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MAGNA
CARTA FOR BARANGAYS
By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

SCREENING PROGRAM FOR
THE PREVENTION, EARLY
DIAGNOSIS AND INTERVENTION
OF HEARING LOSS AMONG
CHILDREN
By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 8100, entitled:
AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE
TRANSPORTATION COOPERATIVES
DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND,
APPROPRIATING AND SOURCING
FUNDS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES
By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 8104, entitled:
AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN
PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 10845, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE ANTI-AGRICULTURAL
SMUGGLING ACT OF 2016, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES
By Representative Pimentel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 8101, entitled:
AN ACT INSTITUTING A UNIFIED
CORRECTIONS AND JAIL
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM,
INTEGRATING THE NATIONAL
PRISONS AND PENAL FARMS,
AND THE PROVINCIAL, SUB-
PROVINCIAL, CITY, DISTRICT AND
MUNICIPAL JAILS, ESTABLISHING
FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONS
AND JAIL MANAGEMENT,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 8105, entitled:
AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 11223, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE "UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE
ACT"
By Representative Pimentel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 8102, entitled:
AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A UNIFORM
WAREHOUSING AND INVENTORY
SYSTEM FOR ALL GOVERNMENT
PROCURING ENTITIES, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT
PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT"
By Representative Villafuerte (L.R.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF
LAWS

House Bill No. 8106, entitled:
AN ACT MANDATING THE
FORMULATION AND
INSTITUTIONALIZATION
OF A COMPREHENSIVE
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
MASTER PLAN
By Representative Pimentel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8103, entitled:
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A
UNIVERSAL NEWBORN HEARING

House Bill No. 8108, entitled:
AN ACT EXPANDING THE NUMBER
OF QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES
OF THE MAGNA CARTA FOR
MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM
ENTERPRISES BY ADJUSTING
THE ASSET THRESHOLD FOR
EACH ENTERPRISE CATEGORY,
FURTHER AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE SECTION 3 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6977, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE MAGNA CARTA FOR

MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 8109, entitled:

AN ACT REINSTITUTING MANDATORY CREDIT ALLOCATION FOR MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, IMPOSING FINES AND PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 8110, entitled:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RODRIQUEZ (MONTALBAN), PROVINCE OF RIZAL INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE TO BE KNOWN AS THE LTO MONTALBAN DISTRICT OFFICE, PROVINCE OF RIZAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Nograles (J.F.F.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 8111, entitled:

AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 20 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAOANG, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION DAY

By Representative Ongchuan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 8112, entitled:

AN ACT DECLARING JULY 1 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY

OF MONCADA, PROVINCE OF TARLAC IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS "MONCADA FOUNDATION DAY"

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

House Bill No. 8113, entitled:

AN ACT EXPANDING THE ESTATE TAX AMNESTY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AMENDING SECTIONS 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, AND 19, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11213, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11569, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "TAX AMNESTY ACT"

By Representative Pancho
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 8114, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREE PORT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JOSE PANGANIBAN, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE CAMARINES NORTE FIRST DISTRICT SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREE PORT AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Tallado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 8115, entitled:

AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO HINRICH SCHUMACHER

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 8116, entitled:

AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO BENJAMIN W. MEAD

By Representatives Villafuerte (L.R.) and Yamsuan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 8117, entitled:

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE ECOSYSTEM AND NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING SYSTEM (PENCAS), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Villanueva
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 8118, entitled:

AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO WESTWIND BROADCASTING CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8687, ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING THE WESTWIND BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS IN THE VISAYAS AND MINDANAO"

By Representative Olaso
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 8134, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR AIR PASSENGERS, PENALIZING VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 8135, entitled:

AN ACT MANDATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND ALL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONDUCT OF A QUARTERLY NATIONWIDE SIMULTANEOUS EARTHQUAKE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILL

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER RESILIENCE

House Bill No. 8136, entitled:

AN ACT REQUIRING THE EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS IN ALL PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHING FACILITIES, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 8137, entitled:

AN ACT MANDATING THE INSTALLATION OF 200-WATT SOLAR PANELS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS WHERE ELECTRICITY IS NOT AVAILABLE

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8138, entitled:

AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF BARANGAY CHUPAC IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARLIG, PROVINCE OF MOUNTAIN PROVINCE TO BARANGAY CHUPAC-KADAACLAN.

By Representative Dalog
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 8139, entitled:

AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF BARANGAY KALEO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARLIG, PROVINCE OF MOUNTAIN PROVINCE TO BARANGAY KALEO-KADAACLAN.

By Representative Dalog
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 8140, entitled:

AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF BARANGAY LUNAS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARLIG, PROVINCE OF MOUNTAIN PROVINCE TO BARANGAY LUNAS-KADAACLAN.

By Representative Dalog
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 8141, entitled:

AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF BARANGAY OGO-OG IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARLIG, PROVINCE OF MOUNTAIN PROVINCE TO BARANGAY OGO-OG-KADACLAN.

By Representative Dalog
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 8142, entitled:

AN ACT INSTITUTING POLICIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, PROTECTION, AND WELFARE OF CAREGIVERS IN THE PRACTICE OF THEIR PROFESSION

By Representative Arenas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 8143, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CENTRAL MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAUAYAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Alvarez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 8145, entitled:

AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO XIAOFAN LIN

By Representative Nograles (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 8146, entitled:

AN ACT ENHANCING THE PROMOTION AND ADOPTION OF SOLAR TECHNOLOGY AND NET-METERING AMONG END-USERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9513, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "RENEWABLE ENERGY ACT OF 2008", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Fernandez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 8147, entitled:

AN ACT GRANTING HAZARD PAY TO ALL COURT SHERIFFS OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Baronda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 8148, entitled:

AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT, MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE, AND REGULATION OF A RAINWATER HARVESTING FACILITY IN ALL NEW INSTITUTIONAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN METRO MANILA

By Representatives Mercado-Revilla, Revilla (B.) and Revilla (R.J.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8149, entitled:

AN ACT INCREASING THE RECRUITMENT QUOTA REQUIREMENT OF FEMALE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) OFFICERS, AMENDING SECTION 58 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8551, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE REFORM AND REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1998"

By Representative Violago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 8150, entitled:

AN ACT CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FISCAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PENSION SYSTEM OF THE MILITARY AND UNIFORMED PERSONNEL, PROVIDING MECHANISMS FOR THE DISPOSITION OF GOVERNMENT ASSETS FOR THE PURPOSE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Violago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 8151, entitled:

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 23 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001 OR EPIRA", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representatives Dagooc and De Jesus
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 8153, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MANDATORY IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10152, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MANDATORY INFANTS AND CHILDREN HEALTH IMMUNIZATION ACT OF 2011"

By Representatives Revilla (R.J.), Mercado-Revilla and Revilla (B.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 8154, entitled:

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 27, 47 AND 50 OF THE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136, ENTITLED "ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001"

By Representatives Cojuangco (M.), Dagooc and De Jesus
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 8155, entitled:

AN ACT UPGRADING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) DISTRICT OFFICE LOCATED IN LAOAG CITY, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE INTO A "CLASS A" LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Marcos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 8156, entitled:

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY, EXTENDING ITS CORPORATE TERM, AND AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 757 (P.D. 757), "CREATING THE

NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY AND DISSOLVING THE EXISTING HOUSING AGENCIES, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

By Representatives Romualdez (F.M.) and Marcos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message dated May 15, 2023, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate passed Senate Bill No. 1480, entitled:

AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE DISABILITY PENSION OF VETERANS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948, ENTITLED "AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR BENEFICIARIES," AS AMENDED

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND WELFARE

COMMUNICATIONS

Various Reports on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation of the Local Government Support Fund submitted by the following barangays, municipalities, city, and province:

1. Barangay Rizal, Municipality of San Marcelino, Province of Zambales for the second quarter, attested by Rex F. Ferido, Punong Barangay and Chairman, Barangay Development Council;
2. Barangay Lucero, Municipality of San Marcelino, Province of Zambales for the second quarter, attested by Angel M. Cabbab, Punong Barangay and Chairman, Barangay Development Council;
3. Barangay San Isidro, Municipality of San Marcelino, Province of Zambales

- for the second quarter, attested by Romeo A. Jalasco, Punong Barangay and Chairman, Barangay Development Council;
4. Barangay Sta. Fe, Municipality of San Marcelino, Province of Zambales for the second quarter, attested by Anthony C. Manzano, Punong Barangay and Chairman, Barangay Development Council;
 5. Barangay Wawandue, Municipality of Subic, Province of Zambales for the first quarter ending 2023, attested by Juan G. Cabral, Punong Barangay and Chairman, Barangay Development Council;
 6. Barangay Villa Marina, Municipality of San Jose, Province of Nueva Ecija for the first quarter of CY 2023, attested by Heber T. Cariaga, Punong Barangay;
 7. Barangay San Vicente West, City of Calapan, Province of Oriental Mindoro as of March 31, 2022, June 30, 2022, September 30, 2022, February 6, 2023 and for the quarter ending March 31, 2023, attested by Guillermo M. Quinto Jr., Punong Barangay;
 8. Municipality of Iba, Province of Zambales for the quarters ending December 23, 2022 and March 31, 2023, attested by Irene Maniquiz-Binan, Municipal Mayor;
 9. Municipality of Sagay, Province of Camiguin for the ending of first quarter, attested by Joseph G. Uayan, PhD, RN, Municipal Mayor;
 10. Municipality of Clarin, Province of Bohol for the quarter ending March 31, 2023, attested by Eugenio E. Ibarra, ME, Municipal Mayor;
 11. Municipality of Loboc, Province of Bohol for the quarter ending March 31, 2023, attested by Raymond G. Jala, Municipal Mayor;
 12. Municipality of Lila, Province of Bohol for the quarter ending March 31, 2023, attested by Atty. Arturo A. Piollo II, Municipal Mayor;
 13. Municipality of Pilar, Province of Bohol for the fourth quarter of 2022 and first quarter of 2023, attested by Engr. Wilson L. Pajo, Municipal Mayor;
 14. Municipality of Pililla, Province of Rizal for the first quarter of 2023, attested by Dan V. Masinsin, Municipal Mayor;
 15. Municipality of Panukulan, Province of Quezon as of April 25, 2023, attested by Alfred Rigor S. Mitra, Municipal Mayor;
 16. Municipality of Pinili, Province of Ilocos Norte for the quarter ending March 31, 2023, attested by Rommel T. Labasan, Municipal Mayor;
 17. Municipality of Santa Cruz, Province of Zambales for the first quarter of CY 2023, attested by Consolacion M. Marty, Municipal Mayor;
 18. Municipality of Dingalan, Province of Aurora for the quarter ending March 2023, attested by Shierwin H. Taay, Municipal Mayor;
 19. Municipality of Baliwag, Province of Bulacan for the first quarter ending March 31, 2023, attested by Ferdinand V. Estrella, Municipal Mayor;
 20. Municipality of San Miguel, Province of Bohol for the first quarter of 2023, attested by Ian Gil G. Mendez, RN, Municipal Mayor;
 21. Municipality of Guindulman, Province of Bohol for the first quarter ending of 2023, attested by Albino M. Balo, Municipal Mayor;
 22. Municipality of Santa Rita, Province of Pampanga for the first quarter, attested by Engr. Arthur L. Salalila, Municipal Mayor;
 23. Municipality of Paniqui, Province of Tarlac for the quarter ending March 31, 2023, attested by Leonardo M. Roxas, Municipal Mayor;
 24. Municipality of Laur, Province of Nueva Ecija for the month of April 2023, attested by Atty. Christopher B. Daus, Municipal Mayor;
 25. Municipality of Lupao, Province of Nueva Ecija for the first quarter of CY 2023, attested by Alex Rommel V. Romano, Municipal Mayor;
 26. Municipality of Nunungan, Province of Lanao del Norte for the year ending March 31, 2023, attested by Marcos M. Mamay, Municipal Mayor;
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27. Municipality of Sasmuan, Province of Pampanga for the quarter ending March 2023, attested by Catalina M. Cabrera, Municipal Mayor;
28. Municipality of Candelaria, Province of Zambales as of March 31, 2023, attested by Byron Jones E. Edquilang, Municipal Mayor;
29. Municipality of Garcia-Hernandez, Province of Bohol for the quarter ending March 2023, attested by Filadelfo Jess V. Baja III, Municipal Mayor;
30. Municipality of General Mamerto Natividad, Province of Nueva Ecija for the first quarter of CY 2023, attested by Anita M. Arocena, Municipal Mayor;
31. Municipality of Talavera, Province of Nueva Ecija for the first quarter of CY 2023, attested by Nerito S. Santos Jr., Municipal Mayor;
32. Municipality of Pantabangan, Province of Nueva Ecija for the month of April 2023, attested by Roberto T. Agdipa, Municipal Mayor;
33. Municipality of Quezon, Province of Nueva Ecija for the first quarter of CY 2023, attested by Mariano Cristino N. Josen, Municipal Mayor;
34. Municipality of Baler, Province of Aurora as of March 31, 2023, attested by Rhett Ronan T. Angara, Municipal Mayor;
35. Municipality of Santa Rosa, Province of Nueva Ecija for the first quarter of CY 2023, attested by Josefino M. Angeles, City/Municipal Mayor;
36. Municipality of Rizal, Province of Nueva Ecija for the first quarter of CY 2023, attested by Hanna Katrina L. Andres, Municipal Mayor;
37. Municipality of Alburquerque, Province of Bohol for the first quarter of 2023, attested by Don Ritchie P. Buates, Municipal Mayor;
38. City of Balanga, Province of Bataan for the first quarter ending March 31, 2023, attested by Francis Anthony S. Garcia, City Mayor; and
39. Province of Pampanga for the quarter ending March 2023 and for the month

of April 2023, attested by Dennis G. Pineda, Provincial Governor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Report No. 540, submitted by the Committee on Ways and Means on H.B. No. 8144, entitled:

AN ACT DEFINING THE CRIME OF TAX RACKETEERING, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 257 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 7583 and 7653

Sponsors: Representatives Salceda and Suansing (M.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 541, submitted by the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations on H.B. No. 3401, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF POTOTAN IN THE THIRD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Acop, Co (E.) and Defensor

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 542, submitted by the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations on H.B. No. 8152, entitled:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAS PIÑAS LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LICENSING EXTENSION OFFICE INTO A REGULAR LTO LICENSING CENTER

AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

recommending its approval in substitution
of House Bill No. 3100

Sponsors: Representatives Acop, Co (E.)
and Villar

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 543, submitted by the
Committee on Games and Amusements
on H.R. No. 983, entitled:

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING
AND COMMENDING MARK DAVE
"DOBERMANN" APOLINARIO FOR
WINNING THE INTERNATIONAL
BOXING ORGANIZATION
FLYWEIGHT WORLD TITLE IN EAST
LONDON, SOUTH AFRICA

recommending its adoption in substitution
of House Resolutions Numbered 187,
229 and 266

Sponsors: Representatives Ferrer (A.),
Barzaga, Pancho, Acop, Yap (Eric),
Duterte, Yap (Edvic), Tulfo (J.),
Hernandez and Solon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 544, submitted by
the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral
Reforms on H.R. No. 987, entitled:

RESOLUTION URGING THE
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO
USE THE AUTOMATED ELECTIONS
SYSTEM IN THE BARANGAY AND
SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN
ELECTIONS

recommending its adoption in substitution
of House Resolution No. 717

Sponsors: Representatives Barzaga and
Dalog

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 545, submitted by the
Special Committee on Land Use and the
Committee on Appropriations on H.B. No.
8162, entitled:

AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL
LAND USE POLICY, PROVIDING
THE IMPLEMENTING
MECHANISMS, CREATING FOR
THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL

LAND USE COMMISSION, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

recommending its approval in substitution
of House Bills Numbered 420, 870,
1621, 2299, 2383, 2878, 3007, 3611, 3956,
4081, 4163, 4291, 4884, 5149, 6055, 6275,
7092 and 7652

Sponsors: Representatives Matugas,
Vergara, Salceda and Co (E.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

REP. VELOSO-TUAZON. Mme. Speaker,
may I respectfully request that we acknowledge
the presence of the guests of the Committee
on Climate Change. They are from the
DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau:
Mr. John Erick Avelino, Ms. Maria Katrina
Apaya, and Mr. Joseph Ryan Davalos; from
the Department of Agriculture-Bureau
of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources: Ms.
Sandra Arcamo, Ms. Bernadette Cristina
Lintag, Mr. Christopher Baculi, and Mr.
Edward Maghirang; from the Department of
Human Settlements and Urban Development:
Attorney Giolagon, Dir. Rowena Dinero, Dir.
Jeanette Cruz, Ms. Ana Liza Mirador, and
Atty. Josanie Sison; and from the National
Housing Authority: Mr. Roderick Ibañez, Mr.
Cromwell Teves, and Mr. Cid Leandro Jacobo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villar). To
the guests of the Committee on Climate Change,
welcome to the House of Representatives.

Majority Leader.

REP. ZAMORA (Y.M.). Mme. Speaker, we
request that we also acknowledge the presence
of the following guests of Cong. Laarni Roque.

They are three Filipino athletes from the
2023 Southeast Asian Games in Phnom Penh:
Mr. Janry Ubas, a gold medalist of the Long
Jump event (*Applause*); Ms. Sarah Noveno
Dequinan, silver medalist of the Heptathlon
event; and Ms. Christin O. Hallasgo, bronze
medalist of the 42K Marathon event. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villar).
To the guests of the Hon. Laarni Roque

and our athletes, welcome to the House of Representatives.

Majority Leader.

REP. ZAMORA (Y.M.). Mme. Speaker, we also request that we acknowledge the presence of the following guests of Cong. Lani Mercado-Revilla, namely, Dr. Emmanuel Calairo, Chairman of the National Historical Commission; Dr. Jose Diaz, President of the Bacoor Historical Society; Dr. Godwyn Bernardo, member of the Bacoor Historical Society; Ms. Veronica Esquierdo Asinas; Mr. Edwin Guinto; Mr. Ronaldo Angeles; Mr. Virgilio Flores; Bacoor City Vice Mayor Rowena Mendiola; and Bacoor City Councilor Alde Pagulayan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villar). To the guests of the honorable Cong. Lani Mercado-Revilla, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

Majority Leader.

REP. ZAMORA (Y.M.). Finally, Mme. Speaker, we also request that we acknowledge the presence of the following guests of the Hon. Christopher de Venecia, namely, Mr. Paulo Benito S. Tugbang, Director for Office of Product and Market Development of the Department of Tourism; Ms. Katherine A. Alcantara, OIC-Division Chief for Product Planning and Development of the Department of Tourism; Ms. Sarah Mae L. Monroy, Tourism Operations Officer I for Culture-Based Tourism of the Department of Tourism; and former Representative Cristal Bagatsing of the Fifth District of Manila.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villar). To the guests of the Hon. Christopher de Venecia, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8078

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ACHARON. Mme. Speaker, under the Calendar of Unfinished Business, I move

to resume the consideration of House Bill No. 8078 under Committee Report No. 520 as reported out by the Committee on Public Works and Highways, and for this purpose, may I request the Secretary General to read the title of the Bill.

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8078, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A 30-YEAR NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM.

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

REP. ACHARON. Mme. Speaker, the parliamentary status of this Bill is that it is in the period of sponsorship and debate, and for this purpose, may I move that we recognize the Sponsor of this Bill, the Hon. Romeo Momo of the First District of Surigao del Sur, for his sponsorship remarks or speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villar). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Hon. Romeo Momo, Chairman of the Committee on Public Works and Highways, is recognized to sponsor the measure.

REP. MOMO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ACHARON. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villar). Majority Leader, yes.

REP. ACHARON. I move that we open the period of interpellation.

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

REP. ACHARON. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Rep. Arlene Brosas of the GABRIELA Party-List for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villar). The Hon. Arlene Brosas is recognized to interpellate.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, massive infrastructure spending has been a consistent feature of previous and current administrations, seeing it as a key driver of economic growth and generator of job opportunities. Halimbawa, Build, Build, Build o BBB program ito under the previous administration, the Duterte administration; ngayon, Build Better More o BBM program sa ilalim ng Marcos Jr. administration, so parang rehash lang. However, we have seen how this policy thrust has barely translated to meaningful transformative changes in the Philippine economy, especially on the quality of life of Filipinos. Kaya naman skeptical kami sa panukalang batas na ito na magtataguyod ng 30-year National Infrastructure Program.

Now, to my questions, maaari po bang magtanong sa ating butihing Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. MOMO. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you.

Mme. Speaker, maaari bang ipaliwanag ng Sponsor kung bakit 30 years ang sinasaklaw ng proposed National Infrastructure Program.

REP. MOMO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, the 30-year Infra Program was conceptualized because in putting up a big project, kailangan natin ng medyo mahabang panahon. In fact, there are projects with a gestation period of more than five years, and then there is a period of feasibility study, detailed engineering, and implementation of projects. That is why it is very necessary that big projects such as mega projects ay mabigyan natin ng mahabang panahon, and a 30-year program I think, is sufficient enough to finish the majority of our mega projects.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, 30 years, 30 years po will cover five administrations kasi binilang namin, aabutin

talaga siya ng limang administrasyon. Kung sinasabi, halimbawa, investor confidence at predictability sa infrastructure projects ang dahilan, sa tingin namin hindi naman usapin ito ng kaso ng mga di umuusad na infrastructure projects. Sabi ninyo po kanina, di ba, parang kailangan may continuity kaya ganoon. Pero iyong usapin po na ito, halimbawa, iyong case na lang ng Mindanao Railway, hindi po kami naniniwala na continuity ang problema. May groundbreaking pero walang umusad na civil engineering works.

