



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 19<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

## House of Representatives

Vol. 6

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

No. 80

### CALL TO ORDER

*At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Vincent Franco "Duke" D. Frasco called the session to order.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco).  
The session is now called to order.

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco).  
Please stand for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

*Everybody rose for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.*

### PRAYER

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

*Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.*

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

### ROLL CALL

REP. DY (F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the Roll of Members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Secretary General is directed to call the Roll of Members.

*The Secretary General called the Roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 80 dated May 31, 2023.\**

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

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

Majority Leader.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS  
TO THE CONF. CTTEE  
ON H.B. NO. 6608 AND S.B. NO. 2020

REP. DY (F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members to the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 6608 and Senate Bill No. 2020, on the establishment of the Maharlika Investment Fund:

Rep. Irwin C. Tieng;  
Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda;  
Rep. Stella Luz A. Quimbo;  
Rep. Ralph G. Recto;  
Rep. Felimon M. Espares; and  
Rep. Wilbert T. Lee.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco).  
There is a motion by the Majority Leader. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Members nominated are so designated.  
Majority Leader.

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

REP. DY (F.). Mr. Speaker, I move for the deferment of the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

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

Majority Leader.

REP. DY (F.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

## REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

*The Secretary General read the following House Bills and Resolutions on First Reading as filed, Messages from the President, Communications, and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:*

## BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 8396, entitled:

AN ACT DECLARING JULY 27 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NABUA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS "NABUA DAY"

By Representative Villafuerte (M.L.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 8397, entitled:

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

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 8398, entitled:

THE REVISED ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE OF 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 Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 8401, entitled:

AN ACT RECLASSIFYING A PARCEL OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN LOCATED IN BARANGAY TAMBLER IN THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS AS ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LAND OPEN TO DISPOSITION FOR AGRICULTURAL, RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND FOR OTHERS PURPOSES.

By Representative Acharon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 8402, entitled:

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 7607, ENTITLED AN ACT PROVIDING A MAGNA CARTA OF SMALL FARMERS"

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

House Bill No. 8403, entitled:

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 2 AND 3 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 577  
By Representative Rodriguez (R.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 8404, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF THE DON MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY

OF SAN FERNANDO, PROVINCE OF  
LA UNION AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR.

By Representative Ortega  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 8405, entitled:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE  
CADACLAN-BOTANICAL GARDEN  
ROAD IN SAN FERNANDO CITY,  
LA UNION, INTO A NATIONAL  
ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND  
IMPROVEMENT THEREOF

By Representative Ortega  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8406, entitled:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE  
BANGBANGOLAN-PACPACO-PAO  
NORTE-PAO SUR-CABARSICAN-  
MASICONG ROAD IN SAN  
FERNANDO CITY, LA UNION,  
INTO A NATIONAL ROAD  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND  
IMPROVEMENT THEREOF

By Representative Ortega  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8407, entitled:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE  
TANQUIGAN-SIBUAN-OTONG  
ROAD IN SAN FERNANDO CITY,  
LA UNION, INTO A NATIONAL  
ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND  
IMPROVEMENT THEREOF

By Representative Ortega  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8408, entitled:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE  
PAGDALAGAN-BUNGRO-  
TANQUIGAN ROAD IN SAN  
FERNANDO CITY, LA UNION,  
INTO A NATIONAL ROAD

AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND  
IMPROVEMENT THEREOF

By Representative Ortega  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8409, entitled:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE RIZAL  
AVENUE PROVINCIAL ROAD  
IN SAN FERNANDO CITY, LA  
UNION, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND  
IMPROVEMENT THEREOF

By Representative Ortega  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8410, entitled:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE  
SAN VICENTE-CANAOAY-  
CATBANGAN-ILOCANOS SUR-  
ILOCANOS NORTE ROAD IN  
SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION  
INTO A NATIONAL ROAD  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREOF

By Representative Ortega  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8411, entitled:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE  
CADAPLI-SENGAT CASTRO  
ROAD IN BANGAR, LA UNION  
INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR  
THE MAINTENANCE AND  
IMPROVEMENT THEREOF

By Representative Ortega  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8412, entitled:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE PANTAR-  
SAN FRANCISCO PROVINCIAL  
ROAD IN BALAOAN, LA UNION,  
INTO A NATIONAL ROAD  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND

## IMPROVEMENT THEREOF

By Representative Ortega  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8413, entitled:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE  
BALAOAN-SANTOL PROVINCIAL  
ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITIES  
OF BALAOAN AND SANTOL, LA  
UNION, INTO A NATIONAL ROAD  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND  
IMPROVEMENT THEREOF

By Representative Ortega  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8414, entitled:

AN ACT CONVERTING BACNOTAN-  
SAN GABRIEL ROAD IN THE  
MUNICIPALITIES OF BACNOTAN  
AND SAN GABRIEL, PROVINCE  
OF LA UNION INTO A NATIONAL  
ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND  
IMPROVEMENT THEREOF

By Representative Ortega  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8415, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING AN  
ADDITIONAL GROUND FOR  
CANCELLING THE CERTIFICATE  
OF CANDIDACY OF A NUISANCE  
CANDIDATE AND MAKING  
THE ACTS OF A NUISANCE  
CANDIDATE AN ELECTION  
OFFENSE, AMENDING  
SECTIONS 69, 261 (CC) AND 264  
OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG.  
881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
THE "OMNIBUS ELECTION  
CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES",  
AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

By Representative Marcos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE  
AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

AN ACT UPGRADING CLASSIFICATION  
OF THE LTO AGOO DISTRICT  
OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY  
AGOO, LA UNION FROM CLASS  
"C" TO "B" DISTRICT OFFICE, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Garcia (D.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 8417, entitled:

AN ACT STRENGTHENING  
THE PANGASINAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY, PROVIDING FOR THE  
COMPOSITION AND POWERS OF ITS  
GOVERNING BOARD, PRESCRIBING  
ITS CURRICULAR OFFERINGS,  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

By Representative Arenas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 8418, entitled:

AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER  
TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE  
FRANCHISE GRANTED TO DIGITAL  
BROADCASTING CORPORATION  
UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8689,  
ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING  
DIGITAL BROADCASTING  
CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO  
CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH,  
OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO  
AND TELEVISION STATIONS IN  
THE PHILIPPINES"

By Representatives Yu (D.G.) and Yu (J.V.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE  
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 8419, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE  
NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT MASTER  
PLAN, TO BE KNOWN AS THE  
"TRABAHO PARA SA BAYAN  
PLAN", AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Tan (K.M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND  
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 8416, entitled:

House Bill No. 8420, entitled:

AN ACT EXPANDING AND CREATING THE REGULAR CAMPUSES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ANTIQUE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9746, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Legarda  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 8421, entitled:

AN ACT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THE SHARED SERVICE FACILITIES (SSF) PROJECT FOR MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMES) BY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6977 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA FOR SMALL ENTERPRISES AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9501 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

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

House Bill No. 8422, entitled:

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE CONSERVATION OF NATIONAL HISTORICAL LANDMARKS, SITES AND MONUMENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10066, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT OF 2009"

By Representative Guintu  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8423, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SCHOLARSHIP TO CHILDREN AND DEPENDENTS OF FARMERS AND FISHERFOLKS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR

OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Guintu  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 8424, entitled:

AN ACT DECLARING LARGE-SCALE AGRICULTURAL SMUGGLING AS ECONOMIC SABOTAGE, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representatives Brosas, Castro (F.) and Manuel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 8425, entitled:

AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 18 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOLANA, PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS "AGGAO NAC SOLANA"

By Representative Lara  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 8427, entitled:

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS OF LIVING TRADITIONS FOR INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AS PART OF THE BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Suan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8428, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

By Representatives Suan and Unabia  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 8429, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES TO BARANGAY TANOD MEMBERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Suan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 8430, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MAGNA CARTA FOR DAYCARE WORKERS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representatives Suan and Unabia

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 8431, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY FORESTS IN BARANGAYS BAYANGA, BESIGAN, DANSOLIHON, LUMBIA, MAMBUAYA, PAGALUNGAN, TUMPAGON, PIGSAG-AN, SAN SIMON, TAGLIMAO, TAGPANGI, TIGNAPOLOAN, TUBURAN, AND BAIKINGON, IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Suan

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION

House Bill No. 8432, entitled:

AN ACT INCREASING THE DISCOUNT RATE AND EXEMPTING FROM THE VALUE ADDED TAX THE MONTHLY ELECTRIC AND WATER CONSUMPTION GRANTED TO SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010"

By Representative Suan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 8433, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FISH PORT AND COLD STORAGE FACILITY IN BARANGAY BAYABAS, CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Suan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 8434, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FISH PORT AND COLD STORAGE FACILITY IN BARANGAY BONBON, CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Suan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 8435, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FISH PORT AND COLD STORAGE FACILITY IN BARANGAY BULUA, CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Suan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 8436, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING SATELLITE MULTI-SPECIES FRESHWATER MARINE HATCHERIES IN BARANGAYS BAIKINGON, BAYANGA, BESIGAN, DANSOLIHON, LUMBIA, MAMBUAYA, PAGALUNGAN, PIGSAG-AN, SAN SIMON, TAGLIMAO, TAGPANGI, TIGNAPOLOAN, TUBURAN, AND TUMPAGON, IN THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, AND

APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR  
By Representative Suan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES  
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 8437, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING JOB PLACEMENT  
OFFICES IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS  
TO PROVIDE CAREER SERVICES  
TO THE YOUTH, APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

By Representative Suan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND  
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 8438, entitled:

AN ACT FIXING THE PERIOD OF  
VALIDITY FOR REGISTRATION  
CERTIFICATES OF MOTOR VEHICLES,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
SECTIONS 8 AND 14 OF REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 4136, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS THE "LAND TRANSPORTATION  
AND TRAFFIC CODE ACT"

By Representative Suan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 8439, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING SATELLITE  
MULTI-SPECIES MARINE  
HATCHERIES IN BARANGAYS  
BAYABAS, BONBON AND BULUA,  
IN THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO,  
PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

By Representative Suan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES  
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 8440, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR LIFETIME  
VALIDITY OF PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITY IDENTIFICATION  
CARDS ISSUED TO PWDS WITH  
PERMANENT DISABILITY,  
FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE

PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
"MAGNA CARTA FOR DISABLED  
PERSONS", AS AMENDED

By Representative Suan  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON  
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

House Bill No. 8442, entitled:

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AND  
STRENGTHENING THE ARABIC  
LANGUAGE AND ISLAMIC  
VALUES EDUCATION PROGRAM  
IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE  
BASIC EDUCATION SCHOOLS,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representatives Adiong and Balindong  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC  
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8444, entitled:

AN ACT DEVELOPING AND  
INSTITUTIONALIZING GLOBAL  
HEALTH DIPLOMACY AND  
CREATING AND DEPLOYING  
HEALTH ATTACHES' IN ALL  
PHILIPPINE EMBASSIES AND  
CONSULAR OFFICES AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Arenas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND  
THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 8445, entitled:

AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER  
TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE  
FRANCHISE GRANTED TO THE  
CAGAYAN DE ORO COLLEGE, INC.  
UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8740,  
CURRENTLY KNOWN AS CAGAYAN  
DE ORO MEDIA CORPORATION, TO  
CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH,  
OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO  
AND TELEVISION STATIONS IN  
THE PHILIPPINES

By Representative Alba  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE  
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 8446, entitled:

AN ACT INSTITUTING POLICIES TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS ACTS OF BULLYING AND OTHER SIMILAR ACTS IN THE WORKPLACE

By Representatives Tulfo (R.W.) and Tulfo (J.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 8453, entitled:

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE ECOSYSTEM AND NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING SYSTEM (PENCAS), MANDATING ITS USE IN POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING, DESIGNATING THE AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, PROVIDING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AMONG RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representatives Tulfo (R.W.) and Tulfo (J.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 8454, entitled:

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AND EXPANDING THE NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY STRATEGY (NERS) TO A NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT ACTION PLAN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representatives Tulfo (R.W.) and Tulfo (J.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 8455, entitled:

AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR LARGE-SCALE AGRICULTURAL SMUGGLING, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10845, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ANTI-AGRICULTURAL SMUGGLING ACT OF 2016"

By Representatives Tulfo (R.W.) and Tulfo (J.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 8462, entitled:

AN ACT CREATING THE UNION COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representatives Enverga, Co (E.) and Quimbo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

## RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1057, entitled:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PERFORMANCE OF WESTERN VISAYAS SANITARIUM AND GENERAL HOSPITAL IN ITS HEALTHCARE DELIVERY AND THE DELAYED RELEASE OF THE EMPLOYEES SALARY AND BENEFITS AND PROPOSE REMEDIAL MEASURES

By Representative Gorriceta  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1058, entitled:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON UNFAIR PRACTICES OF AUTOMOBILE DEALERS

By Representative Dionisio  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1059, entitled:

RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT NATIONAL GUIDELINES ON THE EMERGENCY TRANSFER OF LEARNERS AFFECTED BY NATURAL AND HUMAN-INDUCED DISASTERS IN BASIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

By Representative Romulo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Resolution No. 1060, entitled:



A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, TO MASSIVELY PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF ABACA BY FILIPINOS, AND ENSURE THE FOOTHOLD OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE GLOBAL ABACA MARKET

By Representative Rodriguez (E.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Resolution No. 1062, entitled:

A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE CONTINUING LOW PRICE OF COPRA IN THE MARKET.

By Representative Libanan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1063, entitled:

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION (SOGIE) AGAINST STUDENTS IN BATANGAS CITY, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, PARTICULARLY IN THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL-CALABARZON REGION CAMPUS AND THE BATANGAS STATE UNIVERSITY

By Representative Roman  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1064, entitled:

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE JOURNAL OF THE SESSION DATED MAY 31, 2023 AS HAVING BEEN

READ AND APPROVED

By Representatives Dalipe and Libanan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1065, entitled:

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING BIANCA BUSTAMANTE FOR HER EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AS THE FIRST FILIPINO TO WIN THE FORMULA ONE (F1) ACADEMY

By Representative Hernandez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 1066, entitled:

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING VINCE ASUNCION PARAS REIGNING WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION - ASIA FLYWEIGHT CHAMPION

By Representative Acharon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 1067, entitled:

RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE COST-CUTTING AND RESTRUCTURING OF WYETH-NESTLE PHILIPPINES IN CANLUBANG, LAGUNA THAT CAUSED THE ILLEGAL LOCKOUT AND TERMINATION OF 140 EMPLOYEES

By Representatives Brosas and Manuel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Concurrent Resolution No. 12, entitled:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ADJOURNMENT *SINE DIE* OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES NOT LATER THAN TWELVE O'CLOCK MIDNIGHT, TODAY, WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023

By Representatives Dalipe and Libanan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

29 MAY 2023

**SEN. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**  
*Senate President*  
The Philippine Senate  
Pasay City

Mr. Senate President:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 26 (2) of the 1987 Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of **Senate Bill No. 2219**, entitled:

**"AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11213, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE TAX AMNESTY ACT, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11569, BY EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF AVAILMENT OF THE ESTATE TAX AMNESTY UNTIL JUNE 14, 2025, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,"**

in order to provide delinquent taxpayers an opportunity to settle their estate tax obligations through a reasonable tax relief program that will improve the government's collection, reduce tax cases, and simplify the requirements for tax amnesty. The bill also aims to further collect a significant amount of tax from the remaining unsettled estates of decedents. Since the extension set by the previous law is nearing its end, there is an urgent need to enact the said bill to meet a public necessity, which is that of the taxpayers being able to take advantage of the tax amnesty and the government being able to realize the much needed revenue from the program.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,



**Rep. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez**  
*Speaker of the House*  
House of Representatives  
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

**Secretary Mark Liandro L. Mendoza**  
*Presidential Legislative Adviser and Head*  
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office  
2/F New Executive Building  
Malacañang, Manila

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES



TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES



MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

29 MAY 2023

**SEN. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**  
*Senate President*  
The Philippine Senate  
Pasay City

Mr. Senate President:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 26 (2) of the 1987 Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of **Senate Bill No. 1846**, entitled:

**"AN ACT PROTECTING CONSUMERS AND MERCHANTS ENGAGED IN INTERNET TRANSACTIONS, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE ELECTRONIC COMMERCE BUREAU, APPROPRIATING FUND THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,"**

to address the urgent need of the government to implement regulatory measures on electronic commerce transactions in order to strengthen consumer protection against fraud and other illicit activities, and promote fair competition and security of business. The bill, if enacted, will build an environment of trust between online merchants and consumers, and thus enhance the growth of E-Commerce in the country.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,



*Copy furnished:*

**Rep. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez**  
*Speaker of the House*  
House of Representatives  
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

**Secretary Mark Llandro L. Mendoza**  
*Presidential Legislative Adviser and Head*  
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office  
2/F New Executive Building  
Malacañang, Manila

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES



TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

## COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated May 8, 2023 of Renato O. Rosales, OIC-Regional Director, Cordillera Administrative Region, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of their annual audit reports for the year ending December 31, 2022 on the following state universities and colleges:

1. Abra State Institute of Sciences and Technology;
2. Apayao State College;
3. Benguet State University;
4. Ifugao State University;
5. Kalinga State University; and
6. Mountain Province State Polytechnic College.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Letter dated May 9, 2023 of Kim Robert C. De Leon, Undersecretary for Administration and Finance, Department of Transportation, transmitting to the House of Representatives the following financial reports for the month of April 2023:

1. Monthly Report of Disbursements – FAR No. 4, Fund Cluster 01;
2. Monthly Report of Disbursements – FAR No. 4, Fund Cluster 02; and
3. Monthly Report Disbursements – FAR No. 4, Fund Cluster 02 – Working Fund.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated May 9, 2023 of Kim Robert C. De Leon, Undersecretary for Administration and Finance, Department of Transportation, transmitting to the House of Representatives a copy of their Statement of Approved Budget, Utilizations, Disbursements and Balances for Trust Receipts (FAR No. 6) for the quarter ending March 31, 2023.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letters dated May 15, 2023 of Secretary Isidro L. Purisima, Acting Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace,

Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU), informing the House of Representatives that OPAPRU's Financial Reports for the months of March and April 2023 were submitted to the Unified Reporting System (URS) and posted on their official website.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated May 15, 2023 of Richard P. Palpal-Latoc, Chairperson, Commission on Human Rights, submitting to the House of Representatives the following Financial Accountability Reports (FARs) for the quarter ending March 31, 2023 which were submitted to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) through the Unified Reporting System (URS) on April 28, 2023:

1. Statement of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations, Disbursements and Balances (FAR No. 1);
2. Summary of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations, Disbursements and Balances by Object of Expenditures (FAR No. 1-A);
3. List of Allotments and Sub-Allotments (FAR No. 1B);
4. Monthly Report of Disbursements – January, February and March 2023 (FAR No. 4); and
5. Quarterly Report of Revenue and Other Receipts (FAR No. 5).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated May 15, 2023 of Atty. Resurreccion C. Quieta, Regional Director, Regional Office No. IV-A, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of their annual audit reports on the following water districts:

1. Lobo Water District, Lobo, Batangas (CY 2017-2021);
2. Lemery Water District, Lemery, Batangas (CY 2019-2021);
3. Batangas City Water District, Batangas City (CY 2022); and
4. Laguna Water District, Los Baños, Laguna (CY 2022).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Letter dated May 16, 2023 from the R9-02 CGS A - Water Districts and Other CGS Stand Alone Agencies, Commission on Audit, transmitting to the House of Representatives copies of their annual audit reports for the year ending December 31, 2022 on the following water districts:

1. Ipil-Titay Water District;
2. Isabela City Water District;
3. Kumalarang Water District; and
4. Tukuran Water District.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Letters dated May 16 and 19, 2023 of Atty. Resurreccion C. Quieta, Regional Director, Regional Office No. IV-A, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of their annual audit reports for the year ending December 31, 2022 on the following state universities and colleges:

1. Laguna State Polytechnic University; and
2. Philippine High School for the Arts.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Letter dated May 18, 2023 of Richard A. Raymundo, State Auditor III, OIC-Audit Team Leader, Audit Team R3-09, Regional Office No. III, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with a copy of the annual audit report on the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy, San Narciso, Zambales for the year ending December 31, 2022.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Letter dated May 18, 2023 of Amenah F. Pangandaman, Secretary, Department of Budget and Management, submitting to the House of Representatives copies of the following reports on the Status of the FY 2022 Budget, i.e., Programs, Releases, and Balances as of December 31, 2022:

1. Annex A - Overall Status of FY 2022 Budget;

2. Annex B - Status of the following funds:

- a. Budgetary Support to Government Corporations;
- b. Allocation to Local Government Units;
- c. Contingent Fund;
- d. Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund;
- e. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund;
- f. Pension and Gratuity Fund; and
- g. Unprogrammed Appropriations.

3. Annex C - FY 2022 Statement of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations, Disbursements, and Balances.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual audit reports and management letters on the following government corporations for the year ending December 31, 2022:

A. 2022 Annual Audit Reports

1. Clark Development Corporation;
2. Clark International Airport Corporation;
3. Government Arsenal Department of National Defense, Camp General Antonio Luna Limay, Bataan; and
4. Subic-Clark Alliance for Development.

B. Management Letters

1. Compliance Audit on the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRR) of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9184, Clark International Airport Corporation; and
2. Compliance Audit on the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRR) of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9184, Clark Development Corporation.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Annual Audit Report on the Bataan Peninsula State University for the year ending December 31, 2022

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Report No. 650, submitted by the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources and the Committee on Appropriations on H.B. No. 8458, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FISH PORT IN BARANGAY MALINTUBUAN, MUNICIPALITY OF LABASON, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4235

Sponsors: Representatives Marañon and Co (E.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 651, submitted by the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources and the Committee on Appropriations on H.B. No. 8459, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FISH PORT IN BARANGAY MACUYON, MUNICIPALITY OF SIRAWAI, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4236

Sponsors: Representatives Marañon and Co (E.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 652, submitted by the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources and the Committee on Appropriations on H.B. No. 8460, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FISH PORT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TANGALAN, PROVINCE OF AKLAN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 7417

Sponsors: Representatives Marañon and Co (E.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 653, submitted by the Special Committee on Senior Citizens on H.B. No. 8461, entitled:

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 7064

Sponsor: Representative Ordanes

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 654, submitted by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture on H.R. No. 1061, entitled:

RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A DISASTER RESILIENT MASTER DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURAL PLAN FOR ALL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN COASTAL AREAS IN THE PHILIPPINES