Perhaps, puwede po kayong mag-attest diyang kasi itinanong ko rin iyan sa mga previous discussion natin noong budget, about the infra projects. Umatras po ang Chinese investors habang gumastos tayo para sa right-of-way payments, so ang tanong po namin dito, ano iyong value-added ng isang legislated infra program na aabutin pa nga ng limang administrasyon? Bakit kailangan ito? Bakit 30 years? Hindi ba puwede namang kanyakanyang infrastructure priorities ang bawat administration, Mme. Speaker, G. Sponsor?

REP. MOMO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, right now, we are practicing the medium-term infra project, meaning, in each term of administration, we have six years, so lahat ng mga programa nila inilista natin. However, ang ICC ng NEDA Board has a lot of projects na naka-pipeline, at maraming malalaking projects. When all these are approved already by the NEDA Board, kailangan lang ang funding requirements nito for the process. Kung may bago kasing administration na darating, minsan, it had been our experience, even when I was still in the Department of Public Works and Highways, there are projects being implemented but when a new administration or another administration comes in, sometimes they will forego the finishing or continuation of the project. Ang mahirap dito, dahil mayroon nang ginawang initial investments, not only by the government but also by the private sector as well, if it is a PPP, they have already allocated or spent on the feasibility study as well as on the progression of the detailed engineering. Then, when a new administration comes, sometimes it will be tabled and shelved. Malaki na ang

gastos nila, not only by the government. Ang government ganoon din, gumagastos na rin, but when the new administration comes in, kung minsan, hindi ito itinutuloy, at maraming instances na po ito.

This one mandates na kung nakalinya na iyan, nandoon na, at na-start na, especially if there is an initial investment already, then we really have to proceed with the implementation of the projects.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, iyong sinasabi ninyo po, iyong nga iyong tanong namin precisely. Actually, tayo iyong gumastos sa right-of-way noon sa Mindanao Railway, pero umatras iyong Chinese investors. Ano iyong assurance na sa panukalang ito ay hindi mauulit iyong karanasan na iyon? Paano kapag umatras ulit iyong private? Sabi ninyo nga, di ba, private sector, asahan natin o kung saan tayo aasa, pero Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, iyong nangyari roon sa Mindanao Railway, ano ang assurance natin?

REP. MOMO. That is the reason why we have to pass this legislation, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor; because in Section 12, stated therein are the initial core projects na priority ng ating government ngayon and it should be implemented if lalo na pag maipasa natin ang batas. In that particular section, it is stated that the Mindanao Railway, as you mentioned, Your Honor, is one of the priorities in Section 12, sa listing natin.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Mme. Speaker, G. Sponsor, you are speaking of the Section 12, ng proposed Bill. Nakalista dito iyong core national infrastructure projects. Iyan po iyong sinasabi ninyo na nasa pipeline.

May we know how these projects were identified? Paano po na-identify na ito ang priority list?

REP. MOMO. Well, yes. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, to prioritize the project, we have to take into consideration the effectiveness in meeting government objectives, the economic feasibility and impact, poverty alleviation, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and climate resilience, safety, security,

affordability, public access, technical readiness for implementation and financial viability, and value for money, those are the requirements for inclusion in our core list of projects.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, kabilang ulit sa core projects na ito iyong Mindanao Railway Project at iba pang long haul railway systems. Hindi po ba deceiving ito na ilista sa 30-year program gayong carry-over ito ng nakaraang administrasyon?

Ang dami ninyo pong sinabi na mga sustainability, economic feasibility, *et cetera*. Iyan po iyong basic, pero gusto nating malaman kung bakit at paano, ang mga naging batayan sa pagtukoy ng mga proyekto na i-include dito?

REP. MOMO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, tama nga na mailagay natin sa listahan ng core projects para mapasiguro natin ang implementation ng Mindanao Railway. And your question is, why is it included? In fact, it is a continuing project presented before in the previous administration, and one of those very important requirements is the technical readiness for implementation of the projects.

There is already a feasibility study, and mayroon nang engineering design, lahat iyan ay ready na. Low-hanging fruits nga itong tawag, so, siguro mapadali nating ma-implement once we can be assured lalo na kung maisama rito sa ating batas.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, does this include iyong mga consultations sa baba? Consultations about the projects, kung pumapayag ba ang taumbayan dito? Ano-ano at sino-sino ang maaapektohan? Initially, we have seen na walang infra on public housing kaya itinatanong namin. Kasi imposible naman na hindi tatamaan ang mga bahay-bahay dito sa mga infra projects or priority projects na tinukoy natin.

REP. MOMO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. In the preparation of feasibility study, one of the requirements is public consultation, and in our proposed Bill, kasama dito iyong promotion of public consultation and feedback mechanism on infrastructure investment

priorities and projects at the national and local levels. Requirement po talaga iyan.

Even in the formulation of a project, a feasibility study, detailed engineering, and consultation is a requirement.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. Tiyaakin na magkaroon ng public consultations always, lalong-lalo na sa usapin ng mga inihanay na priority projects.

Napansin po namin na wala sa core projects iyong public housing, although sa isang section, binabanggit ang production ng one million housing units annually. How come socialized housing is not listed as a priority?

Addressing the huge housing backlogs should be at the core of the government's infrastructure plan unless the government wants urban poor families to continue living under bridges, o di kaya kung saan-saan sila, kung saan sila itapon kung walang malinaw na programa, o infrastructure program, ang gobyerno rito.

REP. MOMO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, mass housing is one of our priorities in the 30-year infrastructure program and, in fact, we require that annually, there should be a minimum of 1,000,000 houses to be constructed.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, it was only mentioned sa Bill, but it is not a priority. Kasi pag titingnan mo po sa usapin ng pabahay, ang financial modality, sa tingin namin sa panukalang ito ay private sector-led ang framework, pero negosyong pabahay iyan. Baka ang maging resulta nito, sa halip na gawing public housing ang program para sa maralita, maging negosyo at pababayaran sa mga tao, and alam ninyo naman ang kondisyon ngayon ng mga tao, hindi makabayad lalo na sa usapin ng pampubliko o socialized housing na ginagawa natin.

REP. MOMO. In Section 10, on letter (c), it says, "Mobilize resources on private sector and national government and LGUs, including government financing institutions and private banks, to meet the housing needs and provide

at least one million housing units per year; improve housing affordability through appropriate subsidies; construct and improve social housing projects and resettlement areas that adhere to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction standards to ensure human, environmental, and ecological safety x x x," po. Nandito po sa Section 10 ng ating batas.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

Iyong Section 10 po ay halos mere mention and I was asking kung ang framework nito ay private sector-led pa rin, iyong one million housing program. Paano po natin ise-secure, na ang maging resulta ay makagawa ng public housing program para sa mga maralita since we are talking about core infra projects, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. MOMO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, while it is a privately-led investment, there are subsidies coming from the national government.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, maaari ninyo po bang isa-isahin kung ano iyong mga subsidies na iyon?

REP. MOMO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, I think this will be dissected more on the IRR. It will be provided in the IRR.

Well, in the Bill, it underlines pro-people policies. It will surely be detailed in the IRR.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, wala tayong listahan o rundown ngayon ng mga sinasabi ninyong subsidies that will be provided for.

REP. MOMO. The subsidies that the government usually provide are almost the same as those subsidies provided when a road is constructed and there are affected houses or along the national highways, as I have explained before. Subsidies such as free demolition, one is income loss, the other is the transfer of free mobilization or dislocation and inconvenience, among others, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, pero hindi po tayo nasasapatan na ilalagay lang sa IRR at hindi po as “core project” din iyong housing program. Iyon naman po ang tanong namin. And ang sinasabi nga natin, ang nakalagay lang sa inyo ay mere mention sa panukalang batas – ay mention ng magpo-provide ng one million, which is private sector-led pa at hindi pa nito mase-secure kasi, even now, ang DHSUD ang siyang gumagawa ng mga pabahay. Walang pondo ang NHA para sa mga pabahay na socialized – cost housing, at ang target ay iyong pinakamahihirap sa ating bansa, at sila po ang tinatamaan ng mga infra projects na ito. Kung iisa-isahin po natin ito – Laguna, Cebu, Panay Railway, Manila – malaki ang mawawala po sa mga kabahayan na tatamaan nito. Even MRT, mga road networks, Bohol Bypass, Cebu Expressway, *et cetera* – lahat po iyan.

REP. MOMO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. Even right now, when there are affected families, houses, structures along the proposed infra projects, there are two ways, either the implementing office – say for example, the Department of Public Works and Highways, should include in their allocation a portion of the funds to be downloaded to the NHA like, for example, what we have done in R-10, where about P500 million of the funds had been allocated to or downloaded to the NHA for them to construct socialized houses for those affected families or in the expansion of R-10.

Laging kasama sa programa at sa pondo ng mga ahensiya ng gobyerno na nag-implement ng mga proyekto nito.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, you are saying the DPWH funds. So, it would mean this is different from the DHSUD o meron pang mga housing na iba ang DPWH fund? Tama ba ang pagkaunawa ko, that there is a fund for housing even in the DPWH?

REP. MOMO. Those affected only, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Those affected.

REP. MOMO. Those affected only by their projects.

REP. BROSAS. So, bukod po sa iba pang mga housing programs na meron, halimbawa, iyong DHSUD, meron silang different, it is apart from the budget sa DPWH which is allotted para roon sa mga tatamaan ng mga priority projects na ito, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. MOMO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, yes. The Department of Public Works and Highways has its own budget that will accommodate those affected by their projects. But the DHSUD also, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development has their social housing projects also. I think they have their funds for the construction of socialized housing.

REP. BROSAS. And so, Mme. Speaker, you are saying of – nagkaroon na po ng mga – kasi kanina sinabi ninyo iyong feasibility studies, *et cetera* ganyan, para po diyan sa ano. And how much po iyong ipo-provide ng DPWH na funds para sa ...

REP. MOMO. Well, it all depends sa ...

REP. BROSAS. At least iyong percentage, ano po.

REP. MOMO. I cannot be sure of the percentage, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, but in the feasibility study as well as in this detailed engineering and on the surveys, right-of-way action plan of the Department of Public Works and Highways, they can already identify how many are affected and, of course, they can always include that in their budget for that particular project.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. Ibig sabihin alam na natin iyong proyekto pero iyong para sa pondo, para sa housing, para sa mga madi-displace, hindi natin alam. So, I was expecting na meron tayo somehow, kahit papaano, at the fingertips ng ating Sponsor, malaman kung magkano kahit percentage noong

mangyayari na housing projects for these particular priority projects.

Will it be in the right-of-way kukunin, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. MOMO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. The funds will be taken from the road right-of-way allocations.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker...

REP. MOMO. Again, if you say it is on the percent, I got it from the previous, probably it is 10 to 15 percent of the total budget allocation.

REP. BROSAS. Fifteen? 15 percent? One-five?

REP. MOMO. Ten to 15 percent, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Ten? Okay. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, 10 to 15 percent. Pero alam ninyo po iyong right-of-way, palagi ko rin iyang kinukuwestiyon at every budget hearing kasi talagang ang tanong po namin paano nagagamit and there are reasons na nare-report sa amin na nauubos iyong right-of-way pero hindi nga nagagawa iyong proyekto. Kaya malaking problema rin sa atin itong usapin ng right-of-way or there may be funds in the DPWH pero iyon nga, babalik ako roon sa tanong ko na how will they secure na magkaroon talaga ng housing ang mga maralita kapag sila ay dinispleys ng mga ganitong mga proyekto?

REP. MOMO. If you are referring to those who are affected, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, of the projects that are listed in Article 12, I am very sure that there are sufficient funds allocated in each project to settle all road right-of-way claims.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. Sana po ma-assure talaga tayo ng ating good Sponsor about this kasi alam naman po ninyo, isa iyan sa mga advocacy natin, iyong housing, para sa ating mga maralita.

Anyway, I would not belabor the point. I will be going to my next question, which is, the Bill states that the budget for the priority infrastructure projects will be 5 percent of the annual GDP. Is this separate from the appropriations per department in the GAA?

REP. MOMO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. Not less than 5 percent of the GDP is all allocated for infrastructure projects.

REP. BROSAS. Anyway, Mme. Speaker, G. Sponsor, will the good Sponsor admit that the nature of jobs created in infrastructure projects are temporary and generally low paying? Ano ba ang average employment output ng isang infra project?

REP. MOMO. Well, usually, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, it is 30 percent of the total allocation. It is allocated for salaries and wages of those who are involved in the construction.

REP. BROSAS. Pero temporary lang talaga ito, hindi ito pangmatagalan?

REP. MOMO. Totoo iyan, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, this is project-based. That means kapag natapos iyong proyekto, wala na rin iyong trabaho nila. But again, if there are a lot of investments, there are big investments like for example the 5 percent of the GDP, malaki rin ho ang ma-generate nating labor.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, G. Sponsor, magkano po iyong average wages sa infrastructure sector?

REP. MOMO. Well, right now, unskilled labor is six to P700, I think, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Six ...

REP. MOMO. That is the practice in the construction industry.

REP. BROSAS. Iyon po ang, Mme. Speaker, G. Sponsor, skilled? Skilled na iyon kapag P600?

REP. MOMO. Unskilled.

REP. BROSAS. So, unskilled, ito po iyong mga sa construction, ano?

REP. MOMO. Pure labor po, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. BROSAS. Unskilled at tsaka ano — so, Mme. Speaker, G. Sponsor, temporary lang talaga iyong trabaho. Pangmatagalan ang gusto natin na nabibigyan talaga ng security of tenure ang ating mga manggagawa. So, kung 30 percent, ibig sabihin — tapos mababa iyong P570 nga iyong ating minimum wage dito sa — well, nag-iiba-iba po ba iyan, depende rin. So, kung magkano ang minimum wage doon sa region ay ganoon din ang isusuweldo para sa mga worker ng mga priority project na ito?

REP. MOMO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, the labor, the laborer — sorry, pure labor, I think, it will be based on the minimum wage but for skilled workers, it all depends on what kind of skills they possess.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Mme. Speaker, G. Sponsor, kaya ko po itinatanong iyong mga detalye na ito kasi gusto nating malaman kung ano ang iaambag sa ating ekonomiya ng ganitong mga malalaking proyekto, tapos kung makapagbibigay ng trabaho, ilang porysento rin lang naman, tapos low-paying pa iyong ating mga manggagawa o magtatrabaho rito. In effect, Mme. Speaker, G. Sponsor, gusto naman natin kahit papaano, kung magkakaroon ng mga priority project na ito, huwag naman at kawawa iyong ating mga manggagawa.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, iyon naman iyong ilan sa mga tanong po natin sa usapin nitong 30 years that will cover five administrations. Again, Mme. Speaker, G. Sponsor, ito pong mga massive infrastructure spending na ito, sa tingin po namin, hindi ito ang kailangan ng ating mga mamayan ngayon. Kailangan po nating magkaroon ng national industrialization at tunay po na reporma para sa lupa bago po tayo mag-usap ng mga structure na katulad nito para nang sa ganoon nagsisilbi po ito sa karamihan ng taumbayan natin.

So, we think itong Build Better More Program sa ilalim ng Marcos Jr. administration ay hindi po ito ang sagot or tugon sa mga mahihirap nating mga mamamayan. Kung gusto talaga natin ng meaningful and transformative changes, we really need to do something about our economy right now, lalong-lalo po sa kalagayan ng ating mga manggagawa na maliit ang sahod at hindi talaga tumataas hanggang ngayon. Of course, ang kanilang seguridad para sa trabaho, at binanggit ko po kanina ang usapin ng housing. Kaya po kung magtataguyod tayo ng plano, national infrastructure program, sa esensiya po magandang pakinggan pero kapagka ginagawa na natin sa baba, iyon na iyong problema. Doon nagkakaroon ng mga massive corruption, massive displacement, at massive din ang mangyayari sa ating mga mamamayan.

Kung kaya, Mme. Speaker, G. Sponsor, allow me to say my piece on this, na we are opposing this measure. We thank you very much, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, sa pagsagot po sa ilang mga katanungan ko.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. MOMO. Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. ZAMORA (Y.M.). Mme. Speaker, before we proceed, may we acknowledge the presence of the guest of the Hon. Salvador Pleyto, Ms. Carolyn Pleyto-Feliciano.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villar).
To the guest of the Hon. Salvador Pleyto,
welcome to the House of Representatives.
(Applause)

Majority Leader.

REP. ZAMORA (Y.M.). Also, Mme. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the honorable Atty. Gerville “Jinky Bitrics” Luistro. These are the barangay health workers from San Luis, Batangas, namely: BHW President Raceli M. Portugal, Josephine P. Marco, Jocelyn M. Andal, Mildred A. De Gracia, Teresita D. Belino, Lorelee A. Magbanua, Marife D.

Mirano, Melinda A. De Castro, Florentina Carmen, Carina Ripalda, Jeneffer Carandang, Juvelyn Ducay, Myla Bercasio, Bibiana A. Cabello, Susana Ellero, Celestina M. Campos, Nora S. Dela Luna, Myrene Nagal, Hilda Bocayes, Nerisalina De Villa, Emma D. Yuzon, Rhodora Carurucan, Thelma Mercado, Merriam Matira, Esperanza Blanco, Edioso Dela Luna; as well as the following barangay nutrition scholars: Rosalyn Valderama, Nancy Atienza, Rosalie Padilla, Maria Dye Salut, Erma Opina, Reshelle Aronica, and Majie Casilao.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villar). To the guests (*Applause*) of Atty. Gerville “Jinky Bitrics” Luistro, welcome po to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Raoul Manuel of the KABATAAN Party-List for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villar). The Hon. Raoul Manuel is now recognized for his interpellation.

REP. MANUEL. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Would the good Sponsor yield to questions from this Representation?

REP. MOMO. My pleasure, Mme. Speaker.

REP. MANUEL. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Una po, Mme. Speaker, gusto nating i-point out iyong isa sa mga provision nitong panukalang batas, Section 6(d), lines 15 to 18. Ito po kasi ay nag-a-articulate ng papel ng pamahalan alongside the private sector pagdating sa transport and logistics infrastructure. Nabanggit po dito, Mme. Speaker, na ang magiging papel na lamang ng gobyerno ay policy formulation, planning, safety and environmental regulations, supervision, and monitoring of projects. Pero ang magiging direct provider na ng transport services, in general, ay iyong private sector.

Hindi po tayo kumbinsido dito, Mme. Speaker, dahil supposedly naman nandiyan iyong pamahalaan. I believe sa kahit saang

bansa man, itinayo ng mamamayan ang kanilang mga pamahalaan para tiyakin na meron pong entity na magpo-provide ng mga social service at ang transportation ay isang napakahalagang social service. Damang-dama natin iyan, lalo po sa ating lahat na dito nakabase iyong ating mga opisina sa Metro Manila, at kahit pumunta din po tayo sa iba’t ibang bahagi pa ng bansa, sa usaping paano natin pagbubutihin iyong ating public transportation systems.

Pero kung sa framework pa lang po, Mme. Speaker, na para bang hands off na or nagpapaubaya na iyong gobyerno, it would seriously hinder iyong paano ba talaga natin mapo-provide iyong accessible transport services.

REP. MOMO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, if you look into the core list in Article 12, these are mega projects. They are big-ticket projects, that government funds alone could not fund these all. In fact, according to the studies, the 30-year program needs about P130 trillion. So, there is really a need for private participation in terms of financing, as well as in the implementation of these projects.

Hindi ho talaga natin makakayang pondohan lahat ito dahil may mga maliliit pa na project, iyong mga lugar natin na nangangailangan ng maliliit na projects. Itong nakalista rito are the big-ticket projects that if we total these all, halos aabot ito ng P130 trillion for 30 years. So, kailangan ho natin ng private participation and all other local funding avenues na puwedeng magamit natin dito.

REP. MANUEL. Yes, Mme. Speaker. Sa atin din naman, hindi natin iminumungkahi na totally tanggalin iyong private sector, na ultimately wala siyang espasyo. Ang pinupunto lang natin, Mme. Speaker, sa phrasing kasi nitong Section na ito, generally, ang pagpo-provide ng ating mga transport service will be assigned to the private sector na.

For example, Mme. Speaker, sa ngayon pa nga lang, noong naging usapin kung paano ba natin imo-modernize iyong ating mga jeepney e marami na tayong mga jeepney

driver na umaalma. And, given na ang time frame nitong panukalang-batas ay 30 years, better po talaga, Mme. Speaker, sa pagtingin natin na while nandiyan iyong private sector, hindi dapat bitawan ng gobyerno iyong kanyang papel. Hindi lang sapat na hanggang planning, policy formulation or supervision kasi nga nandiyan tayo. Gusto natin na kung positive tayo or hopeful tayo, time will come, sa loob ng 30-year time span na iyan, mag-improve naman kahit paano, na ginagawa ng gobyerno iyong kanyang trabaho sa pag-provide ng ganitong social service kesa iyong ganoong pagpapaubaya na iyon ang mangyayari, Mme. Speaker.