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 289

Sponsor: Representative Romulo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 655, submitted by the Committee on Disaster Resilience and the Committee on Appropriations on H.B. No. 8463, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF A DISASTER FOOD BANK AND STOCKPILE IN EVERY PROVINCE AND HIGHLY URBANIZED CITY IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING

FOR THEIR MAINTENANCE,  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

recommending its approval in substitution  
of House Bills Numbered 3121, 3783  
and 5245

Sponsors: Representatives Ecleo, Morden,  
Guintu, Adiong and Co (E.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 656, submitted by the  
Committee on Tourism on H.B. No. 8464,  
entitled:

AN ACT DECLARING THE INNOVATIVE  
TISSUE CULTURE LABORATORY  
FOR ORNAMENTAL PLANTS, ALSO  
KNOWN AS THE ILAB GARDEN CITY  
PROJECT, LOCATED IN BARANGAY  
STA CRUZ, MUNICIPALITY OF  
GUIGUINTO, PROVINCE OF  
BULACAN, A TOURISM SITE

recommending its approval in substitution  
of House Bill No. 4227

Sponsors: Representatives Madrona and  
Cruz (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 657, submitted by the  
Committee on Tourism on H.B. No. 8465,  
entitled:

AN ACT DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE  
ENVIRONS OF THE ST. MARTIN OF  
TOUR PARISH CHURCH, LOCATED  
IN BARANGAY POBLACION,  
MUNICIPALITY OF BOCAUE,  
PROVINCE OF BULACAN, AS  
TOURISM DESTINATION

recommending its approval in substitution  
of House Bill No. 4229

Sponsors: Representatives Madrona and  
Cruz (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 658, submitted by  
the Committee on Youth and Sports  
Development and the Committee on  
Appropriations on H.B. No. 8466, entitled:

AN ACT PRESERVING THE INDIGENOUS  
GAMES OF THE PHILIPPINES,  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

recommending its approval in substitution  
of House Bills Numbered 1651, 4465  
and 6744

Sponsors: Representatives Dy (F.M.C.),  
Primicias-Agabas, Vargas and  
Tambunting

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 659, submitted by  
the Committee on Youth and Sports  
Development and the Committee on  
Appropriations on H.B. No. 8468, entitled:  
AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE  
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL GAMES  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

recommending its approval in substitution  
of House Bills Numbered 934, 1954,  
2968 and 4881

Sponsors: Representatives Dy (F.M.C.), Co (E.),  
Gomez, Romualdez (Y.M.), Acidre,  
Golez and Tambunting

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 660, submitted by  
the Committee on Ethics and Privileges,  
on the matter of Representative Arnolfo  
"Arnie" A. Teves, Jr.

Sponsors: Representatives Espares,  
Vergara and Bongalon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8443

*Continuation*

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. PANALIGAN. Mr. Speaker, I move  
that we resume consideration of House  
Bill No. 8443 under Committee Report No.  
641 as reported out by the Committee on  
Natural Resources 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. Frasco). Is  
there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears



none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General is directed the title of House Bill No. 8443.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8443, entitled: AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE ECOSYSTEM AND NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING SYSTEM, MANDATING ITS USE IN POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING, DESIGNATING THE AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, PROVIDING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AMONG RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

REP. PANALIGAN. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of this Bill is that it is in the period of sponsorship and debate.

I now move that we recognize the Honorable Benitez to sponsor the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). The Hon. Kiko Benitez is recognized to sponsor the measure.

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

I would now be willing to listen to the second version or second half rejoinder of the interpellation of the Honorable Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Yes. The Honorable Lagman is recognized for his interpellation.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, would the distinguished Sponsor accept some amendments to give more teeth to this Bill?

REP. BENITEZ. Mr. Speaker, we would at the right time. If the Honorable Lagman has no other questions, we may proceed to the period of amendments, Mr. Speaker.

REP. PANALIGAN. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Yes, Majority Leader.

REP. PANALIGAN. There being no other 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. Frasco). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is hereby terminated.

Majority Leader.

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

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

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

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

Majority Leader

REP. PANALIGAN. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we recognize the Hon. Edcel Lagman for his individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). The Hon. Edcel Lagman is recognized for his individual amendments.

#### INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On page 8, between lines 24 and 25, insert a new Section 11 which shall read as follows:

ALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS INVOLVING PENCAS WHICH ARE PROPOSED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, LOCAL



GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND PRIVATE INVESTORS, SHALL COMMENCE ONLY UPON PRIOR APPROVAL BY THE NEDA IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT. ANY SUCH PROJECT WHICH COMMENCES WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF NEDA SHALL BE ENJOINED UNTIL AFTER SUCH APPROVAL IS OBTAINED.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). What does the Sponsor say to the proposed amendment?

REP. BENITEZ. We accept the amendment on behalf of Cong. Pidi Barzaga, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. PANALIGAN. We move to approve the amendment.

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

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

As a consequence of that amendment, on the same page, line 25, renumber Section 11 to Section 12 and the rest of the remaining sections should be renumbered accordingly, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BENITEZ. We accept, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. PANALIGAN. We move to approve the amendment.

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

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you once more, Mr. Speaker and distinguished Sponsor.

REP. BENITEZ. Thank you very much, Congressman Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Thank you very much.  
Majority Leader.

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

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

REP. PANALIGAN. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we vote on House Bill No. 8443, as amended, on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 8443, as amended, on Second Reading.  
All those in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). All those against, please say *Nay*. (*Silence*)

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8443, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.  
House Bill No. 8443, as amended, is hereby approved on Second Reading.  
Majority Leader.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8456 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. YU (J.V.). Mr. Speaker, under the Calendar of Business for the Day, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8456 contained in Committee Report No. 648 as reported out by

the Committees on Energy, Appropriations, and Ways and Means.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of House Bill No. 8456.\*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8456, entitled: AN ACT PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE DOWNSTREAM NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY, CONSOLIDATING FOR THE PURPOSE ALL LAWS RELATING TO THE TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION AND SUPPLY OF NATURAL GAS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Thank you very much.

Majority Leader.

REP. YU (J.V.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

Majority Leader.

REP. YU (J.V.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the dear author, Representative Dagooc, to sponsor the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). The Hon. Sergio Dagooc is recognized to sponsor the measure.

#### SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. DAGOOC

REP. DAGOOC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, esteemed colleagues.

I stand here today to solicit the approval of House Bill No. 8456, otherwise known

as the Philippine Downstream Natural Gas Industry Development Act, entitled: AN ACT PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE DOWNSTREAM NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY, CONSOLIDATING FOR THE PURPOSE ALL LAWS RELATING TO THE TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION AND SUPPLY OF NATURAL GAS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

House Bill No. 8456 is the substitute Bill to House Bill Nos. 17, 29, 173, 3015, 4097, 4267, 4615, 5811, 6235, 6247, and 7329.

House Bill No. 8456, or the Philippine Downstream Natural Gas Industry Development Act, aims to promote the role of natural gas as a safe, environmentally friendly, efficient, and cost-effective source of energy; and an indispensable contributor to grid security, especially with the entry of more intermittent renewable energy sources through the creation of favorable conditions for establishing the Philippine Downstream Natural Gas Industry or the PDNGI, for the benefit of all segments of the nation's population and sectors of the economy.

The objectives, Mr. Speaker, of the PDNGI Bill are as follows:

1. To promote natural gas as energy fuel, which has tremendous potential to meet the increasing local demand for fuel, and the development of the Philippines as a liquified natural gas (LNG), trading and transshipment hub within the Asia Pacific region. In all cases, the State shall ensure the safe, secure, reliable, transparent, competitive, and environmentally responsible operation of the PDNGI value chain; and

2. To promote and hasten the exploration and development of indigenous natural gas resources and facilities, and to prioritize the use of indigenous natural gas to help attain greater energy security.

Among the most salient provisions of this Bill are the following:

1. Provide a framework for the development of the PDNGI and its transmission from emerging into mature industry within a competitive natural gas market and define

\* 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 responsibilities of various government agencies and private entities in furtherance of this national goal;

2. It mandates the Department of Energy to be the lead government agency responsible for the supervision and monitoring of the development of the Philippine Downstream Natural Gas Industry, and the regulation of the construction and operation of natural gas pipelines and related facilities for the transmission, distribution, and supply of natural gas;

3. Stipulates that the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) shall have the sole regulatory responsibility for establishing the rates and related terms and conditions of service for the transmission and distribution, regasification and supply of natural gas;

4. Stipulates the mandate of the Philippine Competition Commission by putting it along the various agencies with specific powers and responsibilities in the regulation and development of the LNG industry;

5. Stipulates that the participation of stakeholders to third-party access or TPA shall be voluntary and subject to the sole discretion of the permit holder of the operator;

6. Provides that facilities operated by own-use PDNGI participants shall not be covered by TPA provisions under this Act;

7. Mandates more incentives considering that the Bill is about promotion and development of LNG, foremost of which is the sale of natural gas to locators inside ecozones shall be subject to zero percent value-added tax.

Moreso, PDNGI projects, as certified by the DOE, shall also be entitled to the additional incentives provided by other relevant agencies as specified on Section 33 of this measure.

This measure also mandates that the Department of Energy, Energy Regulatory Commission, and other relevant government agencies shall submit annual reports to the Joint Congressional Energy Commission which shall include the latest relevant data, implementation review and reports, and

policy and regulatory issues no later than the 15th day of September, and appropriate funds for the implementation of this Act.

I would like to emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that the enactment of the Philippine Downstream Natural Gas Industry Development Act will be necessary to promote the role of natural gas as an additional energy source and complementary fuel to variable renewable energy, by creating a legal and regulatory framework that would govern the promotion and development of natural gas industry in the country.

Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, I humbly ask for your support for the early approval of House Bill No. 8456. The Committee looks forward for its immediate passage.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco).  
Thank you very much.

Majority Leader.

REP. YU (J.V.). Mr. Speaker, I now move that we recognize the Lady from GABRIELA Party-List, Rep. Arlene Brosas, for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco).  
The Honorable Brosas is recognized to interpellate.

Please proceed.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
Mr. Speaker, will the good Sponsor yield to a few questions?

REP. DAGOOC. Gladly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

G. Sponsor, while legislating a regulatory framework for the downstream natural gas industry could clarify the roles and responsibilities of agencies in overseeing the planned importation of natural gas, we remain skeptical on the implications of this Bill in the country's quest for energy self-sufficiency.

Mr. Speaker, before we go into the details of the proposed measure, may we know how much of the country's energy

supply is sourced from natural gas? Gaano po karami?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, at present, we have 13.2 percent in our energy mix that comes from natural gas, and most of it are supplied by Malampaya, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. So, from Malampaya galing, Mr. Speaker?

REP. DAGOOC. Most of it are from Malampaya.

REP. BROSAS. Saan-saan galing, Mr. Speaker, bukod sa Malampaya?

REP. DAGOOC. Nag-i-import po tayo. Mayroon tayong mga existing LNG terminals na nagre-regasify, at ang contribution po nito at present is around 3,200 megawatts, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, ang sinasabi ninyo pa lang ay importation and Malampaya. Mayroon po ba tayong iba pang source?

REP. DAGOOC. Ang ating pamahalaan ay tinitingnan pa iyong other sources, that is why we are engaging at present – the Department of Energy is engaging in different exploration. May mga legal pa lang na inaayos kasi gusto nating madagdagan--ang Malampaya paubos na--kung mayroon pa tayong makukuha, which the government believes na mayroon pa, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Tama, Mr. Speaker, malaking bahagi iyong sinasabi ninyo na indigenous natural gas or specifically mula sa Malampaya Natural Gas Field. Pero, Mr. Speaker, itong Malampaya Natural Gas Field, may mga paraan para ma-pump pa or makakuha pa ng natural gas sa loob nito. Hindi po totoo na depleting ito, tama po ba?

REP. DAGOOC. Officially, depleting na ito, but mayroon tayong ginagawa sa ngayon na patuloy na mga pamamaraan para ma-maximize pa natin iyong remaining na natural gas within Malampaya, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Mr. Speaker, iyong Malampaya, ang tanong ko po kasi may mga paraan kung paano mas makakakuha pa ng natural gas doon sa loob. Na-explore na ba iyon ng DOE, ng mga ahensiya kung paano mama-maximize pa or malalaman pa itong makukuha nating energy sa loob ng Malampaya?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleague, ginagawa na po iyon, kaya nga nire-renew na po ng ating pamahalaan iyong kontrata sa Malampaya para malaya pong makapagsagawa ng mga ganoong layunin ang binibigyan ng kontrata, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, are there studies, mga feasible study kaugnay dito sa Malampaya? Nag-uusap pa lang po tayo ng Malampaya, hindi pa iyong mga gas field na puwedeng i-explore, and everything kasi iyon naman ang meron tayo sa ngayon, Mr. Speaker. Kasi I remember sa isa sa mga discussion natin sa hearing ng DOE, they said na depleting na, pero hindi ito ang paniwala ng ilan. So, meron po bang mga feasible study at pag-aaral kaugnay dito, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, tama po iyon. The purpose bakit natin ni-renew, para po madagdagan iyong mga field na puwede pang mai-develop, na sa ating palagay ay mayron pang natural gas na makukuha ang ating bansa.

REP. BROSAS. So, ni-renew, pero 'di ba nagkaroon ng issue diyan, Mr. Speaker? Hindi agad-agad ni-renew iyan during the Duterte administration. I remember na ang pinag-uusapan noon ay kunin na ng gobyerno ang Malampaya gas, 'di ba, ang pagpapatakbo ng Malampaya gas, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, palagay ko nare-resolve na po iyong mga isyu na iyon kaya mayroon na po tayong – ang ating gobyerno ay mayroon na pong binigyan na bagong contractor, an exploration company doon sa pag-extend ng kontrata. So, this

Representation presumed na nare-resolve na po iyong mga legal issue doon sa dati pong contractor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, iyong extension po na tinatawag, sino-sino po ba iyong players na narito sa extension ng Malampaya gas?

REP. DAGOOC. It is Prime, Udenna and PNOC. Nandoon po iyong gobyerno through the PNOC.

REP. BROSAS. That is my point, Mr. Speaker, iyong PNOC—supposedly, iyong Malampaya ay makukuha na natin, dahil nabayaran na natin iyong lahat ng mga structures and everything na ginawa ng contractor dati. Pero bakit hindi ito na-takeover ng PNOC, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, ang extension po ng kontrata, the purpose is mainly requiring the new contractor to explore or add additional sites other than Malampaya. Kasi kino-consider po natin iyong technical study na paubos na nga iyong indigenous gas ng Malampaya, so minabuti na natin na ang concentration doon sa extension ng mga bagong contractor ay exploration ng mga bagong sites, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, I am not talking about the other sites, I am talking about the Malampaya gas field. Iyong sinasabi nating after how many years of the contract on the Malampaya, supposedly the Philippine government na ang magkakaroon ng mandato na patakbuhan ito para sa kanya iyong kita, right, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, ang kontrata po ay naka-concentrate ngayon sa bagong sites dahil sa tantiya nila paubos na nga iyong Malampaya. Then kung ibibigay natin kaagad sa PNOC, marami pa tayong iaayos na mga legal na usapin at iyong financial—iyong gagawin ngayon noong binigyan ng bagong kontrata ay required ito na magkaroon ng dalawang deepwater

na drilling, dalawang sites, then at the same time, the contractor should continue drilling or should continue the production sa Malampaya hanggang maubos iyan. So, simultaneous po iyong kanyang obligation. Deliverable is simultaneous, continue to operate Malampaya hanggang maubos ito while at the same time, additional drilling of at least two deepwater wells.