REP. MOMO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, in the modalities of implementation, actually, may leeway naman. Iyong mga project na nonfinancially viable but economically feasible, these will be funded by our national government. Pero iyong mga financially viable and economically feasible, these will be undertaken through PPP, private investments, and so on and so forth. Marami ho, there are about five modalities included in this particular Bill na puwede nating gamitin in the implementation of projects.

REP. MANUEL. Okay. Related point, Mme. Speaker, kasi kanina we were talking about the transport and the logistics infrastructure. Ang isang bahagi rin po nitong panukalang-batas ay ICT infrastructure. Nabanggit din po dito, Mme. Speaker, nasa Section 9(h), lines 5 to 8, that the government will avoid direct investment in network infrastructure and operations that would crowd out private investments in commercially viable areas. Sa pagkakaunawa natin doon, Mme. Speaker, kapag ganoon, mismong gobyerno pa iyong magsha -shy away doon sa kanyang responsibility to ensure access, for example, to Internet services.

Kasama po diyari sana, Mme. Speaker, iyong free public Wi-Fi programs natin. Malapit din po ito sa atin dahil isa tayo sa mga principal author ng Free Public Wi-Fi Act, wherein gusto natin mas mapabuti ng gobyerno iyong capacity to provide such service. Pero parang nagda-diverge po mula

doon itong nilalaman na provisions on ICT infrastructure ng panukalang batas.

REP. MOMO. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, on the role of the implementing agency involved in the development of ICT, nakalagay naman dito na ang government will provide infrastructure to complement the national broadband as well as those investments coming from the private sectors. Dito ho, hindi lang naman on the economically viable projects, and if there are private sectors who are willing to implement or to invest on that particular project, the government will let those private sectors implement it. But, kapag wala ho, kapag walang mga interesado, that is the time when the government comes in.

REP. MANUEL. Yes. Kaya din po may emphasis tayo doon, Mme. Speaker, na hindi po tayo nasasapatan na mag-avoid iyong gobyerno, kasi dapat nga siya iyong nangunguna, ganyan. Siya po iyong nagiging precursor doon sa iba't ibang initiatives para sa Internet access. At meron din po itong connections sa ating national security, sa pag-protect din noong data ng ating mamamayan. Iba din talaga kapag tayo, kung meron tayong maayos na pamamalakad sa ating pamahalaan, isang reliable government na magpo-provide din ng reliable Internet access, then puwedeng saka na lang mag-support, o magkaroon din noong ganoong mga partnership with big private entities who would also want to provide Internet access. Puwede pong nandiyan sila, pero still, instead na mag-avoid, kung maaari nga gobyerno talaga, mayroon siyang major role, Mme. Speaker.

REP. MOMO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, kaya nga maraming modalities ang implementation noong projects. Mayroon tayong PPP, mayroon tayong national government ang mag-implement, mayroon tayong design and build—marami po. Kaya if there are private investors who are willing to invest, I would—this Bill encourages private investors to invest para iyong ating scarce resources magamit ho natin sa ibang necessary projects na walang interesadong private investors.

REP. MANUEL. Next point, Mme. Speaker, tungkol naman sa ating energy sources.

Noong nabasa po natin iyong panukalang batas, marami pong parts na nagbabanggit ng climate change, sa recognition na sa parating na mga dekada, hindi natin talaga puwedeng balewalain iyong impact ng climate change lalo na't iyong Pilipinas, isa siya sa mga pinakabulnerable na mga bansa sa magiging epekto ng climate change. For us to move forward and be true to our goals to address climate change, may implications po iyan sa energy sources natin. Kung meron po tayong isang energy source na gusto talagang i-develop, at meron naman po tayo niyan locally, ay iyong ating sources for renewable energy, Mme. Speaker.

Kaso po, sa wording noong ating panukalang batas hindi ko po maramdaman na binibigyan natin ng spotlight o meron talagang proactive na pamamaraan how to develop renewable energy. It seems na hindi siya itinuturing na isang priority, and it would be inconsistent doon sa ating pronouncements na gusto natin talagang tugunan ang climate change, Mme. Speaker.

REP. MOMO. Yes, Mr.—Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. In Section 7, letter (c), it says that the government will pursue development of natural gas industry, nuclear energy, as well as renewable energy such as hydropower, geothermal, wind, solar, and other clean energy technologies as power sources. Iyon ho ang nakalinya rito.

REP. MANUEL. Yes.

REP. MOMO. So, ibig sabihin talagang ine-encourage ho natin—encourage in the sense that we will even finance for the construction of those natural gas industries.

REP. MANUEL. Yes. Pertaining to that provision, Mme. Speaker, isa sa mga options iyong renewable energy. Well, realistically naman talaga, sa ating bansa, puwede tayong magkaroon ng iba't ibang sources. Meron tayong mix ng sources na gusto natin na reliable iyan at all times para sa lahat ng pangangailangan ng bansa. Pero dahil

nga maraming iba't ibang sources, gusto natin meron tayong i-prioritize doon for development dahil nga nire-recognize natin iyong climate change, and not all sources of energy are created equally. May iba't iba silang pamamaraan kung paano nakukuha or naha-harness iyong energy, paano din iyong waste, if ever, at iyong kanilang environmental impact. Kung meron pong safe na energy source, renewable energy po iyan, Mme. Speaker, without of course, eliminating the possibility of developing others. Kaya iyong hinahanap po natin, Mme. Speaker, paano sana mas ma-articulate ito, na meron tayong pag-prioritize sa renewable energy.

REP. MOMO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, again, in Section 7, letter (h), it says that the government will promote the deployment of clean, efficient, and smart energy technologies and the establishment of necessary infrastructure and regulatory support; and support new generation technology and projects that may be applicable in the country and provide for continuous development and construction of energy and climate-resilient transmission and distribution infrastructure.

Ibig sabihin lang dito, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, lahat ng klaseng smart technologies na available sa market ngayon ay kailangan din nating ma-adopt dito sa ating bansa.

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

REP. MANUEL. Okay. Mme. Speaker, on another topic, Section 12, on Core National Infrastructure Projects. May nabanggit po rito na mga road transport network, rail and other mass transport. Taking into consideration all these in the list Mme. Speaker, meron po ba tayong mapa na halimbawa kapag lahat ng ito ay na-fulfill o natapos na, saan-saan iyong mga road network na ito? How do they coordinate with each other? Also, kung sila ay imamapa rin sa kung ano iyong mga road network na meron tayo ngayon, meron po ba tayong ganoon sa ngayon, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. MOMO. Yes, Mme. Speaker. These projects listed herein are projects with FS already, feasibility study, and master plans on their own projects. Like, for example, on the project – big-ticket projects, kumpleto na po sila at some of these were even approved already by the NEDA Board. Nakalinya na po ito, ang problema na lamang ay iyong funding requirements. Kung mapakumpleto na po, dahil kung may master plan ka at may FS ka, and then mayroon kang detailed-engineering, kumpleto na po iyon.

REP. MANUEL. Yes. Na-point-out natin iyon, Mme. Speaker, dahil gusto natin na hindi maging anarchic iyong pagtatayo natin ng mga roads, railways at iba pa, na kung saan lang iyong merong maximum profitability, hindi doon tayo magtatayo. Gusto natin mas mapabuti iyong ating urban planning, Mme. Speaker. Kasi if you are to also learn from the experiences of other countries na kung sa usapin ng urban planning relatively nakaaabante sila – example po sa mga train systems nila, iyong mga train routes, hindi siya kapareho noong kung ano iyong dinadaan na rin ng mga major highways noon, for example, public vehicles, ganyan. Sa atin po kasi kapansin-pansin, Mme. Speaker, na iyong mga highway na dinadaan na rin ng mga jeep, ng mga public utility van, doon din merong train system sa halip na ibang ruta iyong pagdaanan ng mga rails natin. So, gusto lang natin ng ganoong assurance, Mme. Speaker, na efficient talaga at nako-cover natin iyong iba't ibang ruta para ma-achieve ng transport system natin iyong kanyang goal na ang pinapagalaw niya ay tao. Hindi siya car-centric na sistema, pero maximized iyong paggalaw ng tao, Mme. Speaker.

REP. MOMO. Well, yes, Mme. Speaker, tama ho, maganda iyong question at maganda – maganda iyong tanong. Actually, ang pag-develop natin ng mga – iyong mga proposed projects natin dito, ay kailangan nakasunod dito sa Section 6, letter (a), “Develop a national transport system with the following characteristics: efficient in facilitating mobility and connectivity,” that is one, “safe, secure, economical, accessible,

affordable, environmentally sustainable, user-oriented, reliable, convenient, integrated, cost-efficient, intermodal, and seamless.”

Ito po, nakaplano na po ito, it will interconnect. Many of these projects interconnect with each other para magiging seamless po ang travel natin.

REP. MANUEL. Okay. Mme. Speaker, tungkol naman sa listahan mismo ng mga proyekto. Tayo po siyempre, gusto natin may mga ipinatatayo tayo for the benefit of the people while, of course, not neglecting its impact on the environment, on our indigenous people, at iba pa. Kaso gusto lang din nating i-point out na dahil kasi kung maaaprubahan ito, magiging batas na siya, and it would crystallize our investment, and it can be a way of this Body in supporting projects na hanggang ngayon ay meron pa ring mga katanungan ang mga affected sectors. For example po, iyong kung saan ba talaga ipatatayo iyong Panay–Guimaras–Negros bridge? Well, ako taga-Panay ako, gusto ko may interconnectivity naman talaga, pero kung paano siya ipatatayo, question pa po iyon. Sunod, Mme. Speaker, iyong Aerotropolis na may maaapektuhang bahagi ng Manila Bay at iyong ating mga fisherfolk. At nabanggit din dito, Mme. Speaker, iyong Kaliwa Dam kaya i-echo ko din iyong naging tanong kanina. Paano ba natin na-vet iyong mga proyekto na maisasama rito kung given na may mga concerns pa iyong mga sectors on particular projects?

REP. MOMO. Well, Mme. Speaker, totoo iyan, meron pa ring mga problemang iba, pero in the process of the preparations of – kaya nga masyadong mahaba ang preparation ng isang malaking proyekto dahil ang number one talagang requirement is consultation with the stakeholders. So, kaya nga mahaba ang ginawa nating panahon to prepare a project, lalo na kapag malaki ang investment natin. Kailangan po talagang lahat ng mga problema at lahat ng mga concern ma-address natin ito. That is why iyong consultation, preparation of the projects, iyon ay kailangan mahaba rin ang panahon para at least ang lahat ng mga questions, at mga concern ma-address ng proyekto na iyan.

REP. MANUEL. Now, to my last few points, Mme. Speaker.

Kapag ito po ay naging batas na, hindi ba po iyong mga susunod na Kongreso ay puwede pa rin namang amyendahan ito? Would the good Sponsor confirm, Mme. Speaker?

REP. MOMO. Yes, of course. Lahat naman ng batas, Mme. Speaker, puwedeng amyendahan.

REP. MANUEL. With that, Mme. Speaker, it seems na hindi rin totally mafu-fulfill iyong goal ng panukalang batas na i-set kung ano iyong magiging infrastructure framework ng mga susunod na administrasyon dahil sa isang banda, e di kung iba na iyong naging priority ng susunod na admin, hindi puwede rin nilang palitan iyong mga magiging laman nito. Kaya, it seems na ano e, inasmuch as gusto natin na maging long-term iyong mga plano natin, pero baka rin naka-eencroach na tayo doon sa magiging decision-making ng mga susunod na administrasyon dahil tineyk on na natin iyong ganoong tasks sa ngayon. And puwede rin naman na may ibang approach iyong mga susunod na administrasyon o susunod na Kongreso. Iyong mga na-point po natin kanina na mga defects ng panukalang batas, e hindi puwedeng may iba silang maisip. Pero dahil sinet na natin ito, baka makalimita ito roon sa ano iyong kanilang magiging mga kapasiyahan din.

REP. MOMO. Totoo, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. In fact, in Section 13, hindi naman cast in stone iyong mga listings natin diyan, iyong core projects na iyan. This will be reviewed periodically by the NEDA, kung kailangan ho ma-update iyong – ang updating includes even the deletion of projects or improvement of projects. But, again, ang purpose talaga ng ating 30-year infra, if I can read the objectives:

To provide a long-term perspective for medium infrastructure projects which are generally capital intensive, takes several years to prepare, design, and implement with their impact and life extending at least two decades;

To rationalize and seamlessly interconnect our traditional medium-term and annual infrastructure program.

Kasi mayroon po tayong medium-term ngayon, traditional natin iyan, which is the basis of our annual infrastructure expenditures. At doon din, pumasok iyong – after that, ita-translate into a NEP and then magiging GAA iyon. Ito ngayon ang basis natin, itong 30-year program natin, iyong core list of projects natin ang magiging basis of the medium-term of the next administration.

REP. MANUEL. Okay.

With that, Mme. Speaker, before I end this interpellation, bagama't meron din namang pagbanggit dito ng pagtatayo ng mga classrooms at iba pang mga pangangailangan ng mamamayan. Pero ang nakita din natin dito, ay, ano rin ba talaga iyong magiging papel ng pamahalaan sa mga infrastructure projects na ito at ano rin iyong magiging primary energy sources natin para hindi lamang sa mga proyektong ito, pero para rin sa pagpapagana mismo ng bansang ito?

Kaya with that, Mme. Speaker, nananatili iyong ilan sa mga concerns natin, pero pinasasalamatan natin iyong ating butihing Sponsor sa pagsagot sa ating mga tanong.

That would be all, Mme. Speaker. Thank you.

REP. MOMO. Salamat. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. ZAMORA (Y.M.). Mme. Speaker, may we move to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Minority Leader, Rep. Nonoy Libanan, namely: Ms. Rebecca Tiusongco, President, Girl Scout of the Philippines, Eastern Samar Council; and Judge Rowena Tan, RTC Judge of Pasay City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). To the guests of Honorable Libanan, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*
Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Rufus Rodriguez of the Second District of Cagayan de Oro City for his interpellation of the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). The Honorable Rodriguez is recognized to do his interpellation.

REP. ACHARON. Mme. Speaker, in his absence, may I move that we recognize another interpellator, the Hon. Paul Daza of the First District of Northern Samar.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). The Hon. Raul Daza is recognized.

REP. DAZA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, it is Paul Daza, but thank you for remembering our former Deputy Speaker Raul Daza. Will the Sponsor yield to just a few questions?

REP. MOMO. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. DAZA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. First, please allow me to commend my colleagues, the principal authors, and the Chairman of the Committee on Public Works. I think it is very good public policy to layout on paper long-term plans for large projects that will help the country in nation-building.

I think Representatives Momo, Cua, Pleyto, the principal authors did a lot of tedious work and, you know, I congratulate you for that.

But I wanted to ask, I pretty much agree with most of the provisions. I read the provisions on appropriations. I wanted to ask the Sponsor, should we pass this Bill and it becomes a law, what will make it stronger in terms of making sure that the projects identified will be appropriated? A colatilla to that is ideal, the DBM should already include it in the National Expenditure Program of the various agencies.

What are the thoughts of the Sponsor on the appropriations' concerns so we can make sure that this is funded over the next 10, 20, or 30 years?

REP. MOMO. Mme. Speaker, that is a very good question. What is good with this Bill is that once it becomes a law, it mandates that 5 percent of our GDP, not less than 5 percent of our GDP, will be allocated to infrastructure.

So, kailangan kapag magiging batas ito, hindi na bababa ng 5 percent of the GDP ang

ating allocation for infrastructure. I will give you an example. In 2019, that was the time when malaki po ang investment ng gobyerno natin, it was about P1.0499 trillion or about 5.4 percent of our GDP which is P19.4 trillion.

However, doon sa 2020 dahil ito ay pandemic, ang ating investment is only about 4.5 trillion—4.5 percent of our GDP which is P18.3 trillion at mababa nga ang ating investment, only about P0.8249 trillion. Ngayon, sa 2023, ang ating investment compared to GDP is about 5.5—5.1 percent of our GDP. Our GDP is 23.4; therefore, our total allocation for this year 2023 is P1.960 trillion.

Dito po, ang batas na ito, it ensures na hindi na ulit bababa ng 5 percent kasi according to studies of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, kailangan in developing countries like our country in Asia, the investment should be in the vicinity of 5.57 percent. In fact, China was then investing for many decades on their infrastructure not less than 5 percent of their GDP, malaki na po ang kanilang natapos ngayon, kung hindi sila ang pinakamodernong istraktura ngayon. Dito po, it ensures that the investment should not be less than 5 percent of our GDP.

REP. DAZA. I am happy to hear that, Mme. Speaker. I think that is good public policy and I am glad that the House is legislating that. And, just to clarify, that 5 percent, I assume, would include infra, and ICT—what are the other departments that would be covered by that 5 percent minimum?

REP. MOMO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, it covers everything, but of course, the major allocation, the majority of the allocation, surely, is on the hard infrastructure, and it puts a ceiling of not less than 5 percent. So, our government can go even beyond 5 percent, maybe 6 percent kung nasa policy iyan ng administration na taasan talaga ang investment natin on infrastructure.

REP. DAZA. So, ang pagkaintindi ko, Mme. Speaker, 5 percent, not just the projects identified here but all, within, let us say, the DPWH or school buildings sa DepEd, ...

REP. MOMO. School buildings and all hospitals...

REP. DAZA. ... irrigation, ...

REP. MOMO. Yes.

REP. DAZA. ... DA-related projects.

REP. MOMO. Yes, anything ...

REP. DAZA. Sama-sama po lahat iyon.

REP. MOMO. Sama-sama po.

REP. DAZA. Okay. Thank you so much. Thank you for the clarification. The last thing I wanted to ask the Sponsor is, the list is comprehensive. Again, I congratulate you for doing that.

This Representation has two suggestions for Samar Island, in particular Northern Samar. Would the Sponsor entertain, at the appropriate time, in the period of amendments, previously discussed projects with the Sponsor?

REP. MOMO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor. Yes, at the appropriate time, we are willing.

REP. DAZA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Other than manifesting my intent to coauthor, thank you for the time given to me by the honorable Sponsor.

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

REP. ACHARON. Mme. Speaker, there being no other Member who desires to interpellate on or speak against the measure, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). There is a motion to terminate the period of sponsorship and debate. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). There is a motion to open the period of amendments. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we proceed to consider the individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). There is a motion to proceed with the individual amendments. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Minority Leader, Rep. Nonoy Libanan, for his individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson-Meehan). The honorable Minority Leader, Nonoy Libanan, is recognized for his individual amendments.

INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENT

REP. LIBANAN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. At the outset, I would like to congratulate the principal Sponsor and the Committee on Public Works and Highways for the Bill, and this would answer the medium-term program of our country. However, marami pa pong kulang kaya kung puwede, magdadagdag ako ng mga amendments.

Will the Sponsor yield to some amendments, Mme. Speaker?

REP. MOMO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, yes.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Singson-Meehan relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza.

REP. LIBANAN. Mr. Speaker, when this Bill was deliberated in the Committee on Rules, I asked the question whether the Matnog, Sorsogon to Allen, Northern Samar Bridge was included in the Bill and the answer was "Yes." But when we verified the Bill, what was written was the Samar Leyte Expressway along the Pan-Philippine Highway corridor without the bridge who I agreed that we will proceed on this on the period of individual amendments.

So that, Mr. Speaker, on line 22, on "Transport and Logistics Infrastructure," I would like to propose that we amend it on page page 23, line 22, to include Matnog, Sorsogon to Allen, Northern Samar bridge.

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

REP. MOMO. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). *(Inaudible)* ... the sponsorship ...

REP. MOMO. Mr. Speaker, I am amenable with the proposal.

REP. LIBANAN. Yes.

REP. MOMO. However, on page 23, Your Honor, at line 17, major interisland bridges or links between Cavite, Batangas–Mindoro, Sorsogon–Samar is included, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Minority Leader.

REP. MOMO. Because Matnog is in Sorsogon–Samar gap.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Minority Leader.

REP. MOMO. Nakasama na, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, page 23, line 17.

REP. LIBANAN. Mr. Speaker, if that is the case, instead of Sorsogon–Samar, let us make this Matnog, Sorsogon to Allen, Northern Samar Bridge, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. MOMO. Although this is more flexible than that very specific project name, I would, yes, accept, but I think this is more flexible than the proposal.

REP. LIBANAN. Well, the Sponsor is an engineer and a former Undersecretary of the Public Works and Highways, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Mr. Sponsor.

REP. LIBANAN. Can we suspend first the deliberations on this?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). I am sorry?

REP. LIBANAN. One-minute suspension, Mr. Speaker.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move for the suspension of the proceedings.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). So, the motion is approved, the proceedings are suspended.

It was 4:42 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:45 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Minority Leader for his individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Minority Leader, please proceed.

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

We had a conversation with the honorable distinguished Sponsor and instead of "Sorsogon to Samar," let it be worded as SORSOGON TO NORTHERN SAMAR BRIDGE, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Mr. Sponsor.

REP. MOMO. I accept, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is acceptance, Minority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. On the part of the House, we join the manifestation of the Sponsor and move for its approval.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Thank you.