REP. BROSAS. So, what I am getting, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, ay for the new drilling o exploration na ginagawa ngayon iyong kontrata, hindi ito roon specifically sa Malampaya gas field talaga?

REP. DAGOOC. Tama po iyon, tuloy-tuloy lang ito i-operate iyong drilling sa Malampaya, but at the same time, the contractor is required na magkaroon pa ng additional sites, na at least dalawang sites na kanyang idi-drill pa, distinguished colleague, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, kahit dito sa sinasabi ninyo na will drill two more sites, ang PNOC walang capacity na gawin ito sa ngayon, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, ang PNOC ngayon ay hindi po nag-o-operate dahil ang share ng gobyerno sa Malampaya through the PNOC ay 10 percent lang, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague. Kaya hindi po puwedeng mag-operate ang PNOC sa Malampaya kasi 10 percent lang iyong share nito, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, pero ano ba ang mandate ng PNOC? Hindi po ba ang PNOC ay dapat kunin iyong dapat na makukuha pa para sa gobyerno, 'di ba? Bakit hindi maka-function sa supposedly mandate nito? Sa presidential decree ni Marcos Sr. before, dapat mag-function ito na magagawa na makuha ang or mapupunta na sa gobyerno ngayon iyong lahat ng assets at lahat ng pagpapatakbo nitong Malampaya.

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, ang kasalukuyang mandato ng PNOC ay more on exploration. At present, the

PNOC is not capable, technically and financially, to operate this big Malampaya natural gas operation, so more on exploration lang ito. Then, maghanap ng investor to operate or iyong exploration ay jointly gagawin with the private investor, kasi limitado lang po iyong kakayahan technically, financially, at in terms of personnel, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, matagal pong nakakontra tayo 'di ba? Supposedly, ang mandate ay para makuha na ng gobyerno later on at siya na ang mag-explore ng sarili niya, sa kanya na ang kagamitan, transfer of technology supposedly ay nandoon na rin. Pero bakit po hindi nangyari iyon and ano po ang kaibahan ng mga sinasabi ninyong energy players at capacity ng mga ito na magpatakbo ng Malampaya gas field o ng iba pang ie-explore na gas field sa ating bansa?

Parang ganito, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, ang PNOC over sa — ano ba ang capacity ng Udenna? Ano ba ang capacity ng iba pang mga player na nakapirma ngayon?

REP. DAGOOC. Ang PNOC kasi, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, sa sinasabi ko a while ago, limited iyong kanyang financial at technical sa pag-operate. So, ang mandate nito is more on exploration. Dahil limitado lang nga, the PNOC needs a private partner. At bago natin igawad o ibigay iyong kontrata sa kanyang private partner, dumadaan po iyan sa masusing evaluation, kung iyong partner ay technically and financially capable to operate, kasi malaking puhunan po ang kailangan kung mag-operate ka katulad ng Malampaya, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, naiintindihan po natin iyan. Iyong capacity po ang itinatanong ko, for example, iyong sinasabi ninyong Udenna, Prime, meron po ba kayong specifications ng capacity, and I believe iyong isa po ay Razon, tama? Iyong sa SC 38 na extension. Mr. Speaker, do you have that?

REP. DAGOOC. Pumasa na po sila sa evaluation — technical and financial. Ang mga ito, may mga partner din po sila sa technical.

Our PNOC, wala po itong — gaya ng sinasabi ko kanina — walang technical at financial capability pagdating sa operation. Pero sa exploration, which is iyon po ang mandato niya, iyon po ang ginagawa with private partners.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, to be transparent to the people, may we have the copy of those valuations na sinasabi ninyo. Kasi ang tinitingnan po natin dito kung anong nangyari, kasi nagkontrata tayo nang matagal, they made and established iyong mga kailangan for the Malampaya gas field. Nagawa po iyon, with Chevron 'di ba? Iyan iyong history, tapos nagkaroon ng mga partner, tapos ngayon humahanap ulit tayo ng mga partner. Pero bakit hindi napupunta or bakit wala pa ring capacity iyong PNOC na gawin ito, at hindi mapunta sa atin iyong dapat na returns or profits or iyong mga nakukuha dito sa Malampaya gas field?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, actually, magkaiba po iyong dalawang iyan. Iyon kasing pinag-usapan natin na exploration at sa operation like Malampaya, upstream po iyan, upstream. Ang pinag-usapan po nating batas, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, is iyong downstream. Ito po iyong paggamit noong indigenous natural gas na galing sa Malampaya at kung mag-i-import pa tayo. However, sinasagot ko lang po hangga't makakaya ko iyong upstream, which is not the subject of this measure, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Kailangan din po nating pag-usapan iyan kasi Malampaya gas field iyong pinag-usapan natin, natural gas ito, and I think, may kinalaman din po ito kung papasok sa iba pang mga kontrata ang bansa. Ang itinatanong ko lang naman po ay kung may kopya tayo ng valuation. Kung mayroon kayong kopya, maaari po ba kaming makakuha ng kopya ng valuation of those private partners na sinasabi ninyo on the Malampaya gas field?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, uulitin ko po. I would like to

reiterate that this Bill only seeks to promote and develop the downstream natural gas industry. Ito po iyong pagbebenta na at paggamit. Iyon pong exploration at operation, pag-extract po iyon, upstream po iyan pero sinubukan ko lang na sagutin sa abot ng aking makakaya iyong issue ng upstream, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, pero kung may kopya po kayo ng valuation mula noong—siguro ang DOE ang nag-lead niyan—may we have a copy of that, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor?

REP. DAGOOC. Hihingi tayo ng kopya ng tungkol sa upstream sa Department of Energy or even sa PNOG, then we will submit that to your office, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, under the proposed House Bill No. 8456, a regulatory framework is laid down for the Philippine Downstream Natural Gas Industry. Tama bang i-assume na primaryang nakatuon ito sa regulasyon sa importasyon ng liquefied natural gas at pagpapatakbo sa mga LNG terminal at distribution system?

REP. DAGOOC. Hindi po ito, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, naka-sentro sa importasyon. Halo na po rito, kung may ma-produce tayo sa Malampaya at sa importasyon. Dalawa po iyon, lahat ng klase, so either importation or locally produced LNG, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. BROSAS. So dalawa, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, pag import.

REP. DAGOOC. Dalawa po. Either mag-i-import tayo or locally produced sa sarili nating well.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, considering that a permitting process will be constituted and streamlined under this measure, would this mean that the country will rely more on imported natural gas? Ano po ang magiging

implikasyon nito sa sourcing ng enerhiya mula sa Malampaya?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, ang implikasyon ay mababawasan iyong ating importation. Kung saka-sakaling marami tayong mae-extract sa additional sites or additional wells, we could lessen our importation, depende sa ating pangangailangan, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, so ang implikasyon nito, mababawasan iyong ating pag-rely ...

REP. DAGOOC. Iyong ating dependence on importation kasi may sarili tayo.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, kanina medyo narinig ko lang nang kaunti. Ito ba iyong sinasabi ninyo na 13.2 percent ang liability natin?

REP. DAGOOC. Sa ngayon, 13.2 percent iyong natgas sa ating energy mix. Ang pinag-usapan dito, electricity po. Iyong supply of electricity, may contribution iyong mga existing power plant natin under the natgas technology na more or less 13.2 percent.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Mr. Speaker, punta po ako sa Section 3 noong batas that states that the PDNGI will transition from emerging into mature industry within a competitive natural gas market. Maaari po bang ipaliwanag ng Sponsor itong pag-transition tungo sa mature industry? Anong ibig sabihin noon, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, sa ngayon kasi halo-halo iyong batas, executive order, at P.D. na nagregulate, at hindi pa talaga natumbok kung ano iyong lead agency that regulates this. Kaya kung minsan nalilito iyong mga player or even consumers sino iyong pupuntahan nila sakaling may mga tanong sila.

With the emerging industry like the natgas, kasi ginagamit natin ito panggatong sa pagluto, sa koryente, at iba pa, minabuti natin na magkaroon ng ganitong batas para

mahimay kung ano ba talagang mga agency ang involved sa regulation at ano iyong lead agency. In this case, tinukoy na natin, it will be the Department of Energy that will issue the permit, et cetera. Ang DOE ang lead agency.

Because of the present structure, masasabi natin na nasa infancy stage pa ang sektor na ito. With this measure, if this becomes a law, puwede na ito magamit kasi may framework na tayo, may structure for the maturity of this industry, at mapalalago natin ito, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

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

Now, under Section 24, iyong “LNG Storage and Regasification Terminals” shall not be considered as a public utility. Tama po ba? Iyon ang nakalagay, “public utility operation.” Ibig sabihin, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, ay maaaring pumasok ang mga dayuhang negosyo. Tama ba, Mr. Speaker?

REP. DAGOOC. Tama po iyon, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, kasi the very essence of the Bill is promotion. We are trying to promote para magkaroon ng kompetisyon, at open po ito para marami pong mamumuhunan doon sa lahat ng sektor sa ating downstream industry.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, players in the LNG, liquefied natural gas storage and regasification terminal business, are not required to secure a congressional franchise before they can operate their businesses since they are not considered a public utility. Tama po ba na ganoon ang magiging implikasyon noon, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor?

REP. DAGOOC. Tama po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

Kaya tinutukoy na natin ang Department of Energy na siyang mag-issue ng mga permit at mag-regulate para hindi po mahaba iyong proseso at magkaroon kaagad ng kompetisyon ang sektor na ito. Kasi kung idadaan natin sa franchise, hindi kaagad natin mararamdaman iyong kanyang contribution sa ating energy.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, ano bang implikasyon noon kung hindi dadaan sa atin, sa Kongreso ang prangkisa nito?

REP. DAGOOC. Hindi po ito dadaan, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, dahil nga po under this proposed measure hindi po ito public utility. Maybe in the future, kung titingnan natin na iyong mga player ay kailangan nang mag-secure ng franchise, we can amend naman the law.

Iyon po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague. Sa ngayon po, promotion po iyong ginagawa natin para maraming papasok na players, then maybe in the future, kung titingnan natin na kailangan na mag-secure ng congressional franchise, we can amend naman this proposed measure if this will become a law.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, kasi importante pong nahihimay natin iyong mga prangkisa ng mga player na pumapasok dito. Gusto po nating malaman iyon and bilang transparency nga sa atin, dapat ganoon, hindi ba, dadaan sa atin, pero bakit dito, ang inyong inilagay ay iyong congressional franchise, hindi na ito gagawin dito, parang ganyan? Therefore, hindi natin mahimay.

REP. DAGOOC. Hindi na, Mr. Speaker, dahil sa ngayon, based on this proposed measure, hindi pa ito public utility pero regulated na po. Hindi po ito makapag-operate without the permit coming from the Department of Energy. The Department of Energy na po iyong lead agency that will regulate this industry. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, if natgas will be used to generate electricity, the price, for purposes of transparency, ay dadaan naman po sa Energy Regulatory Commission. Iyong natgas na gagamitin to generate electricity ay magkakaroon po iyan ng competitive selection process as a requirement under existing rules of the Department of Energy wherein after that bidding process, the lowest bidder that will be contracted out by the distribution utility for purposes of supplying electricity in their franchise area will be filed with the Energy Regulatory Commission for further scrutiny



as far as the price or cost is concerned, because it will become a generation cost component of our electric bill, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Frasco relinquished the Chair to Senior Deputy Speaker Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales Jr.*

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, dadaan pa rin ito sa ERC?

REP. DAGOOC. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Therefore, iyon iyong regulatory component nito.

REP. DAGOOC. Kapagka ginamit po ito na panggatong para maging koryente.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Mr. Speaker, how will the Department of Energy assess the competencies of downstream natural gas industry players? Naitatanong po natin ito dahil hindi natin maalis ang pangamba na ang kapalpakan at kapabaya na nakita natin noong nakaraan sa MT Princess Empress Mindoro oil spill, kung saan hanggang ngayon, nagtuturuan pa rin ang mga ahensiya at wala pa ring sapat na ayuda at kompensasyon, lalo na ang mga mangingisda na kababayan natin, bukod sa environmental damages na nangyari rito sa oil spill na ito, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAGOOC. That is the purpose, Mr. Speaker, of this measure. Under this measure, the Department of Energy, as the lead agency that will regulate and monitor this industry, is required to issue a set of rules and standards. That is why before a permit will be issued to the player, whether supplier ito, transmission or regasification, that particular applicant should comply with all the standards set by the Department of Energy before a permit for his business can be granted, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

*At this juncture, Senior Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Frasco.*

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, pero the DOE ang mas lead agency, iyon ang sinasabi ninyo?

REP. DAGOOC. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Na ang may regulation din later on in the energy sector ay ang ERC? Iyon lang ang sinasabi ninyo.

REP. DAGOOC. Ang Energy Regulatory Commission, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, ay papasok lang kapagka iyong natgas ay ginamit na panggatong sa planta na nagje-generate ng koryente. Wala pong pakialam ang ERC kung gagamitin ito sa other uses pero pag iginatong na sa planta at ginagawang koryente, at isu-supply sa captive market, kailangan na po ang ERC doon. The EPIRA will take care of that, so iyon po. As far as the standards, kung itong operator na ito, whether regasifier, transmission, or supplier, the set of standards under this measure will be issued by the Department of Energy, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor. In the event that an LNG ship sinks, pag lumubog, or there is a leakage in the natural gas pipeline, how will this measure address the web of accountabilities? Kung lumubog ang barko, may dalang LNG, liquefied natural gas, paano po mapananagot sa pamamagitan ng panukalang ito iyon?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, ang liquefied natural gas po ay clear. Normally ito ay colorless, nontoxic, and leaves no residual kahit magkaroon ng spill, so hindi po ito kagaya noong banker oil or diesel, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, walang ni anuman ito?

REP. DAGOOC. Wala po, clean po ito, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Oo, walang mangyayari na parang ganoon, so kahit mag-spill or anuman, hindi katulad noong nangyari na oil spill sa MT Princess.

REP. DAGOOC. Hindi po, kasi bago po ito i-transport, kailangan po i-liquefy, parang tubig na rin po. Then pag dating dito, kung imported ito, ire-regasify naman at ibabalik na naman into its natural form para magamit.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor, while natural gas is deemed as the cleaner fuel compared to coal, it remains a form of fossil fuel. Tama po ba?