REP. LIBANAN. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the amendment is approved. Minority Leader.

REP. LIBANAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me proceed, Mr. Speaker, with another amendment. Ang sabi ko kanina, napakaganda ng Bill na ito, pero mukhang wala akong nabasa ba sa Northern Samar at saka Eastern Samar except the Samar Expressway along the Pan-Philippine Highway Corridor. Ibig sabihin, kung i-improve natin ito, ito pa rin iyong dinadaan natin at wala tayong naidagdag sa buong Samar, na siya ang third largest island in the Philippines. Kaya kung mamarapatin po ng ating distinguished Sponsor, alam ninyo iyong eastern coast of Eastern Samar, lahat po ng mga bayan ay nandoon. Iyon po ang population center na napaka-vulnerable sa global warming, sa tsunami, at sa super typhoons. Sa ngayon po, ang sitwasyon doon ay dalawang ano lang,

dalawang lanes lang, wala pang four lanes, habang ang buong bansa ay nagfo-four lanes na. Kaya, Mr. Speaker, kung mamarapatin ng ating Sponsor, I would propose that we build an inner parallel highway traversing from Laoang, Northern Samar to Lapinig, to Borongan, to Quinapondan, then to Basey, Western Samar, to San Juanico Bridge, Mr. Speaker, kung mamarapatin po ng ating Sponsor.

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

REP. MOMO. This being a national road with the feasibility study, master plan, and detailed engineering already available in the Department of Public Works and Highways, we accept, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ACHARON. On the part of the House, we join the manifestation of the Sponsor and move for its approval, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. LIBANAN. Marami pong salamat, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Majority Leader at sa ating distinguished Sponsor, marami pong salamat.

REP. MOMO. Yes, Sir.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Maraming, maraming salamat, Minority Leader Libanan. Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Lorenz Defensor for his individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The honorable Cong. Lorenz Defensor is recognized for his individual amendments, please.

REP. DEFENSOR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee as well as the Chairman, on page 23, under "Transport and Logistic Infrastructure," on line 14 thereof, item q of subparagraph (1), paragraph (a), Section 12, I move that we amend, item q, to add S after the word "Project" and remove the phrase "in Mindanao" after the word "Areas", such that item q will read as follows:

Road Network Development PROJECTS in Conflict-Affected Areas.

May I know if the Sponsor will accept?

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

REP. MOMO. Mr. Speaker, we accept.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Thank you.

What does the House say?

REP. ACHARON. On the part of the House, we join the manifestation of the Sponsor and move for its approval, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the amendment, as stated by Congressman Defensor, is approved.

Congressman Defensor, please.

REP. DEFENSOR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On page 30, under Section 16, paragraph (e), subparagraph (1), item (i), under "Social Infrastructure," on line 12, add the phrase AND OTHER EDUCATION-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SCHOOL, HEALTH AND SPORTS FACILITIES, TRAINING CENTERS, AS WELL AS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO LIBRARIES, TRAINING CENTERS, AND SCHOOL, HEALTH AND SPORTS FACILITIES, such that item (i) will read as follows:

Additional K-12 public classrooms AND OTHER EDUCATION-RELATED x x x FACILITIES, x x x INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO LIBRARIES, TRAINING CENTERS, AND SCHOOL, HEALTH AND

SPORTS FACILITIES to cover one hundred percent (100%) of children of school age; and.

Will the Sponsor accept?

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

REP. MOMO. Mr. Speaker, this is a very good amendment. We accept.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). You accept. So, what does the House say?

REP. ACHARON. On the part of the House, we join the manifestation of the Sponsor and move for its approval, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Thank you.

So, is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the motion is approved.

Congressman Defensor.

REP. DEFENSOR. I have no further individual amendments.

Thank you to the Sponsor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Thank you, Congressman Defensor.

Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Mark Go for his individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Cong. Mark Go of Baguio, Sir, you are recognized. Please proceed.

REP. GO (M.). Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just three amendments that we would like to propose.

On page 26, line 24, after line 24, if you – we can include BAGUIO CITY in one of the "Regional Airports," Mr. Chair – Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. MOMO. If Baguio is a regional airport, then we accept, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Do you accept?

REP. MOMO. We accept.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Yes, very good.

REP. GO (M.). Thank you.

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

REP. ACHARON. On the part of the House, we join the manifestation of conformity to the amendment by the Sponsor and move for its approval, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the same is approved.
Congressman Go.

REP. GO (M.). On page 24, line – after line 16, may we propose that we include the BAGUIO-LA TRINIDAD TRANSPORT SYSTEM.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Mr. Sponsor, please. What do you say?

REP. MOMO. If there is – I do not know if there are feasibility studies conducted already with this. If there is, then we accept, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GO (M.). Mr. Chair – Mr. Speaker, it should be under – I am sorry, it should be under the “Urban commuter rail systems.” So, instead of on line 16, it should be on – after line 24, Mr. Chair – Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Mr. Sponsor, as corrected.

REP. MOMO. We accept, Mr. Speaker. We accept.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Accept.

What does the House say?

REP. ACHARON. On the part of the House, we join the manifestation and move for its approval, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, so it is approved.

Congressman Go, please.

REP. GO (M.). Yes, that is all. That is all that I have, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). We thank you, Gentleman from Baguio. Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Rep. Paul Daza for his individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The Gentleman from Samar, Rep. Paul Daza, Congressman, you are recognized, Sir.

REP. DAZA. Thank you, Speaker.

May I interpose the following amendments to Section 12 (a) (1), page 22, to include the following as priority infrastructure projects:

First, an ongoing project that had already been surveyed and all of the national requirements had been done, titled SAN ISIDRO LOPE DE VEGA TO SILVINO LOBOS ROAD, NORTHERN SAMAR.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Mr. Sponsor, what do you say?

REP. MOMO. Mr. Speaker, we have no objections. We accept because we know that this also has already an FS and master plan.

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

REP. ACHARON. We join the manifestation, Mr. Speaker, and move for its approval.

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

REP. DAZA. Mr. Speaker, the second one, in the same Section 12 (a) (1), page 22, SAN ISIDRO BYPASS ROAD, SAN ISIDRO, NORTHERN SAMAR.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Mr. Sponsor, what do you say?

REP. MOMO. Mr. Speaker, while this is a good amendment, but I think this is already included in line 14, page 23, as amended, "Road Network Development Project in Conflict-Affected Areas x x x" because Samar is a conflict-affected area, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Congressman Daza.

REP. DAZA. For clarification, Mr. Speaker, I think line 14, page 23, ...

REP. MOMO. Yes, page 23.

REP. DAZA. ... 22, ...

REP. MOMO. Twenty-three.

REP. DAZA. ... 2-3, yes, page 23, "(q)".

REP. MOMO. ... "(q), I am sorry, 14, letter (q), line 14, page 23.

REP. DAZA. Page 23, right?

REP. MOMO. Yes.

REP. DAZA. Yes, it limits — "Road Network Development Project", it says, "x x x in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao".

REP. MOMO. No, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, it was already amended — "in Mindanao" was already removed, as proposed by Honorable ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Defensor.

REP. MOMO. Defensor.

REP. DAZA. Okay, that has been removed.

My proposal, Mr. Speaker, it does not necessarily depend on conflict, but it is a bypass road of the Maharlika Highway that has been a problematic area. I hope that the Sponsor would accept that proposal because it is a major project that will help the national highway in this particular area and I do not want to restrict it because in the future, it may not be a conflict-affected area.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Mr. Sponsor.

REP. MOMO. Mr. Speaker, if there is a survey already on this, I would accept if there is already a survey and probably, there is already an FS being conducted. There should be an FS because this is a 17-kilometer road.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). So, there is an acceptance. What does the House say?

REP. ACHARON. On the part of the House, we join the manifestation of the Sponsor and move for its approval, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DAZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Congressman Daza, proceed.

REP. DAZA. That is it for me.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). We thank you, Sir.
Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, there being no other individual amendments, I move that we terminate the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion for the termination of the

period of amendments. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the motion is approved. The period of amendments is terminated.
Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Second Reading House Bill No. 7767 – rather, I stand corrected, Mr. Speaker, House Bill No. 8078.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Thank you, Majority Leader.

So, as it has been put into a motion, there is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8078 on Second Reading. All those who are in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). All those who do not favor, say *Nay*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8078, AS AMENDED ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The *ayes* have it; House Bill 8078 *(Applause)* is hereby approved on Second Reading, as amended.

We thank you, Mr. Sponsor.
Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7767 *Continuation*

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7767 contained in Committee Report 478 as reported out by the Committees on Climate Change, Appropriations, and Ways and Means.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Is there any objection? *(Silence)*

The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General is hereby directed to read only the title of the measure.

Please proceed.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7767, entitled: AN ACT ADOPTING INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE HOLISTIC AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AND RELATED ECOSYSTEMS AND THE RESOURCES THEREIN FROM RIDGE-TO REEF, ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT ACTION PLAN, OTHER SUPPORTING MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of this Bill is that this is still in the period of sponsorship and debate. For this purpose, may I move to recognize the Sponsor and the Committee Chair on Climate Change, the honorable Rep. Edgar Chatto of Bohol, for his sponsorship.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The hardworking Chairman from Bohol is hereby recognized, Cong. Edgar Chatto. Please, Sir. Please proceed.

REP. CHATTO. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

For the information of the honorable Chair, we already sponsored it in the last session, so we are ready for interpellations, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Majority Leader. *(Laughter)*

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ACHARON. May we ask for a one minute suspension, Mr. Speaker.

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

It was 5:02 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:03 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate on or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
There is a motion to close the sponsorship or the period of interpellation and debate?

REP. ACHARON. Sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
Sponsorship and debate, as corrected. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the motion is approved.
Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments. There being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we terminate the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none, the motion is approved.
Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Second Reading House Bill No. 7767.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 7767 on Second Reading.
All those in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
All those not in favor, say *Nay*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7767 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
The *ayes* have it, the motion is approved.
Congratulations! House Bill 7767 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
Congratulations, Chair Chatto!
Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7986 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, under the Calendar of Business for the Day I move that we consider House Bill No. 7986 contained under Committee Report No. 506 as reported out by the Committee on Revision of Laws.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is hereby directed to read only the title of measure.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7986, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 1 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS THE "PROMULGATION OF THE SOLEMN DECLARATION OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE."

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

* Copies of the measure were distributed to the Members earlier. Section 53, Rule X of the Provisional 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," and Section 67 of the same provides that "Resolutions shall be subject to the same procedure as bills x x x"

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, let us proceed.

Majority Leader.

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, may I respectfully move that we recognize the Hon. Lani Mercado-Revilla to sponsor the measure, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The Congressperson from Cavite, Cong. Revilla, Lani is recognized. Please proceed, Ma'am.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. MERCADO-REVILLA

REP. MERCADO-REVILLA. Mr. Speaker, fellow Members of this august Chamber, a blessed historic day to all. I stand before you today on behalf of my constituents in the province of Cavite on a personal and collective privilege as Representative of the Lone District of Bacoor City, praying for your assent to House Bill No. 7986, AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 1 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS THE "PROMULGATION OF THE SOLEMN DECLARATION OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE," as per Committee Report No. 506 of the Committee on Revision of Laws.

Sa darating na June 12, 2023, ating ipagdiriwang ang ika-125 Anibersaryo ng ating Kasarinlan na nagsilang sa pinakaunang Republika sa Asya. Isang sagradong selebrasyon na ang pinuhunan ay dugo, sakripisyo at buhay ng mga bayaning rebolusyonaryong Pilipino. Ito ay sama-sama nating gugunitain at pagyayamanin pa.

Ayon kay Dr. Rene Escalante, dating Tagapangulo ng National Historical Commission of the Philippines, may apat na mahahalagang pangyayaring naganap noong ika-12 ng Hunyo 1898.

Ang una ay kinilala si Heneral Emilio Aguinaldo bilang Pangulo ng bagong tatag

na pamahalaan ng Pilipinas. Ikalawa ay ang pagwagayway sa ating bandila sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon. Ikatlo, pinatugtog ang martsa *Nacional Filipina* na sa kaluluna'y naging Pambansang Awit ng Pilipinas. At huli ngunit pinakamahalaga, ay ang pagdeklara ng ating kalayaan at kasarinlan mula sa España. Binasa ang deklarasyong isinulat ni G. Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista sa bahay ng Aguinaldo sa Kawit, Cavite, subalit lingid sa kaalaman ng marami ay hindi pinirmahan ni Pangulong Emilio Aguinaldo ang kasulatan na iyon noong June 12, 1898 ayon mismo sa inapo ni Aguinaldo na si dating Prime Minister Kagalang-galang Cesar Enrique Aguinaldo Virata. Sa umaga ng araw ng deklarasyon ng ating kasarinlan ay nagkaroon ng masinsinang usapan ang Pangulong Aguinaldo at G. Apolinario Mabini na huwag lagdaan ang proklamasyong isinulat ni Rianzares Bautista dahil kailangang nakabatay ang bagong tatag nang Republika sa "civil support and participation" at walang panghihimasok ng ibang bansa.

Ang nagsilbing sentro de gobyerno ni Pangulong Aguinaldo ay ang Bahay na Tisa sa bayan ng Bacoor dahil kaibigan ni Pangulong Aguinaldo sina Don Juan at Doña Candida Cuenca, kaya naman ang Bahay na Tisa ay maaaring maituring na "Unang Malacañang." Sa harap ng Pangulong Aguinaldo, dito naganap ang panunumpa ng mga halal na lider sa mga napalayang mga bayan. Patunay dito, isang historical marker ang ikinabit sa Bahay na Tisa taong 1956 ng Philippine Historical Committee.

Agosto uno 1898, nagpatawag ng pagpupulong sa Bacoor si Presidente Aguinaldo. Ito ang Bacoor Assembly na nabanggit sa Acta mismo bilang "isang pagtitipon" o "Malaking Kapisanan upang mapagpulangan o mapaglungan ng paglalathala at pagtatanyag ng kasarinlan ng Pilipinas." Ang Acta ng Kasarinlan sa araw ring yaon ay nilagdaan ng umabot sa 197 na mga Punong Bayan na kumatawan sa 10 probinsya at lugar sa Pilipinas, at sumunod pang lumagda rito ang mga delegado mula sa anim pang lalawigan, kaya sila ay umabot sa higit pa sa 200 na mga civic leaders na nagpatibay sa deklarasyon ng ating kasarinlan.

At noong ika-6 ng Agosto 1898 ay nagpatotoo sa Acta na ito ang Sekretaryo ng Interior na si Leandro Ibarra, sa bayan din ng Bacoor, at ito naman ay nilagdaan din ng Presidente Emilio Aguinaldo.

Ang kopya ng Acta na inilathala bilang circular at pirmado ni Presidente Aguinaldo ay ipinadala sa ibayong dagat para makuha ang pagkilala ng ibang bansa sa pagkatatag ng malayang Republika ng Pilipinas. Nagpadala din ng kopya nito sa Singapore para ilathala sa "Free Press."

Salibrong isinulat ni Dr. Emmanuel F. Calairo, kasalukuyang Tagapangulo ng ating National Historical Commission of the Philippines, na kasalukuyang bisita natin ngayong araw na ito, na pinamagatang *PROCLAMATION PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE: The Truth About August 1, 1898 Bacoor Assembly*, kanyang inilahad nito:

"One of the most important documents of the revolution was a product of this uncertain period. More than 200 elected town heads travelled from their provinces and arrived in Cavite in the last days of July, and they were assembled in Bacoor for the mass confirmation and oath-taking ceremonies before President Aguinaldo. The latter attended to them while he was deciding on the problem of Manila. The formal confirmation and swearing in took place on August 1. But this was only the routinary part of the assembly's agenda. The ensuing statement of the assembly of town heads says that they had been summoned to discuss a solemn declaration of Filipino independence, which they did."

Ang ratipikasyon ng dokumentong nilagdaan ni Pangulong Aguinaldo ang siyang naging first official Act ng Malolos Congress noong September 29, 1898.

Taong 2017, sa ika-119 na anibersaryo ng Bacoor Assembly, sa pangunguna ng lokal na pamahalaan ng lungsod ng Bacoor, sa kabutihang-loob ng pamilya Cuenca, kanilang binuksan ang Bahay na Tisa para sa reenactment ng Bacoor Assembly of August 1, 1898. Mula noon, naging annual na ang

pagdiriwang ng Bacoor Assembly. Naglagay na ang National Historical Commission of the Philippines ng isang historical marker sa may Plaza de Padre Mariano Gomez bilang recognition sa Agosto Uno Bacoor Assembly. Pangalawa, ating pinasinayaan ang librong *Proclamation: Philippine Independence*. Ginawa na rin ang Pambansa Museo ang Bahay na Tisa bilang isang "Important Cultural Property" noong Marso 2022 sa pagsusumikap na rin ng dating Deputy Speaker Strike B. Revilla.

Mr. Speaker, this August 1, 2023 is the 125th Anniversary of the Bacoor Assembly. I would like to emphasize and reiterate that the main objective of this proposed measure is to give due and legislated importance to this historical event and not to amend nor repeal Republic Act No. 4166 where June 12 was designated as Philippine Independence Day.

Allow me to borrow the words of Professor Ambeth Ocampo: "Philippine history is not about random facts, but an engaging narrative that teaches students rather how to gather and use facts for chronology, causation, critical thinking, and reflection."

In fine, House Bill No. 7986 or AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 1 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS THE "PROMULGATION OF THE SOLEMN DECLARATION OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE" is borne out of our moral and solemn obligation, not just to Bacooreños and Caviteños but also to instill into the minds and hearts of our people the importance of August 1, 1898. In so doing, we present a more complete and clearer picture of the actual turn of events in our historic struggle to attain an independent Philippines.

Therefore, I earnestly pray for the prompt approval of this measure.

Maraming salamat po. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Maraming salamat also Cong. Lani Revilla and happy 125 years. Thank you.

Majority Leader.

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate on or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

Majority Leader.

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments. There being no committee amendments or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

Majority Leader.

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 7986.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 7986.

All those in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). All those not in favor, say *Nay*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7986 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 7986 (*Applause*) is hereby approved on Second Reading.

Congratulations, Cong. Lani Mercado-Revilla.
Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, may I move for one-minute suspension.

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

The session is suspended.

It was 5:17 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:20 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8162 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8162 contained under Committee Report No. 545 as reported out by the Special Committee on Land Use and the Committee on Appropriations.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8162, entitled: AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL LAND USE POLICY, PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL LAND USE COMMISSION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to open the period of sponsorship and debate. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the motion is approved. Please proceed.

Majority Leader.

* Copies of the measure were distributed to the Members earlier. Section 53, Rule X of the Provisional 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," and Section 67 of the same provides that "Resolutions shall be subject to the same procedure as bills x x x"

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Representative Matugas to sponsor the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The Gentleman from Surigao, Congressman Matugas, is hereby recognized. Please proceed, Sir.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. MATUGAS

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

Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, it is my honor to stand before you today to sponsor House Bill No. 8162, under Committee Report No. 545, entitled: AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL LAND USE POLICY, PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL LAND USE COMMISSION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

During his first State of the Nation Address, our President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos laid down 19 priority measures of his administration. The proposed NaLUA Bill, as it is called, which the Special Committee on Land Use is presenting before you today, is one of them. To quote the President himself, “This Bill will provide for a rational and holistic management and development of our country’s land and water resources; and hold owners accountable for making these lands productive and sustainable x x x.”

The importance of institutionalizing a land use policy is not subject to debate. We need a national land use policy. To quote the policy briefer of the German Institute for Development Evaluation, “Besides land registration, land use planning is a core instrument in the steering of local development trajectories and it helps to ensure the sustainable use of vital resources.” The importance of the NaLUA Bill is not lost on us, the Members of this august Chamber. Discussions on the NaLUA Bill started as early as the Eighth Congress. Versions of the Bill have been filed since the Thirteenth Congress and was transmitted to the Senate during the Fifteenth, Sixteenth, and Seventeenth Congresses.

It is this Representation’s hope that we can do the same before we can adjourn *sine die* in this First Regular Session of the Nineteenth Congress. This substitute Bill, which is before you today, is the result of several TWG meetings, spearheaded by our hardworking TWG Chair, Cong. Rosanna “Ria” Vergara, and the cooperation of all stakeholders who, through the assistance of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office, agreed to come together, discuss, and thresh out their seemingly conflicting provisions on salient provisions of the Bill and come up with the version that is acceptable to all, bearing in mind the primordial objective of coming up with a version that will promote sustainable, socioeconomic development, and ecological protection.

The substitute Bill provides for the following, among others: the creation of the National Land Use Commission under the Office of the President, which shall be headed by a Commissioner with a rank of Cabinet Secretary; the NLUC will be the highest policy-making body on land use and will coordinate efforts toward the development of integrated land use plans at all levels of government and monitor their implementation; the framework for land use planning including priorities in land use allocation and planning, basic land use planning considerations, categories of land uses, and the approach to land use and physical framework planning; the creation of a regional, provincial, and city/municipal land use policy council, including the procedures for adoption, approval, and review of physical framework plans; and the establishment of a national base mapping program.

The Bill also highlights special areas of concern and provides for guidelines in the planning of said areas, namely, the protection of forest lands, watersheds, coastal zones, settlements, NIPAS areas, and agricultural lands, and the conversion of which shall now be under the exclusive authority of the Department of Agrarian Reform; lands for energy resource exploration, development, production, utilization, and distribution; industrial development areas and sites; land use for infrastructure development; and land for agro-industrial development.

Lastly, it provides for incentives and rewards to complying LGUs and sanctions and penalties for violations of the Act.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, our land is our country's most valuable resource. How we allocate its use will determine our country's future. Anchored on this Bill are food sufficiency and sustainability, the sustainable use of natural resources, our development plans, and protection of our most vulnerable sectors against the effects of environmental hazards.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, I urge this Chamber to pass the National Land Use Bill now.

Thank you very much and I am now open to any interpellations.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Daghang salamat, Congressman Matugas, who has majorly led the priority Bill.

Majority Leader.

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I will move forth to recognize Rep. Arlene Brosas of the GABRIELA Party-List to avail of the interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The GABRIELA Party-List's Rep. Arlene Brosas, you are recognized. Please proceed.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, although we lament that there is no physical quorum right now in this Plenary Hall for the discussion of this priority Bill of the President.

Mr. Speaker, (*Laughter*) I would like to ask how can we be like this? We are talking about the national framework on the National Land Use Bill and there is no physical quorum right now. Mr. Speaker, baka you could answer my question kasi iyon po iyong sinabi, priority bill ito. Therefore, dapat makinig sa atin at magkaroon ng ample discussion on the Bill itself that is the priority of the President.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Sponsor? Majority Leader. Majority Leader.

REP. ADIONG. Yes, Mr. Speaker. May I respectfully move that we recognize Deputy Majority Leader Defensor for his manifestation, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Congressman Defensor, Majority Leader, you are recognized. Please proceed.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. DEFENSOR

REP. DEFENSOR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is worth reiterating that we have adapted a progressive and hybrid session under our Rules. Currently, the Members can attend physically or be online as allowed by the Provisional Rules of the House. If the Members do not wish to avail of the privilege of being physically present, then we leave it up to their constituency, if their constituents will find that their representation in Congress is wanting. But as long as our Rules stand, the hybrid and the progressive hybrid sessions must be allowed, Mr. Speaker.

I urge the Sponsor to continue to defend this priority Bill and I respectfully request the members of the Minority, especially the Honorable Brosas, to allow the continuation of this Bill since her questions to be propounded will be answered appropriately by the Sponsor.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Thank you.

From the Minority, Cong. Arlene Brosas.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, although sinabi natin na mayroong Rules, pero hindi ba nakahihiya (*Laughter*) na wala rito iyong most of our Members when we are discussing a very important Bill?

Again, Mr. Speaker, iyong mga bata nga na nasa elementary, pumapasok na ngayon nang 100 percent. Why not itong Plenaryo na ito, pumasok na nang 100 percent, at physically present ang ating mga Representative? Nang sa ganoon, Mr.

Speaker, malaman natin na nagpapahalaga tayo sa bawat bill na ipinapasa natin dito. Di ba, Mr. Speaker? Importante na narito iyong ating mga Representative because these measures not only implicate the constituents in the districts, but also its national importance. Iyon nga iyong sabi natin, bilang Representative, hindi lang ng iyong distrito, kundi ng buong bayan, Mr. Speaker. But I will not belabor my point, Mr. Speaker, kasi sabi nga natin napakahalaga nitong measure na ito and I would like to point out specifically the provisions na kailangan po natin talagang pag-usapan at napapanahon na pag-usapan.

Mr. Speaker, I would yield to the Deputy Majority Leader's suggestion but anyway, for the record, I want it to be recorded na dapat for the next important measure, huwag naman ganito. Parang iyong taumbayan, they are looking up to us, tapos wala tayo rito at hindi tayo nagparticipate sa napakahalagang mga measure na ipinapasa. Kitang-kita naman, ang Body, kahit magbilang po tayo ngayon, ang Body quorum natin, wala talaga. Kung sa Zoom tayo, you will never know kung ano ang ginagawa nila sa Zoom, di ba? If they are still listening or not. Kaya, Mr. Speaker, I want it to be recorded na we are requesting, especially iyong Makabayan bloc, we are always here, na makita natin ang ating mga Representative in the Plenary Hall.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Thank you, GABRIELA Party-List Representative. Well noted.

Majority Leader.

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, may I respectfully request that the Lady from the GABRIELA Party-List reiterate her question to the proponent because I believe, the question was on the basis of the physical presence of each Member. I request that she reiterate her question so that our proponent can correspond to her accurately, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Please proceed.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maraming salamat po. Will the good Sponsor yield to a few questions? Hindi pala few, marami pala ito, Mr. Speaker. Because in the last Committee hearing, hindi niya po ako pinagsalita ng lahat ng provisions, so ngayon po, ito iyong opportunity para matanong ko iyong napakarami na mga agam-agam namin kaugnay dito sa National Land Use Bill na ito, Mr. Speaker. Will the good Sponsor yield to some questions?

REP. MATUGAS. Yes po, Congresswoman Arlene, gladly.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Chair. Maraming salamat, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to the good Sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, sa kasalukuyan po, during the technical working group discussions on this proposed National Land Use Bill, peasant groups have raised serious concerns on the impact of this measure on the utilization of lands for food production, agrarian reform, and other key socioeconomic purposes. Kaya nais po naming himayin iyong panukalang batas na ito kada probisyon para matukoy ang mga problematic na provision na lalong magpapalala ng kawalan ng lupa sa bansa ng ating mga magsasaka. Iyon po ang isa sa mga pinaka-concern namin, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, sa kasalukuyan, ang nilalaman ng National Land Use Act at ang karamihan sa mga probisyon nito ay nagbibigay daan para sa: first, aggressive development; second, mas matinding extraction ng mga likas na yaman; at third, ang pagpapalayas sa mga marginalized at maralita mula sa kanilang mga kasalukuyang tinitirikang lupain. Iyon po iyong tatlo sa mga kailangan pag-usapan at mga concern.

Now, ang scope po ay all lands and all-natural resources in the country, whether public, private, government-owned, or in possession of any person. Tama po ba, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor?

REP. MATUGAS. Tama po, Congresswoman Arlene.

REP. BROSAS. And, this will also include the creation of the National Land Use Commission or the NLUC under the Office of the President.

REP. MATUGAS. Tama po.

REP. BROSAS. Iyong Section 13 po ay "Approach to Land Use and Physical Framework Planning. x x x It shall then derive a land use plan or physical framework by matching, reconciling or integrating the demand for land with the supply of land in a holistic manner to optimize socioeconomic development and minimize the total impacts of the land use plan on watersheds and ecosystems." Ang tanong po, kaninong demand o interes ang tinutukoy rito? Kasi kung corporate demand ito, mauubos po ang lupa, Mr. Speaker. Nais naman ng Representasyon na ito ng isang National Land Use Bill, ngunit dapat tunay na tutugon sa kahingian ng mga batayang sektor at malayo sa conversion, demolition, at patuloy na paglawak ng infrastructure projects na hindi naman mamamayan ang nakikinabang. Hence, kaya po ako kanina nag-interpellate din sa usapin ng infrastructure priority projects kasi ito po iyong posisyon namin. Ang makinabang po dapat sa mga infrastructure project and even dito sa National Land Use Plan ay ang ating malawak na mamamayang Pilipino.

Iyon po, kaninong demand o interes ang tinutukoy rito?

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, ang demand po na tinutukoy rito sa ating batas sa land use is, sa buong tao po sa Pilipinas, iyon po iyong demand, kasi this particular Bill addresses the importance of protecting.

In fact, if you can look at the process, the section on the process approach to creating the framework of land use, the first step is to exclude areas that are very important under the protection land use. Like, for example, the agricultural lands, the mangrove areas, and the NIPAS areas, so unang-una pa ngang sinasabi sa batas, i-exclude na, iyon na iyong first process. Huwag mo nang i-allocate, except to exclude first para iyong maiwan, iyan po ang ia-allocate sa tamang usage ng land, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor. Maganda po ang sinabi ninyo na this is for the interest of all, so dapat talagang tingnan kung kaninong primary maglilingkod ito. And, gusto lang po naming sabihin na it should also promote genuine agrarian reform and national industrialization. Hindi po ba, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor?

REP. MATUGAS. I agree po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor.

But in the Bill itself, we would like it to be explicit. Sana po ay mailagay natin na this is for genuine agrarian reform. Iyong tunay po na repormang agraryo, hindi iyong land distribution sa ilan-ilan lang, kundi iyong tunay na may programa na agrarian reform iyong ating pinag-uusapan, and the national industrialization, of course, and not itong ngayon na framework natin na sa foreign investments tayo umaasa, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman Arlene, with due respect po, iyong sa land reform, mayroon po talagang batas na nagsasakop sa land reform. Wala po rito sa land use. Kasi if we make an analogy, ito pong Land Use Bill is actually para pong blueprint sa isang bahay. Bago tayo gagawa ng bahay, gagawa tayo ng blueprint. Dito iyong kuwarta; dito iyong CR. Hindi po nakasaad dito iyong details sa land reform. Nasa batas po ng Land Reform Act iyong CARP, and it is under the Department of Agrarian Reform, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, for pointing that out. Iyong sinasabi po na CARP extension, *et cetera*, sinabi ninyo naman na you agree with the genuine agrarian reform na kailangan natin and national industrialization.

Totoo po iyon. Maaaring wala iyong detalye riyan, pero we would like it to be put doon sa Bill sana na mayroong pag-mention, the mere mention of the genuine agrarian reform na specific at saka iyong usapin po ng national industrialization. But, of course, at the proper time, siguro maaari po naming i-suggest itong mga ito.

But anyway, for the second question, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, ito po ay may kaugnayan sa Section 18, the composition of the National Land Use Commission – Commissioner as Chair, Secretary of NEDA, tama po ba? Vice Chair, ex-officio members, NLUC pala as Chair, tama ba?

REP. MATUGAS. Tama po, Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman Arlene.

REP. BROSAS. Sec. of NEDA, Vice Chair, *ex officio members*, DENR, DHSUD, DA, DAR, DPWH, DILG, LGU, Leagues of Provinces, Cities and Municipalities, and NCIP. Ang napansin po namin dito, there were no sectoral representation from peasant, fisherfolk, environmentalists, indigenous people per se. May NCIP, pero that is a Commission and that is ahensiya po ng gobyerno, or even representatives from civil society organizations. So, why is there no sectoral representation or representation from civil society organization in the composition of the National Land Use Commission?

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, Iyong question mo regarding sa bakit walang mga representative, wala po rito sa NLUC. But, if you look at the Bill, nandoon po siya sa regional and the provincial level, which is for us naman, iyon naman ang importante, nandoon iyong detalye. Because the NLUC is the higher body that approves all the information from the city, municipality contained in CLUP, submitted to the provincial and submitted to the regional.

So, roon po iyong detalye, kung saan isasama iyong mga peasants, civil society sa paggawa po ng CLUP because the National Land Use Commission is actually a policy-making body. Hindi naman sila ang maggagawa ng detalye on making the layout for the land use. Actually, dito po sa ground, which is ang mga cities and municipalities.

So, roon po sa paggawa ng CLUP, I think you are familiar with the process, tinatawag po lahat. There is consultation with all sectors within a particular city and municipality. Doon po nagre-represent iyong grupo na iyon and then it will go up to the province level,

then to the regional, and then into the NLUC, National Land Use Commission.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, we do not agree na dapat doon lang sa CLUP inilalagay iyong mga representatives na sinabi natin on sectors kasi ginagawa rin naman natin iyan sa ibang batas. And, sa ibang batas, may provision nang ganoon. Even po sa usapin ng trust fund ng Coco Levy, isinama natin ang representation kahit konti nga lang e. Kahit maliit na porsiyento, nagsama tayo ng representation ng stakeholders. And at this point, ito pong mga inisa-isa natin, halimbawa sa peasant fisherfolk, environment representative, IP o di kaya mga CSOs – civil society organizations, mahalaga pong mayroon silang boses doon sa National Land Use Plan natin. Kaya hindi lang po ito usapin ng local, hindi ba? Kasi, oo, makapagsasalita nga sila sa local, pero what about doon sa National Land Use Plan? Walang boses iyong ating mga sectoral representatives diyan.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, I think they have enough opportunities kung saan nila mabigay iyong inputs nila coming from the city, to the province, and to the regional.

Hindi natin masasabi na wala talaga silang boses because the whole land use plan is actually created sa baba e. It is a bottom-up approach. Hindi naman puwede iyong NLUC, dito tayo sa taas, na tayo ang magsasabi na iyong lupa diyan sa isang barangay sa Cavite, huwag gawin, tapos tayo, hindi tayo taga-Cavite. Iyong nakaaalam, iyong nasa ground. So, I think tamang-tama lang po iyong opportunity nila to provide inputs down from the city and municipality up to the regional level.

And, I think from the regional level, wala na po, naayos na po iyon kasi they were given the opportunity to be heard. Maraming beses na po silang narinig. And then, aside from that, since this is a commission, as what we have experienced with other commissions, puwede naman po ang public because this is a government Commission. So, iyong public sector can still submit their opinions directly to the Commission. It does not mean na if they are not included, hindi na sila puwedeng

magsalita, like the Members of this august Chamber, the House of Representatives, each Congressman, each Representative can also present their opinions and their ideas to the Commission. Kaya nga siya isang buong Komisyon in order for them to decide all the data and the inputs na nakukuha nila from the ground, Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, alam ninyo po, ang nakalagay sa NLUC, they “shall issue procedural guidelines which shall guide the formulation and integration or harmonization of land use plans at all” x x x. Tapos sabi natin, iyong NLUC will create the National Physical Framework Plan. NPFP shall “describe existing land uses and to identify an integrating physical framework, including an overall vision, policies on social and economic development and environmental protection and supporting transportation and other infrastructure facilities, that will define future development.”

Kapag sinasabi po natin iyon, tapos wala tayong representative from civil society organization or nongovernment organization of farmers and fisherfolks, ano pong mangyayari? Kapag sinasabi po natin iyon, tapos wala tayong representative from civil society organization and nongovernment organization of indigenous people, ano pong mangyayari? So, wala rin—at sinasabi natin iyan, tapos wala tayong civil society organization or nongovernment organization of urban poor and representative din or civil society organization or NGO of environmental groups, and we are talking about vision, ay sino po iyong gusto nating ilagay dito sa NLUC, mga ahensiya lang ng gobyerno? Kaninong vision po ito?

Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, therein lies, iyong atin pong mungkahi na maglagay ng ating mga basic sectors, napaka-basic lang po noon, para iyong vision po nila ay makasama doon sa National Land Use Policy kasi we are talking of policy dito, hindi ba? We are talking of land use plan. Hindi sila kabahagi ng land use plan kapag sinasabi ninyo pong ganyan.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, let me point out lang, under Section 19, on the powers and function of NLUC,

under letter (L), isa sa mga power ng NLUC is to “call on any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the government, and/or private entities or — and organization for cooperation, support, and assistance in the performance of functions”.

Iyon po iyong sinasabi ko kanina na it does not mean na sila lang iyong member, excluded na po lahat ng mga grupo na may concern doon sa pag-establish ng National Land Use Framework natin.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Sa “Powers and Functions” po, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, Section 19, nakita ko naman iyong mga powers and functions niya, pero it will be better for us na i-provide talaga sa certain section. Kasi inilagay nga natin isa-isa iyong mga ahensiya e, bakit hindi natin ilagay iyong mga representatives ng sectors para maging bahagi sila ng National Land Use Plan, which is basically reasonable hindi ba? Kasi ginagawa rin naman natin iyon sa ibang mga batas, na we do integrate, isama ang mga representatives ng mga, —hindi lang iyong pag-mention ng private sector na para bagang isa lang sila kundi kabahagi sila ng pagpapalano nang buo. Iyon ang gusto natin, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor. We would like it to be explicitly put doon sa ano na magkaroon ng representations ng basic sectors.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, I think it is not practicable, kasi sa dami ng sektor, baka sobra pa iyong membership ng NLUC sa membership ng Congress. Tayo nga rito is 300-plus, baka abutin ng 1,000 iyong Komisyon, so magiging ineffective na po iyon. Kaya nga there is a plan from—if you have read the section after the “*Definition of Terms*,” the first section is about Section 5, the “*National Physical Framework Plan*.” Iyong National Physical Framework Plan is a result, down from the city and the municipal plan, to the provincial, and to the regional. So, iyon po iyong structure ng batas na ‘ito.

Like if we do an analogy again with building a house, hindi naman po iyong architect lang ang gagawa hindi ba? You have the plumber to design the plumbing details, you have the electrical engineer to design the

electrical details. Iyon po iyong concept niya, na from the ground, ibinibigay iyong input hanggang mabuo siya sa national level. Hindi naman inalis iyong karapatan ng mga sektor na mawalan sila ng boses because as you have seen in the Bill, lahat po sila tatawagin. From the city, from the creation of the CLUP up to the national level, kasama po sila roon, Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, therein lies my contention. Why not include them? Tapos, hindi po sila marami. Ang sinasabi po nating representative ng farmers and fisherfolks, representative ng indigenous people – indigenous people themselves iyon, tapos urban poor, at saka environmental groups. Hindi po sila karagdagan na marami, na hindi natin mama-manage. Ang sinasabi po natin, may representation sila at may boses sila sa loob ng NLUC, doon sa paggagawa ng National Physical Framework Plan. Hindi natin maintindihan kung bakit hindi ito katanggap-tanggap sa ating Sponsor ang panukala na maglagay ng mga representatives na ito. Dahil ang ipaglalaban po ng mga ito ay ang kanilang interes, hindi ba? Halimbawa, sa farmers, bakit ayaw ninyo ilagay iyong mga farmers or representative ng farmer diyan or di kaya, bakit ayaw ilagay ang indigenous people, the indigenous people themselves? Kasi may mga isyu talaga sila sa ancestral domain, hindi ba? Pangatlo, sa urban poor, isyu nila talaga ang housing. Mabibigyan ba ng lupa ang mga ano? Maaari po bang ipaliwanag sa atin nang mabuti kung bakit tinatanggihan natin na magkaroon ng representasyon ang basic sector doon sa batas?

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, I do not agree na tinatanggihan natin iyong pagbigay ng representasyon ng mga sektor. In fact, in Section 9, 'no, "*Physical Framework and Land Use Planning Process*", second sentence, it says that, "The NLUC, in consultation with the concerned sectors through the mandatory conduct of public hearings, shall formulate, periodically update and ensure the implementation of the National Physical Framework Plan that shall prescribe

and influence the country's land use and physical development."

So, rito po nakasama talaga, mandatory pa nga iyong public hearings kung saan pakikilingan iyong mga sectors na sinasabi natin.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, iyon po iyong sinasabi ko. Iba po iyong grounding, iba rin po iyong taas, hindi ba? Kasi iyong National Physical Framework, iyong overall noon ang unang-unang makakikita riyang ay iyong mga ahensiya at kung mayroon tayong representatives ng basic sector, then they will know agad kung ano ang mga changes, ano ang mga kailangan, ano ang mga idadagdag na vision, *et cetera*. Pero rito, ang sinasabi ninyo po sa Section 9, mag-rely lang tayo ng kung sino iyong nasa ibaba, e paano kapag may gustong magsalita para roon sa NLUC sa national framework, hindi na sila mabibigyan ng opportunity?

Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, ang hinihiling po natin malagyan ng basic sector, kasi isa lang naman iyon e. Parang sa ahensiya, kung isa ang uma-attend for the NLUC sa bawat ahensiya, isa rin lang ang mga basic sector na iyan doon. Ang mahalaga mayroong representasyon nila.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, again, dito sa nakasaad na statement sa Section 9, hindi lang siya sa baba. If you can read the sentence, it is the NLUC, na aside from the consultation from the ground, from the city, and municipality up to the regional, even the national level will still consult the concerned sectors through a mandatory public hearing. So, hindi po talaga sila excluded. Hindi sinasabi na wala silang say.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, hindi ko naman sinasabing in-exclude sila kasi sinabi ninyo nga nandito sila. Ang sabi ko, sa final process, iyong NLUC formation mo, iyong composition mo, ang gusto natin magkaroon ng basic sector doon. Ang tanong, pumapayag ba kayo o hindi? Ang sinasabi ninyo, "Hindi kasi kasama na sila rito, kasi may Section 9." Kasama na sila rito sa mga iko-consult, *et cetera, et cetera*. Ganyan iyong

sinasabi ninyo. Hindi sila kasama roon sa pagpapalano kung mayroon silang mga pagtingin pa na iba or hindi kaya roon sa mga — mula sa pagsisimula ng NLUC, parang ganyan, hanggang sa pagra-wrap up nito, hanggang sa pag-consultation pabalik doon sa mga iba't ibang ano, kasama sana ang basic sectors natin doon sa process na iyon. Kasi full governing ito hindi ba? So, dapat democratic din iyon at dapat may representation ng basic sectors.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, I think this Bill has gone through numerous TWG hearings, diniskas talaga kung ano dapat iyong composition ng NLUC. And, I think during the TWG hearing, I do not know if there was a representative from your group attending the TWG, doon na po na-discuss and it was agreed upon na ito po iyong composition ng NLUC. So, I think at this point, hindi na natin dapat i-argue kung ano kasi everybody was given a chance to be heard.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, totoo po iyon e. Sa dami ng isinalang na mga bills, nandoon naman lagi ang Makabayan. Pero, ipinasa rin naman namin sa inyo kung ano iyong mga importante, and actually, mabilis tayong nag-discuss doon na puwede sana nating na-discuss at nabigyan ng pagkakataon ang mga peasant sector at iba pa mga sectors, even iyong indigenous people sa kanilang pagtingin doon, kung binigyan ng pagkakataon.

REP. MATUGAS. Yes po, Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, binigyan natin ng maraming pagkakataon kasi we were calling upon all important sectors or concerned sectors during the TWG hearing. Marami po tayong invitation na na-send out. Hindi lang po isang beses, dalawang beses, o tatlong beses.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, ang sinasabi po natin, tinatanggihan ninyo nga ito na magkaroon ng basic sector, tama ba? Kasi iyon lang naman para makadiretso na po ako roon sa susunod kong tanong kasi iyon iyong itinatanong ko. Kung hindi, di

hindi ninyo po tinatanggap. Sabihin ninyo po iyon nang direktso na hindi kasi ganito ano.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, now, in the section in "*Definition of Terms*," if — maybe you have read letter (f), the definition of "*Basic sector* refers to a group of people not referring to any organized group, such as but not limited to women, youth, elderly, differently abled, peasants and fisher folk."

So, if we consider this definition and if you read through the Bill, itong grupo na ito ay talagang kasama. Hindi siya iyong sasabihin natin na necessary doon sa Commission because the composition of the Commission has been discussed thoroughly during the TWG hearing, and it was already agreed during the TWG na ito iyong magiging komposisyon.

Sana po noong TWG this particular question was raised para doon mismo na-tackle kung gaano siya kaimportante.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, I am raising it right now. Kaya ko nga po ito inire-raise ngayon kasi importante at mahalaga na magkaroon ng ganoon, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor.

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. We have been discussing this topic for inclusion under the composition of the NLUC. May I request the Honorable Brosas to propose during the period of amendments, and for the Sponsor to accept or reject the proposed inclusion of the peasant group and fisherfolk so we can proceed with her next point, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Thank you, Majority Leader.
Congresswoman Brosas.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Puwede naman, Mr. Speaker. Actually,

puwede niya na nga sagutin, hindi niya sinasagot. Kapag sinabi niyang sinagot niya na, hindi na, okay na, tapos na, di ba? Pero hindi sinasagot iyong apat na representation ng basic sector na gusto nating isama sa NLUC, particular na composition.

Anyway, next ko pong tanong, Mr. Speaker. Can I go on, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. MATUGAS. Yes po, Cong. Arlene, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Sa *Reversion of Alienable and Disposable Lands to Forestlands*, Mr. Speaker, "Congress may authorize the reversion of alienable and disposable lands of the public domain or portion thereof to forestlands, unless they are covered by existing titles, or actually occupied openly, continuously, adversely, and publicly for a period required by law. x x x"

Mr. Speaker, patungong green development ba ang nais ng probisyon na ito? Paano kung may settler sa lugar na iyon? Papaalisin ba sila para sa revert nito sa forest land?

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, I think under Section 34, there is a proviso, "unless they are covered by existing titles, or actually occupied openly, continuously, adversely, and publicly x x x. So, hindi po sila covered ng maaapektohan sa reversion ng alienable and disposable land to forestland.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, kasi iyong concern po natin diyan, baka magamit para sa mga green development na magpapalayas lang sa mga settler. This also allows for reforestation, afforestation of areas even if people will be ejected from the area. At the minimum, it is not clear how their rights are protected, such as providing alternative, appropriate livelihoods, onsite development or relocation sites, *et cetera*, in case reforestation is deemed necessary.

So, baka magamit itong particular Section na ito, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, I think there are sufficient laws to protect

the citizenry of this country with regard to the situation that you are referring to.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, ano po iyon?

REP. MATUGAS. Of course, first, we have the Constitution that says that every citizen has the right to have his own house. So, that is one protection from the highest law of the land.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, they will be assured na hindi naman ganito magagamit for the – na mapalalayas sila because of green development.

REP. MATUGAS. Yes po. Kasi as I have said a while ago, the planning process starts from the ground. Iyong different sectors in the city and the municipality would know kung ano iyong impact noong magiging land use plan within their community.

So, I think there is a sufficient protection. We have the LGU officials that also would want to protect their own citizen, Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

Mr. Sponsor, on "*Settlements within Hazard Areas*. – Settlements, in particular, housing or residential developments, within hazard areas may be allowed." Nakalagay, "*Provided*, That mitigating or protective measures are adopted to address the potential danger or risk to lives and property within such settlements."

Now, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, my question is, ano ang rationale ng pag-a-allow ng settlements within hazard areas? Hindi ba lalo pang mai-institutionalize ang pagtatayo ng housing sa danger zones, lalo na at sa kasalukuyang praktika, may mga relocation site na itinatayo sa danger or hazard zones, halimbawa sa mga lugar na bahain o may fault line?

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, I think in this particular section we should take into consideration iyong reality as of the present that there already are settlers in

hazard areas because if we push na talagang tatanggalin sila as--magiging violation na siya as what in your previous question said, na matatanggal iyong mga settler with the conversion of the alienable land to forest land.

So, this particular Section is a protection also to the existing settlers, especially here in urban areas, Metro Manila cities, Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, the law allows for residential developments to be built in some areas, "*Provided*, That mitigating or protective measures are adopted." Small projects are also permitted, so it might be best to specify if this covers renovation of existing structures. Kumbaga, "on-site," hindi ba, iyon naman iyong term, "on-site, in-site development" ang gagawin, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, yes, kasama po iyan kasi the main purpose of this Section is really to mitigate the impact of the hazard. So, iyon po iyong ano talaga niya.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, bigyan ko na lang ng example. Kasi based on experiences in other countries, halimbawa sa Cuba, the construction of new houses is not allowed in hazardous areas. Onset, talaga, ganoon naman iyon, tapos areas that will be under water due to rising sea levels in a few years or decades, and a slow gradual process of relocations implemented to bring people out of hazard zones. This is in recognition of the reality of that mitigating or protective measures na sinasabi ninyo, typically, it only displaces hazards instead of removing them.

Though it should be noted that Section 46 mentions new settlements in high-risk hazard areas shall not be allowed, so hindi talaga. Tama ba, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor? Nakalagay naman doon, high-risk hazard areas shall not be allowed. Pero kung danger areas o hazard areas na siya, hindi na talaga dapat doon ang mga--kahit anong mitigate natin, kahit anong proteksiyon natin kung ganoon iyong, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, I think Section 43 and Section 46 take into consideration iyong existing situation natin in the country, especially in urban areas.

So, ang mangyayari po is, may gradual relocation because we--the government also would not want na maki-kick out natin lahat iyong mga existing settler because they also have rights, sa sinasabi mo kanina, iyong mga right na tatamaan.

That is why this provision is a very flexible provision. The end purpose of this provision is the ideal situation na wala na talagang titira sa mga hazardous area.

That is why in Chapter VII of this Bill, there is a National Base Mapping, National Geospatial Information Program, and National Hazard Mapping Program na gagawin para ma-identify ng different LGUs of the country kung saan ilalagay ang mga settlement area, saan iyong commercial, saan iyong agriculture, Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, ang worry po namin dito ay iyong lalong ma-institutionalize na ang pagtatayo sa mga danger zone area. Relocations are mostly sa danger zones, kung sa fault line o di kaya bahain dahil hindi iyon ang hindi mapakikinabangan ng kapital kaya siguro iyon ang paglalagyan. Dapat i-institutionalize natin na ang housing dapat wala sa danger areas. Hindi ba iyon naman iyong ano natin? Pero, sa kasalukuyang praktika, sabi ninyo nga, itinatayo ang mga relocation site sa mga hazard area.

I appreciate iyong gradual, pero hindi na ito bago. Halimbawa, iyong mga relocation site sa Montalban, binabaha iyan, katabi ng mga quarry site, bulnerable sa landslide, malalimang pagbaha, madalas ang mga pabahay inilalagay sa tabi ng danger zone na walang riprap kaya madaling bahain, madaling mag-landslide, bulnerable din sila sa lindol, lalo na sa mga faultline.

So, parang ang tingin namin, nagbubukas ito sa buo-buong pananamantala ng mga developer sa mga dati nilang hindi mabuuan ng subdivision, housing project, at iba pa dahil nakatalaga bilang mga hazardous area.

Dahil hazardous area pa rin ang mga ito sa kabila ng magiging mitigating o protective measures, malalagay pa rin sa panganib iyong mga magiging residente ng mga maitatayong settlement. Kaya ang sinasabi namin, hindi dapat ang pagpapanatili ng mga residente sa hazard o danger areas. Kaya naman may tumitira sa mga danger zone dahil sa kakulangan sa disente, abot-kaya, at pang-masang paninirahan. Mas malaki po kasi ang pinsalang maidudulot sa maralitang lungsod kapag in-institutionalize na ang settlement development sa hazard areas, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, that is why we are having this National Land Use Policy. Iyong mga problem na sinasabi ninyo is nagkaroon tayo ng problem kasi wala tayong National Land Use Policy, wala tayong National Physical Framework Plan, kaya iyong provinces, cities, and municipalities, hindi nila alam kung saan ilagay iyong resettlement areas nila kasi walang nakikitang blueprint.

Now, if we pass this Bill and we have this national mapping, then all our LGUs will be able to see and overview na hindi pala dapat dito, sabi mo iyong sa Montalban, hindi pala dapat ilagay doon.

REP. BROSAS. Oo.

REP. MATUGAS. Oo.

REP. BROSAS. In the first place, hindi sila dapat nandoon, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, parang ganyan. Ginawang settlement kasi wala ng ibang ano at iyon ang available housing. So, from the onset, parang ganoon sa NLUC, sa national physical framework, nailagay na natin doon na hindi dapat nasa hazardous areas or danger zones ang mga settlement o ang mga ano. Kasi, on Section 43, "*Settlements within Hazard Areas*," iyan po ang nakalagay, hindi ba? "However, for this purpose, housing projects within such areas with less than or equal to one (1) hectare of project area shall be exempt from the ECC as well as the EGGAR and may be implemented without the need for any further certificate

of exemption from the DENR or any other government regulatory agency."

Hindi ba mas madali for developers na magtayo ng housing projects, possibly puwedeng gawing mixed use ang housing para mailusot iyong commercial spaces sa danger zones. Bukas po ito sa abuso ng mga developer. Malaki ang one hectare kaya maaaring tilad-tilarin ang mga development project sa one hectare o mas maliit pa para lamang makaligtas sa pagkuha ng ECC mula sa DENR. Iyon po ang aming agam-agam diyan, magagamit ng developer.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, I reiterate the concept of the National Land Use Policy. This Section was established taking into consideration iyong mga existing settlement ngayon. Iyong application naman po ng batas is progressive. Of course, as of now, we cannot say na hindi na puwede rito, hindi puwede roon because we do not have yet the national base mapping, the national geohazard mapping. But once we have that, definitely the NLUC will be able to limit the construction of these developers because mapo-point out na po. Hindi na po masasabi na ilulusot nila kasi one hectare.

If it is in the map na nakalagay doon itong area na ito is hazard, geohazard area, magiging violation na iyan, iyong application nila. It does not mean na with this particular provision, they can get away with the law. Maybe, for now, because we do not have this Bill yet, iyon ang agam-agam natin. But once we have the map, everybody can see. Hindi lang po NLUC ang makakikita ng map. The map is a public document.

It will become a public document, meaning everybody in the country can access the map. So, kung merong magde-develop doon ng area, I think everybody will voice out bakit doon pinapa-develop, Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, at the proper time, meron din kaming kaugnay na amendments diyan, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor.

Now, on Section 48 po, sa "*Designation and Zoning of Socialized Housing Zones*, x x x The housing or residential lands designated in the CLUPs and zoning ordinances of cities

and municipalities shall, on one hand, not be subject to further land reclassification by the LGU or land conversion procedure under DAR. On the other hand, agricultural lands as designated in the CLUP which are no longer economically feasible for agricultural use may be subject to land reclassification or land use conversion to housing or residential purposes and such land use conversion, as the case may be, shall be exempt from the coverage of any moratorium on land use conversion, provided such conversion shall not conflict with the prescriptions of watershed management plans and shall not result in serious environmental and ecological problems.”

Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, sinasabi rito sa Section na ito na puwedeng i-convert ang agricultural lands na hindi economically feasible patungong housing or residential purposes. Ano po ang pamantayan ng economically feasible? Ano po ang ibig sabihin nito, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, one-minute suspension, please.

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

It was 6:17 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:19 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the proponent to respond to the question of Cong. Arlene Brosas. I move for the recognition of Cong. Bingo Matugas.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Congressman Matugas, please proceed.

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

To respond to the question of Cong. Arlene, Mr. Speaker, on the meaning of “economically feasible,” this is in relation to Section 65 of the CARP Law. It says in Section 65 that the “economically feasible and sound for agricultural purposes,” relates to the economic value that the agricultural land is producing.

So, if the value is not anymore acceptable or nawalan na po ng kita iyong agricultural land, it may, the word in the Bill is “may”, so it is not mandatory, and may be subject to land reclassification and land conversion. And since it is a “may”, the word used is “may”, anybody, any sector, may oppose, the conversion during the public hearing conducted by the municipality proposing the conversion of such agricultural land, Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor. Ang tanong ko po kasi, how will you determine “no longer economically feasible” iyong land? This provision may be dangerous, especially since there are explicit explanations of what is no longer economically feasible, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor. Medyo delikado po kasi iyong, “no longer economically feasible.” So, ngayon, ang sinasabi ninyo, subject pa rin siya sa kung ano ang national framework, ganoon? So, it is very vague, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor.

Now, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, sa usapin po ng conversion of agricultural lands, prime agricultural land and specific types of lands to the extent necessary for attaining food self-sufficiency, *et cetera*, iyan po iyang ano, tapos nakalagay, “with the mandatory public consultations.”

Ang question po namin diyan, how many are the current irrigated and irrigable lands? Kasi po iyong current irrigated and irrigable lands will not reach three million hectares. This still needs to be verified sa Department of Agriculture. Maliit ito para sa pag-attain ng food self-sufficiency. Maliit lang din ang mapoprotektahan mula sa conversion. Kailangan pong palawakin ang existing irrigated and irrigable lands sang-ayon sa kapag inano pa lang – sinabmit ng DAR kung gusto nating palawakin iyong food security and food self-sufficiency. Iyon po iyong main

na nakikita namin dito. Maaari po ba akong sagutin?

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, I agree with your point na kailangang palawakin ang irrigable land. That is why we need this land use policy. We need national base mapping in order to identify other lands that we can make irrigable. Now, as of ...

REP. BROSAS. Hence, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, iyan po iyong gusto kong i-reiterate din na kailangan ng Agrarian Reform Law, Agrarian Reform Program para rito, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor. Kaya po namin pinalalagay nang explicit iyong agrarian reform kasi kung ganyang gusto mang palawakin, pero paano iyon sa esensiya, parang ganoon, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor?

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, I think iyong area ng agrarian reform is nasasakop po doon sa batas ng Agrarian Reform Law. The National Land Use Policy is a framework. As I have said a while ago, it is a blueprint ng buong mga lupa natin sa buong Pilipinas. Hindi po siya nasasakop doon sa reform program, Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor. I-propose – at the proper time, i-propose namin iyan as an amendment, pag-mention lang naman ng reform, ng agrarian reform.

Kaugnay po rito sa criteria for utilization and allocation of land for mining purposes, Section 55, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, Section 54 and 55, "*Reversion of Mineral Lands*." Karamihan po ay open-pit mining kaya matagal na taon pa ito bago ma-revert sa dating classification, tama po ba, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor?

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, itong conversion, reversion of mineral lands, iyong question mo on open-pit mining, I think it could be best addressed by the DENR. Iyong category or definition of "open-pit mining," nandoon po siya sa DENR – sa Mining Act nakasaad.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, balikan ko lang iyong conversion of agricultural lands. Kasi sa conversion of agricultural lands, iyong last line ng Section 52, "With due consideration of the above-mentioned conditions that provide for the full protection of prime agricultural land, only then, upon approval by the DAR of the application for conversion, agricultural lands are deemed converted to non-agricultural uses."

Gusto sana namin dito, Mr. Speaker, iyong ang "deemed converted" ay magtatali kasi sa kamay ng DAR at LGU at wala nang power para bawiin ang lupa. So, Mr. Speaker, dito sa Section na ito, kung maaari iyong last line na iyon, iyon yung contentious sa amin, iyon ang ma-delete. Parang ganyan, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor. Pero at the proper time, iyon din naman ang ipo-propose namin, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor. Pero baka may gustong sabihin po on conversion of agricultural lands ang ating Sponsor.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, I think the Section 52 is already well-worded in terms of protection of our agricultural – of our prime agricultural land and the process of conversion is not an easy process. That is why if we compare it to the present system, marami pong agency ang puwedeng mag-decide on the conversion of agricultural land. As compared to this law na National Land Use, magiging isang agency na lang po. Mas mahirap po ang pagpapa-convert ngayon kasi if my knowledge is right, kung isa o isang developer, hindi ka na-approve sa isang agency at present, puwede kang lumipat sa ibang agency para magpa-approve. But with this Land Use, napakahirap na po kasi it will be under the approval of the DAR, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Ang, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, ang kinukuwestiyon po namin dito ay iyong "*Section 52. Conversion of Agricultural Lands*". Kasi magkaiba ang reclassification sa conversion. Hindi porke't may reclassification na, tutuloy na sa conversion. Kung ang reclassification issued after June 15, 1988, kukuha pa rin ng Order for Conversion.

Kapag may Order na, hindi automatic “deemed converted” na. May five years pa na dapat “deemed developed” sa purpose ng conversion kung hindi, may power ang DAR na kuhanin at ipamahagi sa potential ARB.

Ang “deemed converted” –kaya po ang “deemed converted” ay magtatali sa kamay ng DAR at LGU at wala nang power para bawiin ang lupa kapagka ganoon, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, I think I disagree with that point because in every process, may tinatawag tayong due process. So, hindi po ito dahil sinasabing “deemed”, magiging automatic. I think the proponent and the agency will have to – the oppositor, the proponent and the agency will have to argue kung ano ba iyong proper na –kung proper ba itong i-convert. It does not mean na sinasabi na “deemed”, automatic na po iyong conversion niya. We are a government of laws and not of men kumbaga. So, it will undergo the due process of law, ...

REP. BROSAS. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, ...

REP. MATUGAS. ... Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene.

REP. BROSAS. ... at the proper time, meron kaming wording that will help somehow doon sa usapin na iyan, ng –sa Section 52, ng “Conversion of Agricultural Lands,” iyan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, ito, sa infrastructure projects within geohazard areas, paano kung hindi maka-comply sa mitigating measures, halimbawa, iyong construction of priority infrastructure projects within hazard-prone areas are allowed, iyan.

REP. MATUGAS. Definitely po, i-disapprove po iyan, Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene.

REP. BROSAS. May alternative arrangements ba that would avoid construction in such areas?

REP. MATUGAS. Yes po, Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene. As I have said a while ago,

once this law is passed, then it mandates that there is a mapping that has to be established. So, once the mapping is there, makikita na po natin iyong violation kung gagawin niya iyong construction niya or development niya in a hazardous area.

As of now kasi, presently, there is no definitive definition or identification – definitive identification of a particular area kung hazardous ba siya o wala. In fact, the DOST is still updating their hazard maps while we are discussing this law. So, once this law is passed, there will be now an integration of all the maps that are in different agencies, particularly the hazard map that we really need, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. But, Mr. Speaker, kung hindi maka-comply, hindi?

REP. MATUGAS. Hindi.

REP. BROSAS. Definitely, okay. Infrastructure projects within geohazard pa rin po ito. The rules on mandatory public hearings or consultations and just and humane eviction or demolition shall also be observed prior to the termination, gradual phase-out, or relocation of projects that necessarily involve dislocations or displacement of the people in the area.

Paano po masisigurado na magkakaroon ng public hearings at consultations na kasama mismo ang mga apektado? Sa karanasan, madalas walang nangyayaring consultation o kaya ipinalalabas na may consultation, pero hindi kasama rito ang stakeholders na apektado. Saka in the first place, wala pong just and humane eviction or demolition na nangyayari. Madalas marahas ang pagde-demolish sa mga maralita o magsasaka at inililipat sila sa relocation sites na malayo sa kanilang kabuhayan, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor. Paano masisigurado?

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, it is under the Bill na there is an exhaustive consultation and public hearing conducted from the lowest level, which are the municipalities up to the national level. So, I think marami pong chances iyon na makita

ng buong bayan kung tama ba iyong pag-evict o hindi, and I think the Commission will do the right thing, Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor. Wala pong tamang pag-evict. Ang gusto po sana natin ay walang eviction at demolition—forceful eviction and demolition. Kaya po meron dapat dito talagang adequate and genuine public hearings and consultations. Iyon ang gusto nating ilagay. Hindi lang mandatory dahil mandatory o talagang ginagawa kasi automatic na ginagawa pero hindi naman talaga stakeholders ang napatatawag lahat. Kaya iyon po iyong gusto natin i-secure dito, particular sa wordings ng Section na ito.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, kasi mag-iisang oras na ako, land consolidation for agro-industrial development. Iyong consolidation of small-scale agricultural land holdings shall be promoted to take advantage of economies of scale in agricultural production, to promote value chain development, and to increase farm incomes, and improve quality of life of farmers. Ang ganda pong pakinggan pero ang tanong po namin dito, kasi sa tingin namin problematic iyong Section din na ito, na mas palalakasin ng probisyon na ito ang agribusiness ventures. Correct me if I am wrong, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene, I think agribusiness is not that bad. Kaya nga we are promoting agriculture not only as an individual—for individual farmers but also on economies of scale, siyempre kung malakihan, it will be more beneficial to more people. So, iyon po iyong purpose natin and that is why the land use plan will really create a framework or a base, as I have said a while ago, a base map to identify these particular areas, na as much as possible, less ang impact doon sa mga vulnerable sectors of our society, Mr. Speaker, Cong. Arlene.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor. Agribusiness per se is not bad. Iyon po iyong sabi ninyo ano. Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, I beg to disagree. With the conditions ng ating mga magsasaka sa kasalukuyan, dapat po hand in hand iyan

dapat. Kaya nga po sinasabi natin na dapat merong national industrialization tayo, hindi ba? At dapat meron tayong land reform program na talagang makatutulong para sa ating mga maliliit na magsasaka. Kung mag-a-agro-industrial development tayo, dapat iyong kalagayan ng ating mga magsasaka, ay tumaaas sila. Hindi lang po ito usapin ng economies of scale, usapin po ito ng disente at nakabubuhay talaga na paggawa sa ating bayan, lalong-lalo na sa mga agricultural workers natin.

At hangga't hindi nabibigyan ng lupa ang mga magsasaka, mahihirapan po talaga na mag-develop ang ating mga magsasaka ng lupa na kailangan natin for food self-sufficiency and food security.

Iyon lang po, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor. Maraming salamat sa pag-indulge sa aking mga questions, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

REP. MATUGAS. Maraming salamat po, Cong. Arlene, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, marami pa akong tanong pero, (*Laughter*) Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, inigsian ko na po sa ngalan ng oras, para sa isang oras na pagtatanong.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

REP. MATUGAS. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). You will be given always one hour, Congresswoman Brosas, and thank you for enhancing the said Bill with your inputs.

Majority Leader.

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Members who wish to interpellate on or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to close the period of sponsorship and debate. There being no objections, said motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to open the period of amendments. There being no objections, please proceed, the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I move that we recognize the honorable Gentleman from the Third District of Iloilo, Rep. Lorenz Defensor for his individual amendments, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Rep. Defensor, please proceed.

INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. DEFENSOR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If and when a National Land Use Act is approved, the classification of certain lands will certainly be affected, especially the valuation, including the zonal valuation thereof.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, under Section 18, subparagraph (b), on page 39, line number 10, under the heading of "*Composition of the National Land Use Act Commission*," I propose that the Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue be included. Thus, Section 18 will now read:

SEC. 18. *Composition of the NLUC.* - The NLUC will be composed of the following: x x x. To add an item (K) COMMISSIONER OF THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE.

Will the Sponsor accept?

REP. MATUGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we accept.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Mr. Sponsor, what do you say?

REP. MATUGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we accept.

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

REP. ADIONG. We join, Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor in accepting the proposed amendment. I move further for its adoption.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion for its adoption. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, it is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the AGIMAT Party-List, Rep. Bryan B. Revilla, for his individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). AGIMAT Party-List, Bryan B. Revilla, is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Chair, this Representation would like to propose an individual amendment to Section 20:

SEC. 20. *National Land Use Office (NLUO).* - The National Land Use Office (NLUO) is hereby created under the Office of the President, which will serve as the technical secretariat to the NLUC. The NLUO will be headed by the NLUC Commissioner with two (2) Deputy Commissioners with the rank of Undersecretary.

THE DHSUD-ENVIRONMENTAL, LAND USE AND URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (DHSUD-ELUPDB) SHALL BE CONVERTED INTO A LINE BUREAU THAT SHALL SERVE AS THE NLUO.

Further, the DHSUD-ELUPDB WILL have services units for THE planning and policy formulation, operations, MONITORING, and information systems management, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, LEGAL, and special land use concerns. The staffing pattern of the NLUO SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT.

I so move, Mr. Chair.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). What will the Sponsor say?

REP. MATUGAS. We accept, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). What will the House say?

REP. ADIONG. We join, Mr. Speaker, the proponent in accepting the proposed amendment. I further move for its adoption.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion for its adoption as stated. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, said motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from GABRIELA Party-List, Rep. Arlene Brosas, for her individual amendment.

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

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, yes, I withdraw that motion and instead allow Rep. Bryan Revilla for another one of his individual amendments – after this, Representative Brosas.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Please proceed, Congressman Revilla.

REP. REVILLA (B.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Chair, this Representation would like to propose individual amendments to Section 68 of the proposed measure to read, as follows:

SEC. 68. *Priority in Giving Technical Assistance to LGUs.* – In providing technical assistance and other forms of support related to land use management and the implementation of development plans, the national government agencies shall give priority to cities and municipalities with their approved CLUPs. THE SAME ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT SHALL ALSO BE PROVIDED TO THE FIFTH (5th) AND SIXTH (6th) CLASS MUNICIPALITIES: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE LACK OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SHALL NOT EXEMPT SAID MUNICIPALITIES FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SEC. 69.

I so move, Mr. Chair.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). What will the Sponsor say?

REP. MATUGAS. We accept, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. What will the House say?

REP. ADIONG. We join the Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, in accepting the proposed amendments and move further for its adoption.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion for its adoption as stated. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the said motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would again move for the recognition of the Lady from GABRIELA Party-List, Rep. Arlene Brosas, for her individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Congressperson Brosas is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this Representation respectfully forwards amendments to the National Land Use Bill.

Mr. Speaker, on “SEC. 2. *Declaration of Principles and Policies*,” insert another provision to read as letter –

(P) PRESERVATION AND PREVENTION OF LAND-USE CONVERSION OF LAND DEVOTED TO FOOD PRODUCTION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO RICE AND CORN LANDS, AND OTHER FARMLANDS PLANTED WITH VEGETABLE CROPS.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Mr. Sponsor, what will you say?

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, we reject the proposed amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). I am sorry, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. MATUGAS. We reject the proposed amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
What will the House say?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ADIONG. May I call for a one-minute suspension, Mr. Speaker.

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

It was 6:42 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:43 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

Majority Leader, there was a rejection.

REP. ADIONG. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we join the proponent in rejecting the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
So, well noted, Majority Leader. So, on to the next amendment.

REP. BROSAS. Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
Congresswoman Brosas.

REP. BROSAS. Yes.

On "SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms*", insert another definition to be read, as follows:

ADEQUATE AND RESPONSIVE CONSULTATION REFERS TO THE STANDARD OF DIALOGUE TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE IMPLEMENTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OR THE PROJECT PROPONENT AGENCY WITH THE AFFECTED INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES WHICH SHALL REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING:

(1) EFFECTIVE DISSEMINATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS INCLUDING LAND RECORDS, THE PROPOSED PLAN OR PROJECT, ALTERNATIVE HOUSING

OPTIONS, AND COMPREHENSIVE ON-SITE, IN-CITY, OR NEAR-CITY RESETTLEMENT PLANS;

(2) PROVISION BY THE GOVERNMENT OR NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION OF LEGAL, TECHNICAL, AND OTHER ADVICE TO AFFECTED INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES ON THEIR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS;

(3) THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS THAT SHALL PROVIDE AFFECTED INFORMAL SETTLER FAMILIES, ADVOCATES, AND THE PUBLIC WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN, OR PRESENT ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS AND ARTICULATE THEIR DEMANDS AND RESETTLEMENT PRIORITIES; AND

(4) MEDIATION, ARBITRATION, OR ADJUDICATION BY AN INDEPENDENT BODY VESTED WITH CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY SUCH AS A COURT OF LAW, AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE, IN CASE NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON THE PROPOSALS OF THE CONCERNED PARTIES.

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

REP. MATUGAS. We again reject, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ADIONG. We join the Sponsor in rejecting the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
Joined for a reject. Such amendment is rejected.
Duly noted.

Majority Leader. Majority Leader, continue...

REP. ADIONG. Yes.

REP. BROSAS. Meron pa.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Yes. For your next amendment, Congresswoman Brosas, please proceed.

REP. BROSAS. Yes.

Delete (a) of "SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms*", and replace with the following:

(a) *Agricultural lands* refer to lands REGARDLESS OF CLASSIFICATION, THAT ARE DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND SUCH OTHER USES CONNECTED WITH AGRICULTURE SUCH AS: CATTLE AND LIVESTOCK FARMS, AQUACULTURE, INCLUDING FORESHORE, PASTURE FARMS AND LANDS THAT ARE AGRICULTURAL IN DOMINANT USE OR WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR AGRICULTURAL USE.

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

REP. MATUGAS. We do not accept, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ADIONG. We join the Sponsor in rejecting the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The proposed amendment is hereby rejected. Congresswoman Brosas, please proceed.

REP. BROSAS. Next, Mr. Speaker, "SEC. 13. *Approach to Land Use and Physical Framework Planning*" is hereby amended, to read as follows:

SEC. 13. *Approach to Land Use and Physical Framework Planning*. – The ridge to reef/watershed ecosystem management approach shall be used in land use and physical framework planning to promote a holistic, integrated, equitable and inclusive development, and a flourishing environment, watersheds and ecosystems. It shall include a description of existing land uses and land use trends, as well as the physical, demographic, economic, social, political, environmental, and

ecological conditions that have shaped and are likely to shape future land use and physical developments. It shall then derive a land use plan or physical framework THAT PROMOTES GENUINE AGRARIAN REFORM AND NATIONAL INDUSTRIALIZATION. The resulting land use plan or physical framework shall be the basis for identifying necessary policies, programs, projects and activities, and development controls to guide future development. The land use plan or physical framework MUST be holistic in nature and not emanate from THE specific individual or corporation which, in essence, constitutes as spot zoning.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Mr. Sponsor, what do you say?

REP. MATUGAS. We do not accept, Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Reject.

REP. MATUGAS. Yes, we reject.

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

REP. ADIONG. We join the rejection of the Sponsor on the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The proposed amendment is hereby rejected. Congresswoman Brosas, please proceed.

REP. BROSAS. "SEC. 18. *Composition of the NLUC*" is hereby amended to read as follows:

As *Ex-Officio* Members:

(c) x x x

(d) x x x

(e) x x x

(f) x x x

(g) x x x

(h) x x x

(i) x x x

(j) x x x

(K) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION OR

FROM THE FARMERS AND FISHERFOLKS SECTOR;

(L) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION OR FROM THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SECTOR;

(M) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION OR FROM THE URBAN POOR SECTOR, AND

(N) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION OR FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, we reject the proposed amendment.

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

REP. ADIONG. We join the Sponsor in rejecting the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Noted. The proposed amendment is rejected. Congresswoman Brosas, please proceed.

REP. BROSAS. "SEC. 51. *Priority Areas for Agricultural Development*" is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 51. *Priority Areas for Agricultural Development*. – AGRICULTURAL LANDS DEVOTED TO FOOD PRODUCTION WILL BE PROTECTED AT ALL COSTS FROM ANY FORM OF CONVERSION. POLICIES OR PROGRAMS ALLOWING THE CONVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS INTO SO-CALLED INDUSTRIAL ESTATES, URBAN-HOUSING ESTATES AND SUBDIVISIONS, TOURIST RESORTS, GOLF COURSES OR FOR THE CULTIVATION OF EXPORT AND BIOFUEL CROPS SHALL BE SUSPENDED, REVIEWED, AND AS NECESSARY, REVERSED. AGRICULTURAL LANDS THAT HAVE BEEN CONVERTED SHALL BE RETURNED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO AGRICULTURAL USE.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Mr. Sponsor, what do you say?

REP. MATUGAS. We reject the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ADIONG. We join the Sponsor in rejecting the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Duly noted. The proposed amendment is hereby rejected. Congresswoman Brosas, please.

REP. BROSAS. "SEC. 52. *Conversion of Agricultural Lands*" is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 52. *Conversion of Agricultural Lands*. – Prime agricultural lands and specific types of lands to extent necessary for attaining food self-sufficiency in rice and food security in other basic commodities, as determined by the DA, subject to mandatory consultation with the LGUs, the private sector, the NGOs, and Pos, shall be protected from the conversion, which shall include but not limited to areas under NPAAAD and SAFDZ: *Provided*, That all irrigated and irrigable lands, all land developed or possessing the potential for development of high value crops, and all agricultural lands that are ecologically fragile and whose conversion will result in AREAS UNDER which are subject to review every – THREE (3) years by the DA, with the mandatory public consultations: *Provided, further*, That consistent with the State policy on giving priority to the completion of the comprehensive agrarian reform program AND OTHER AGRARIAN REFORM LAWS AND PROGRAMS, all lands subject to the comprehensive agrarian reform program including those lands covered under the notice of compulsory acquisition or voluntary offer to sell, production or profit-sharing, or commercial farm deferment shall also be protected from conversion BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER distribution and installation of the farmer beneficiaries, but

thereafter, Section 22 of RA No. 9700 shall apply: *Provided, finally*, That the mapping of the NPAAAD under the AFMA shall be completed within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act. Lands defined under Section 10 of R.A. No. 6657 shall remain exempted and excluded from the coverage of the comprehensive agrarian reform program.

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

REP. MATUGAS. We reject the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, we join the Sponsor in rejecting the proposed amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The said proposal is hereby rejected.

REP. BROSAS. For the final rejection, Mr. Speaker, "SEC. 63. *Infrastructure Projects within Geo-hazard Areas*" is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 63. *Infrastructure Projects within Geo-hazard Areas*. - Construction of priority infrastructure projects within hazard-prone areas are allowed. However, mitigating or preventive measures must be adopted and implemented to address the potential adverse economic, socio-cultural, and environmental impacts that emanate from these infrastructure projects, subject to the findings and recommendations of a feasibility study or environment impact assessment in accordance with P.D. No. 1586 and R.A. No. 4846, otherwise known as the "*Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act*."

Existing projects that were undertaken without the required environmental impact assessment and which pose a threat to the environment, or to the integrity of historic, archaeological or scientifically significant areas, or impinge on critical ecosystems, and other areas identified in the watershed management plans may be terminated immediately or gradually

phased-out and relocated. If the existing project is to be maintained within their life span, mitigating measures must be adopted and implemented. The rules on mandatory public hearings or consultations and—CONSULTATIONS shall also be observed prior to the termination, gradual phase-out, or relocation of projects that necessarily involve dislocations or displacement of the people in the area. *PROVIDED, THAT ADEQUATE AND GENUINE PUBLIC HEARINGS OR CONSULTATIONS SHALL BE CONDUCTED. PROVIDED, THAT ON-SITE DEVELOPMENT SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED AS THE FIRST RECOURSE AND AFTER THE CONDUCT OF ADEQUATE AND RESPONSIVE CONSULTATION WITH THE AFFECTED RESIDENTS. SHOULD IN-CITY RESETTLEMENT NOT BE FEASIBLE, NEAR-CITY RESETTLEMENT SHALL BE CONSIDERED AND MUST SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF ADEQUATE AND RESPONSIVE CONSULTATION PRIOR TO RELOCATION.*

That is the last, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Well, then, thank you. Daghang salamat, Congresswoman Brosas. What does the Sponsor say?

REP. MATUGAS. We reject the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, we join the Sponsor in rejecting the proposed amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). And the proposed amendment is hereby rejected.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for rejecting all of my proposals. (*Laughter*) Sanay na po ako. Last—last—last, first ano natin

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Please proceed.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, last time na nag—oh, I remember, in the Seventeenth Congress, ganoon din. It was the proposal—propositions were rejected.

So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Well, Congresswoman Brosas, you did a good job. Majority Leader.

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Members who wish to introduce individual amendments or any Committee amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to close the period of amendments. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the motion is approved. Majority Leader.

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8162 on Second Reading, as amended, Mr. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 8162.

All those who are in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8162, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The *ayes* have it; the said House Bill No. 8162, as amended, is hereby approved on Second Reading.

REP. MATUGAS. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Majority Leader. (*Applause*)

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7922 *Continuation*

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume consideration of House Bill No. 7922 contained in Committee Report No. 499 as submitted by the Committees on Higher and Technical Education, and Appropriations.

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

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

The Secretary General is hereby directed. Please proceed.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7922, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR POOR AND ACADEMICALLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT."

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

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of this Bill is that this is in the period of sponsorship and debate, and in this regard, I move that we recognize the Chair of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, the honorable Rep. Mark Go of Baguio City, to sponsor the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The Gentleman from Baguio City is hereby recognized as Chair.

Please proceed, Sir.

REP. GO (M.). Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Just to let you know that yesterday, I delivered my sponsorship message, so, therefore, at this point of time, I am ready to answer any questions that will be raised by our colleague.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is motion to open the period of sponsorship and debate. Hearing no objections, let us proceed, approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Hon. Raoul Manuel of the KABATAAN Party-List for his interpellation on the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). KABATAAN Party-List Manuel, Congressperson, please proceed, Sir, you are recognized.

REP. MANUEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, will the good Sponsor yield to a few questions?

REP. GO (M.). Yes, I will be willing to answer a few questions from Cong. Raoul Manuel.

REP. MANUEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clarification lang po regarding Section 3, lines 19 to 23, nabanggit po rito, Mr. Speaker, that "Filipino students enrolled in undergraduate programs in private HEIs in cities and municipalities where an SUC or LUC exists but does not offer comparable or equivalent degree programs, shall be eligible for TES."

Linawin ko lang po, Mr. Speaker, if sa kasalukuyan po ba ay exempted ang ganoong mga estudyante from TES?

REP. GO (M.). Mr. Speaker, Mr. interpellator, ayon po sa ating provision on

Section 7 ng TES ngayon, there are three priorities for them or to be given this tertiary education subsidy. Ang una, those who are in the Listahanan 2; pangalawa, those that are not in the Listahanan 2, but they are identified by TESDA, I mean by the DSWD, na they belong to, you know, a certain class of individuals in society; at iyong pangatlo, where there are no SUCs and LUCs. So, in other words, if you have an SUC and LUC in a particular community, hindi ka entitled to receive itong subsidy na ibinibigay natin under TES.

REP. MANUEL. Now, Mr. Speaker, kung doon sa unang dalawang categories na ang basehan ay economic standing ng estudyante, whether they are in an SUC, LUC or private HEI, hindi po ba qualified naman po sila for a tertiary education subsidy?

REP. GO (M.). Itong proposal natin, whether there is an LUC or SUC in a particular community, puwede silang tumanggap dito sa proposal natin. Pero under the existing Republic Act No. 10931, which is the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education, you will be prioritized to be given tertiary education subsidy even when there are no LUCs and SUCs in a particular community or a particular province or municipality.

REP. MANUEL. Okay. On another line, Mr. Speaker, line 29, originally it reads, iyong TES will cover tuition and other school fees in private HEIs, and private or LGU-operated TVIs. Pero sa proposed Bill po natin, Mr. Speaker, ay tatanggalin ang LGU-operated TVIs. May we clarify kung bakit po matatanggal ang LGU-operated TVIs?

REP. GO (M.). Ito ang provision natin dito, "tuition and other school fees in private HEIs, and private TVIs which shall be equivalent to the tuition and other school fees of the nearest SUC or state-run TVI in their respective areas." Definitely, that is what we want, but it does not exempt or prevent those in the LUCs to avail of this TES.

REP. MANUEL. Okay. Nililinaw po natin, Mr. Speaker, dahil sa ngayon din ay may

mga LGU-operated TVIs tayo na bagama't sila ay under the LGU, pero hindi pa din sila nasasaklaw sa ngayon ng ating Free Higher Education program. Ibig sabihin ay naniningil pa rin po sila ng tuition and other school fees dahil hindi pa sila nakapag-comply sa ilang mga requirements or standards. So, gusto lang po nating ma-ensure, Mr. Speaker, na itong mga paaralan ay eligible pa rin for TES para rin iyong estudyante nila ay maka-benefit din.

REP. GO (M.). Yes, ang gusto natin, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Interpellator, those that will be given the opportunity to avail of this TES, whether SUC or LUC, should be certified as qualified and recognized by the appropriate agency which is CHED or the TESDA. If you are not certified and qualified, then you cannot enjoy, or your students who work, or studying in your LUC or TVI, you will not be able to enjoy itong benefit ng TES, kasi we would like to be sure that those that are offering these programs and the students who will be enrolling in these institutions should be qualified and, at the same time, have the capability to do this. And in order to ensure that happens, ay kailangan ma-certify sila, ma-qualify sila, at ma-recognize sila, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Interpellator.

REP. MANUEL. Okay. Yes. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to proceed to one of the main contents of this proposed Bill, iyong ipino-propose na "voucher system." Di ba po ito ay magiging bagong programa aside from the Free Higher Education program, the student loan program, and the TES, am I correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GO (M.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Interpellator.

REP. MANUEL. Yes. I would like to know more, Mr. Speaker, about the proportional budgetary allocation. Paano po ito gagana at ano po iyong mga included doon sa proportional allocation?

REP. GO (M.). Iyon pong basis ng proportionate allocation for the private universities ay depende po sa population

ng isang lokalidad. For example, kung ang mga State universities kung saan nag-aaral iyong mga bata compared to the, let us say, 60 percent ang nasa State universities and colleges, 60 percent ang allocation nila roon sa TES. Kung naman ang private ay mas malaki roon sa 60 percent, I mean kung mayroong situation na malaki naman ang proportionate, in terms of number, noong mga nag-aaral sa mga private universities and colleges, ganoon din. So, iyon ang basis ng binanggit natin dito na proportionate to the public and private institutions.

REP. MANUEL. Yes. Mr. Speaker, since itong voucher system ay para siyang bagong component ng ating Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education, nais ko pong maintindihan ano ang magiging relation nito at magiging bahagi rin ba ng proportional budgetary allocation iyong mga beneficiaries ng TES doon sa computation na, example po, ito ba iyong proportional allocation, is it based on the total enrollment of students in a certain area or factored in po ba roon iyong number of TES beneficiaries?

REP. GO (M.). Well, liwanagin muna natin para masiguro nating very clear iyong point natin dito. Number one, itong Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education, we are mandating the different institutions, public institutions, na magbigay ng free education sa lahat ng mga estudyante that will enroll in these State universities and colleges. Now, on top of this, mayroon tayong provision sa Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, ito ngang Tertiary Education Subsidy. So, ang inaamyendahan natin ay iyong Tertiary Education Subsidy provision ng Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education.

Sa ngayon, ang nabibigyan lang ay iyong mga nasa priority list identified in this particular law that we have right now. Ang gusto natin ngayon, bigyan ng pagkakataon iyong mga estudyante na magkaroon ng education subsidy, iyong nag-aaral sa mga private schools. Kasi ngayon, list ang priority nila, unless, number one, they belong to iyong Listahanan 2, at pangalawa, iyong ngang nasa listahan ng DSWD na qualified din, at

iyong walang SUCs and LUCs. Gusto natin ngayon magkaroon ng specific proportionate percentage iyong mga tatanggap sa mga private, I mean private institutions ng mga estudyante. So, ito iyong very specific. So, iyon ang gusto nating mangyari. Ngayon, if you are already enjoying iyong TES ngayon, kasi ang provision natin under the existing law, kailangan hanggang ikaw ay makatapos, tatanggapin mo iyon. Okay, iyon will not apply for those new ones na mag-a-avail ng TES under this particular provision of our amendment, hindi na sila tatanggap noong dati. At iyong mga tumatanggap na ngayon, itutuloy nila hanggang sila ay makatapos. So, iyon ang provision natin dito sa ating panukalang batas.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, example, sa isang lugar, ano, kung nagkaroon na ng screening at may tala na ng sino iyong mga beneficiaries ng TES, example lang, out of 100 percent TES beneficiaries in that locality, 80 percent ay nasa SUCs at ang natitirang 20 percent ay nasa private HEIs. Doon po ba babatay ng proportional budgetary allocation for the voucher system?

REP. GO (M.). Isang consideration iyon. At siyempre, kahit na 80 percent, halimbawa, iyong nasa public universities, so iyong SUCs and LUCs, kung ang nag-apply naman dito sa TES ay konti compared to those na 20 percent lang sa private, then probably that is another consideration that we have to take in determining the proportionate share of those who will be in the private universities and colleges in the country.

REP. MANUEL. Yes. Mr. Speaker, ang gusto ko din kasing mas maunawaan, ano, ito bang voucher system, ang intent ba niya ay balansehin iyong beneficiaries ng TES saka voucher system? Kasi puwedeng, iyon nga, depende din sa lugar, kung may mga lugar na almost pantay naman, 50-50. Pero sa mga lugar ba na mas marami iyong TES grantees na nag-enroll sa mga SUCs, ibig sabihin ba noon, iyong voucher system natin ay mas gusto nating bigyan doon iyong mga nasa private HEIs, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GO (M.). Ang gusto natin dito, we will give option to the students if they want to go to a public university or to a private university. Kasi pag ikaw ay may voucher, ikaw ang magde-decide whether you want to go to a particular university, whether public or private. Iyon ang gusto natin, and at the same time, maiwasan natin iyong sitwasyon ngayon. You know, many students now are enrolling in different State universities and colleges. They move out from mga private universities and colleges.

Pero because of this, ano ang nangyayari? Nagkakaroon ng congestion sa ating mga State universities and colleges and some of these people cannot enroll diyan sa mga State universities and colleges because ano na nga sila, full iyong enrollment nila.

So, because of this, they cannot avail of the support of the government, particularly the TES. So, this is what we wanted, to ensure na ma-address natin iyong concern that they are not given the opportunity to avail of the TES and, at the same time, iwasan natin iyong congestion na nangyayari ngayon sa mga State universities and colleges where it would result in a certain degree, na hindi nakapag-eenroll iyong mga estudyante.

At last, ang sabi ko nga, bigyan natin ng choice iyong mga estudyante ngayon whether they want to go to a public or a private university through this Tertiary Education Subsidy as we propose.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, sa nabanggit po na naging effect noong pagkakaroon natin ng Free Higher Education program sa ating SUCs, ako po, tingin ko, Mr. Speaker, yes, it is a problem, pero it is a positive kind of problem kasi ibig sabihin noon, na gusto nang makapasok ng ating mga estudyante sa ating mga SUCs dahil nga gusto nilang ma-avail ang libreng edukasyon na pino-provide doon. Hindi na sila magbabayad ng tuition and other school fees. And while hindi naman tayo tumututol, sa kahit anumang tulong sa mga estudyante kahit saan man sila enrolled, I think iyong usapin po ng pagko-congest sa ating mga SUCs at iyong na-observe din natin na tumataas din ang bilang ng mga gusto talagang pumasok, kaya ang mga SUCs natin

ay nagti-trim down din ng kanilang admission rates, ay puwede rin po nating masolusyonan by ensuring sufficient support or greater support sa ating mga State universities and colleges para rin madagdagan iyong mga naka-benefit noong free education.

At iyong mga gusto naman talagang mag-private school, e di igagalang naman natin iyong kanilang desisyon. Pero roon naman sa mga first choice talaga nila kasi hangga't kaya nila, kung gusto nilang libre e di sa SUC sila, mainam na mabigyan natin ng resources iyong ating mga schools para ma-admit iyong mga ganoong estudyante, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GO (M.). Yes. Mr. Speaker, tama yon. I think the point that I am trying to drive at here is we give them the choice, you know, whether they want to go to a public university or a private university. It is really a challenging problem if you may. It is good na, you know, we give everybody the opportunity to go to a public university or State university. And, I agree with you that it is important that we probably increase the budget for these students. But, having said that, I think it will be better if we give them the choice of going either to a public or a private university. And this is the main, one of the main objectives of this particular measure, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Interpellator.

REP. MANUEL. Yes. Mr. Speaker, again, iyong sa proportional budgetary allocation lang, ito ba bale proportional siya nationwide? Ibig sabihin, e, di depende doon sa population ng estudyante in an area, e di iyon ang bilang ng vouchers na ia-allocate for that area. Tama po ba, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GO (M.). It can, you know, we have to look at the geographical location of the institutions and at the same time, probably, look at the entire country, then from there we can determine the exact proportionate allocation for public and private.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, ang gusto rin nating i-ensure sa ating assistance programs para sa mga estudyante ay nandiyan iyong pagtitiyak natin na ang mga voucher programs

e hindi naman siya naabusado noong ilang mga private schools na nagiging primary motive na nila e parang pinagkakakitaan na lang iyong education, at parang hindi na sila incentivized na ayusin ang quality ng kanilang education dahil meron silang inaasahan namang enrolment ng students dahil may ino-offer silang mga vouchers.

Kaya ang tanong ko po, Mr. Speaker, paano natin titiyakin na nandiyan pa rin iyong component natin na TES na may sapat silang pondo kasi kung maaaprubahan natin ito, Mr. Speaker, e di kapag budget process, e di nandiyan na iyong inputs ng DBM. It would cite iyong limits na naman sa budget, and limited fiscal space as they say. Ang ayaw lang natin, Mr. Speaker, na baka mabawasan ang pondo for TES. Kasi iyong TES, hindi siya merit-based unlike itong voucher system na naka-specify, for poor and academically qualified students.

So, gusto natin iyong pondo for TES, nandiyan pa rin iyan, open iyan para sa lahat, SUC, LUC or private, kung magkakaroon man ng ganitong voucher system, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GO (M.). Yes, I agree with you. We do not like that this will be taken advantage of by some universities or colleges in the country for their benefit. I think we will be ensuring that these institutions will provide quality education to our students. That is a role that should be played by the school and, at the same time, by the Commission on Higher Education. Kailangan natin iyan. Even if we have limited budget, we should ensure that the quality of education is there kasi sayang ang pondo na gagastusin ng gobyerno for our children if and when they are not given the right or the quality education that they deserve.

So, siguraduhin natin iyan and, you know, kailangan ang regular monitoring nito, not only in one particular city but also in the entire country, looking at all the State universities and colleges, as well as iyong mga private education institutions.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, ang esensiya din ng R.A. No. 10931 ay pagtitiyak noong access ng ating mga estudyante and among

all programs currently under R.A. No. 10931 ay hindi po or wala roon iyong nakabatay sa merit or academic qualifications.

Now, I would like to clarify, Mr. Speaker, tungkol dito sa voucher system kasi iyong objectives niya ay para ring kagaya noong TES or Tertiary Education Subsidy. However, it is like a variant kasi nagdadagdag tayo noong pagiging academically qualified, tapos ito naman ay specific lang siya sa mga private HEI student. Posible po ba, Mr. Speaker, kung iyong TES na lang ay i-expand natin since mas flexible po iyong TES. Iyon, puwede nga siya for students kahit saan man, tapos puwedeng ayusin na lang para iyong mga estudyante, halimbawa, nag-desisyon sila na mag-private, di maka-aavail din sila.

REP. GO (M.). Mr. Speaker, Mr. Interpellator, iyong definition natin ng poor and academically qualified student refers to a student who belongs to a household ranked as "poor" by the Department of Social Welfare and Development based on the proof of income as presented to the UniFAST Board and who consistently, ito lang naman ang academically qualified student who meets the academic retention requirements of the concerned HEI or TVI for a regular unit load. Iyon lang naman, napakasimple. You just meet the requirements of the institution, iyon lang naman dito. Ngayon, iyong sa tanong mo na kung puwede ito, ito na nga iyong gusto nating mangyari. This is on top, sabi ko nga, this is on top of what is provided for under the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education, and that is free tertiary education for all students in the State universities and colleges.

REP. MANUEL. Okay.

Mr. Speaker, I no longer have any more questions.

I thank the Sponsor for addressing our concerns and ang bottom-line lang, Mr. Speaker, gusto natin na habang ina-acknowledge natin na iyong ating mga private school, lalo iyong mga maliliit which would have to be heard also by our government, pero nandiyan pa din iyong primary role noong

ating government para magbigay noong quality education sa ating mga estudyante.

Iyon lang po, good Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Daghang salamat, Congressman Manuel for your active participation.

REP. GO (M.). Thank you. Thank you very much.

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

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Members who desire to interpellate on or speak against the measure, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to terminate the period of sponsorship and debate. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, said motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to open the period of amendments. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) There being no objections, the said motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close or terminate the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to terminate the period of amendments. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the said motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 7922.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 7922 on Second Reading. Majority Leader, is that correct?

REP. ACHARON. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). All those in favor of House Bill No. 7922, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7922
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 7922 is approved on Second Reading. (*Applause*)
Congratulations, Chair Go!
Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 884

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 884 contained in Committee Report No. 465 as reported out by the Special Committee on Creative Industry and Performing Arts.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 884, entitled: RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING MS. BELINDA "BELLE" ANGELITO MARIANO FOR WINNING THE OUTSTANDING ASIAN STAR PRIZE

IN THE 2022 SEOUL INTERNATIONAL DRAMA AWARDS FOR HER PERFORMANCE IN THE TELEVISION SERIES, "HE'S INTO HER."

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

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 884 contained in Committee Report No. 465.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 884.

Those who are in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 884

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The *ayes* have it; House Resolution No. 884 is hereby adopted.
Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 913

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 913 contained in Committee Report No. 487 as reported out by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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

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

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.*

* Copies of the measure were distributed to the Members earlier. Section 53, Rule X of the Provisional 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," and Section 67 of the same provides that "Resolutions shall be subject to the same procedure as bills x x x"

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 913, entitled: RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A CONSULAR OFFICE IN ORMOC CITY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE.

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

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 913.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 913.

Those who are in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 913

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The *ayes* have it; House Resolution No. 913 is hereby adopted.

Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 914

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 914 contained in Committee Report No. 488 as reported out by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 914, entitled: RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A CONSULAR OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALIBO, PROVINCE OF AKLAN.

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

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 914.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 914.

All those who are in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 914

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The *ayes* have it; House Resolution No. 914 is hereby adopted.

Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 691

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 691 contained in Committee Report No. 490 as reported out by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 691, entitled: RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A CONSULAR

* Copies of the measure were distributed to the Members earlier. Section 53, Rule X of the Provisional 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," and Section 67 of the same provides that "Resolutions shall be subject to the same procedure as bills x x x"

OFFICE IN THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF ZAMBALES.

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

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 691.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 691.

All those who are in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 691

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The *ayes* have it; House Resolution No. 691 is hereby adopted.

Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 919

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 919 contained in Committee Report No. 491 as reported out by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 919, entitled: RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A CONSULAR OFFICE IN THE PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO.

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

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 69 ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
Nine-one-nine.

REP. REVILLA (B.). Nine-one-nine, sorry, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 919.

Those who are in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 919

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The *ayes* have it; House Resolution No. 919 is therefore adopted.

Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 920

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 920 contained in Committee Report No. 492 as reported out by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 920, entitled: RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN

* Copies of the measure were distributed to the Members earlier. Section 53, Rule X of the Provisional 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," and Section 67 of the same provides that "Resolutions shall be subject to the same procedure as bills x x x"

AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A CONSULAR OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LILOY, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE.

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

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 920.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 920.

Those who are in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 920

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The *ayes* have it; House Resolution No. 920 is hereby adopted.

Majority Leader.

REP. REVILLA (B.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 974

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 974, and may we direct the Secretary General to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 974, entitled: RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINO-AMERICAN MS. R'BONNEY NOLA GABRIEL FOR WINNING THE MISS UNIVERSE TITLE IN THE 71ST MISS UNIVERSE PAGEANT HELD IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON JANUARY 15, 2023.

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

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 974.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 974.

Those who are in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 974

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The *ayes* have it; House Resolution No. 974 is hereby adopted.

Majority Leader.

OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS
ON SECOND READING

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move for the omnibus consideration of the following local bills:

1. House Bill No. 8001, contained in Committee Report No. 507;
2. House Bill No. 7798, contained in Committee Report No. 482;
3. House Bill No. 7908, contained in Committee Report No. 497;
4. House Bill No. 7961, contained in Committee Report No. 505;
5. House Bill No. 7768, contained in Committee Report No. 479;

* Copies of the measure were distributed to the Members earlier. Section 53, Rule X of the Provisional 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," and Section 67 of the same provides that "Resolutions shall be subject to the same procedure as bills x x x"

6. House Bill No. 7769, contained in Committee Report No. 480;

7. House Bill No. 7770, contained in Committee Report No. 481;

8. House Bill No. 7933, contained in Committee Report No. 500;

9. House Bill No. 7934, contained in Committee Report No. 501;

10. House Bill No. 425, contained in Committee Report No. 508;

11. House Bill No. 8003, contained in Committee Report No. 509; and

12. House Bill No. 8004, contained in Committee Report No. 510,

and for such purpose, Mr. Speaker, may I request that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the measures.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). The Secretary General will please read the title of these measures.* Please proceed.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8001, entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE FREEPORT AREA OF BATAAN (AFAB), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9728, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "FREEPORT AREA OF BATAAN (FAB) ACT OF 2009", AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11453;

House Bill No. 7798, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE NUMBER OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MACTAN-CEBU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6958, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CHARTER OF THE MACTAN-CEBU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY";

House Bill No. 7908, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LILOY, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, TO BE KNOWN AS THE LILOY, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TRAINING

AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 7961, entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE BULACAN STATE UNIVERSITY AS A SYSTEM EXPANDING ITS CURRICULAR OFFERINGS AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 7768, entitled: AN ACT CREATING A DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE THIRD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 7769, entitled: AN ACT CREATING A DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE THIRD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 7770, entitled: AN ACT CREATING A DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 7933, entitled: AN ACT CREATING A DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE CITY OF ANTIPOLLO, PROVINCE OF RIZAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 7934, entitled: AN ACT CREATING A DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE LONE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF LAPU-LAPU, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 425, entitled: AN ACT RENAMING THE KALIBO-BANGA-BALETE-BATAN-ALTAVAS NATIONAL ROAD WHICH IS PART OF THE KALIBO HIGHWAY, STRETCHING FROM THE NUMANCIA-KALIBO BOUNDARY AT BARANGAY LAGUINBANUA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NUMANCIA, TRAVERSING BARANGAYS POBLACION, ANDAGAO, ESTANCIA, TIGAYON AND LINABUAN NORTE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALIBO, BARANGAYS LINABUAN SUR, JUMARAP, MAMBOG, POBLACION, TABAYON, LIBAS AND VENTURANZA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BANGA, BARANGAYS FULGENCIO, FELICIANO,

CALIZO, MORALES, POBLACION, CORTES AND ARANAS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALETE, BARANGAYS LALAB AND CABUGAO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATAN, BARANGAYS CABUGAO, LINAYASAN, ODIONG, POBLACION, MANUP, CABANGILA, UPTO THE CAPIZ-AKLAN BOUNDARY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALTAVAS, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN, AS CONGRESSMAN ALLEN SALAS QUIMPO NATIONAL HIGHWAY;

House Bill No. 8003, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARLIG IN MOUNTAIN PROVINCE A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA; and

House Bill No. 8004, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE AREA ENCOMPASSING MOUNT DAMAS AND UBOD FALLS, LOCATED IN BARANGAY MAASIN, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN CLEMENTE, PROVINCE OF TARLAC, AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
There is a motion to open the period of sponsorship and debate. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the motion is approved.
Majority Leader.

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt the respective Explanatory Notes of the bills as the sponsorship speeches thereon of the authors and sponsors.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
There is a motion to adopt the respective Explanatory Notes as the sponsorship speeches on the several bills. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the motion is approved.
Majority Leader.

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, there being no Members who wish to interpellate on or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
There is a motion to close the period of sponsorship and debate. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the said motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
There is a motion to open the period of amendments. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the said motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the written amendments submitted to the Committee be adopted as the amendments to these bills.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
There is a motion to adopt the written amendments submitted to the Committee as the amendments to the aforementioned bills. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the said motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, there being no Members who wish to introduce additional Committee or individual amendments, I move that we now close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza).
There is a motion to close the period of amendments. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the said motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we approve on Second Reading, as amended, the following local House Bills: House Bill No. 8001, House Bill No. 7798, House Bill No. 7908, House Bill No. 7961, House Bill No. 7768, House Bill No. 7769, House Bill No. 7770, House Bill No. 7933, House Bill No. 7934, House Bill No. 425, House Bill No. 8003, and House Bill No. 8004.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion for the approval of the bills enumerated in the omnibus motion on Second Reading.

Those who are in favor, say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). Those who are not in favor, say *Nay*. (*Silence*) The *ayes* have it; the said bills enumerated in the omnibus motion are hereby approved on Second Reading.

Majority Leader.

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I also move that we include additional coauthors to House Bill Nos. 7767, 7819, 7922, 7939, 7941, 7942, 7986, 8008, 8009, 8078, and 8162, and House Resolution Nos. 884 and 974, as contained in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to include additional coauthors to the aforesaid House Bills and House Resolutions as enumerated. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the said motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REFERRAL OF SPEECHES
ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

REP. VELOSO-TUAZON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to our Provisional Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation, I move that we refer the following speeches, delivered on May 8, 2023, to the appropriate Committees:

1. Speech of Representative Castro (F.), to the Committees on Labor and Employment and Civil Service and Professional Regulation;
2. Speech of Representative Brosas, to the Committee on Energy;
3. Speech of Representative Manuel, to the Committees on Basic Education and Culture, and Higher and Technical Education;
4. Speech of Representative Cojuangco (M.), to the Committee on Agriculture and Food; and
5. Speech of Representative Vergara, to the Committee on Health.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to refer the respective speeches of several House Members to the appropriate Committees. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) Hearing none, the said motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

ELECTION OF REP. GONZALES (A.)
AS SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to elect the Hon. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr., Representative of the Third District of Pampanga, as Sr. Dep. Speaker vice the Hon. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to elect as stated. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

ELECTION OF
REP. MACAPAGAL-ARROYO (G.)
AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to elect the Hon. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Representative of the Second District of Pampanga, as Deputy Speaker vice the position vacated by the newly elected Sr. Dep. Speaker Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales, Jr.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion as stated by Majority Leader. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until Monday, May 22, 2023 at 3:00 p.m..

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Mendoza). There is a motion to adjourn the session until

Monday, May 22, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to adjourn is approved.

Thank you very much and good night.

It was 7:41 p.m.