REP. DAGOOC. Agree, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. BROSAS. Therefore, an unsustainable energy resource. Lalong aasa ang ating bansa sa importasyon ng natural gas kung pag-uusapan natin iyong panukalang ito kung hindi tayo makapag-e-explore ng iba, Mr. Speaker, G. Sponsor. Sa halip na linangin ang ating sources ng enerhiya at pag-aarian pa ng gobyerno nang direkta ang Malampaya kasi iyon naman ang gusto. Basically, ang sinasabi namin, gusto nga namin na mapunta sa gobyerno talaga iyong pagpapatakbo kasi iyon naman iyong aim natin, malinang natin iyan, iyong Malampaya at iba pang mga puwedeng i-explore na gas field para sa kapakinabangan ng gobyerno, hindi ba, ng mga mamamayan. Pag-aarian ng gobyerno nang direkta ang Malampaya. Ngayon, medyo mayroon kaming problema rito na walang exit clause sa panukala, sa kung hanggang kailan tayo sasandig sa natural gas bilang pagkukunan ng enerhiya, Mr. Speaker.

That will be all, Mr. Speaker, sa aking mga tanong. Maraming salamat po. Maraming salamat sa ating Sponsor. Thank you to the good Sponsor. Maraming salamat po sa pag-indulge sa aking mga katanungan.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAGOOC. Maraming salamat po, my dear colleague. Salamat din po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Thank you very much.  
Majority Leader.

REP. YU (J.V.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Cong. Raoul Manuel, from KABATAAN Party-List, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). The KABATAAN Party-List Rep. Raoul Manuel is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. MANUEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor be willing to yield to more questions from this Representation?

REP. DAGOOC. Gladly, Mr. Speaker, my dear colleague.

REP. MANUEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me begin with the intent of this Bill, which is to promote the development of the Philippine downstream natural gas industry. Curious lang po ako, Mr. Speaker. Kung gusto po nating i-consolidate at gawing mas comprehensive iyong ating pag-supervise ng natural gas dito sa ating bansa, bakit po hindi natin isinama pati iyong upstream at iyong iba pang mga component ng ganitong tipo ng industriya, Mr. Speaker?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, there is another law governing the upstream. Under our existing law, it is P.D. No. 87. Magkahiwalay po iyong upstream at saka downstream, Mr. Speaker.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, dahil nababanggit din naman sa ating panukalang batas iyong pag-develop din ng local or indigenous sources ng mga natural gas. As mentioned po kanina, as I was listening to the previous interpellator, na iyong pag-explore ng sources, bahagi ito ng upstream na bahagi nitong natural gas industry. Why not, Mr. Speaker, para mas ma-harmonize natin iyong mga batas, lalo na tayo naman iyong incumbent officials, at bahagi ng ating lehislatura, puwede po nating i-consolidate, na sana isama na rin, which means, of course, ay ma-amyendahan iyong P.D. No. 87.

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, existing na po iyong industriya na ito at marami pong gamit ang natgas kagaya

ng pagluluto at iba pa, kaya minabuti na natin na unahin na muna iyong downstream para ma-regulate kaagad, para hindi watak-watak iyong mga agency na nagre-regulate dito. And later, we will come to that for the amendment of P.D. No. 87.

REP. MANUEL. With that, Mr. Speaker, kahit briefly na lang, dahil kanina rin naman natalakay na ang tungkol sa Malampaya. Gusto ko lang pong mas maunawaan na kapag naging batas na po itong ating pinaguusapan, itong House Bill No. 8456, paano maapektuhan nitong Bill ang operations ng Malampaya?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, this will supplement the operation of Malampaya.

REP. MANUEL. Sa anong paraan po masusupplement, Mr. Speaker?

REP. DAGOOC. Kasi ma-cover na po nito, malinaw na po rito sa batas na ito iyong different sector that will become a player.

Mula po sa extraction which is upstream po iyon, dito sa downstream nade-define na po natin kung ano iyong transmission, ano iyong supply, ano iyong regasification, sino-sino iyong mga player? Pagka na-deplete na po iyong Malampaya, for example, at hindi pa tayo nagkaroon ng panibagong discovery ng additional oils, mare-regulate na rin po natin iyong pag-i-import na gagamitin dito, including the power na re-replace sa Malampaya for the meantime, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker tungkol pa lang sa ilang mga tanong natin when we, of course, look into the title which, of course, must aim to encompass the essence of this Bill. Sunod po, Mr. Speaker, sa Declaration of Policy. Noong atin pong inaral ang Declaration of Policy, marami rin pong mga tanong na nag-arise sa ating isipan.

Sa letter (a) pa lang po, Mr. Speaker, nabanggit dito na, and I quote: "It is hereby declared the policy of the State to: (a) Promote

natural gas as a safe, environment-friendly, efficient and cost-effective source of energy and a competitive contributor to grid security, especially with the entry of more intermittent renewable energy sources by establishing the Philippine Downstream Natural Gas Industry x x x" and so on and so forth.

Ang tanong ko lang po dahil, Section 2, part (a) nabanggit na iyong "renewable energy sources" which is described as more intermittent. Nais ko lang pong malinawan, kung pinagbabangga po ba natin ang renewable energy sources kumpara roon sa natural gas, as sources of energy for our country.

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, hindi po natin pinagbabangga. What we are saying is, the reality, the reality na iyong other renewable energy like solar and wind, intermittent po ito kapagka ginamit natin sa power. Ang ibig pong sabihin ng intermittent, hindi po stable. For example, solar, mayroon kang one megawatt na solar, ang kanya lang pong kakayahan in the real sense ay nasa 150 kilowatt lang to 200 kilowatt. Then kung dadaanan po ng ulap iyan ay magfa-fluctuate po iyan dahil bababa iyong kanyang generation capacity, so kaya po intermittent ito.

While in the case of natural gas, para po itong coal, na iyong coal is also a type of a fossil fuel na magagamit natin sa baseload, na hindi baba-taas, baba-taas iyong kanyang capacity to generate. While ang coal ay masyadong mataas iyong carbon emission, ang natgas is clean. Iyan lang po ang comparison na ginagawa natin.

REP. MANUEL. With that, Mr. Speaker, on a side note, dahil nga as mentioned and explained, intermittent ang renewable energy sources like solar, pero would our Sponsor be also supportive sa iba't ibang mga hakbang para rin mas mapabuti natin iyong storage ng renewable energy sources, lalo kung hindi rin naman magkabangga itong natural gas and renewable energy, mas pagbutihin natin kung paano natin nai-store iyong nakukuha nating enerhiya, solar man iyan or wind

energy. I think nai-file din dito sa ating House of Representatives ang isang bill na mag-i-incentivize sa mga technologies for storage of renewable energy.

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, matagal na po, 2009 pa po iyong ating Renewable Energy Act. That law gives incentives for the development of renewable energy.

Sa ngayon, kaya nga po mayroon tayong kinokolekta roon sa cost of electric bill natin, iyong tinatawag na "feed-in tariff allowance." Iyan po iyong pambayad na incentives sa lahat ng nagde-develop ng renewable energy, na ginagamit sa ating energy sector.

So, mayroon na po and personally, this Representation has long been a supporter of renewable energy because under our existing law, Republic Act No. 9136, we have the so-called RPS or renewable portfolio standard that will be complied with by all distribution utilities, na at least 10 percent sa ginagamit mong supply ay nanggagaling sa renewable energy. Definitely, we are supporting renewable energy. Idinagdag lang natin dito, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, iyong kakayahan ng natural gas na mag-produce din ng kuryente.

REP. MANUEL. With that, Mr. Speaker, as mentioned, that may provisions din naman pala sa ating Renewable Energy Act to incentivize itong paggamit ng renewable energy. Mas mainam lang din sana kung sa naging implementation ng panukalang batas ay mas napaghusay talaga natin at naparami pa ang gumagamit ng renewable energy. Kaya rin po natin na-point out na as we speak, sa Nineteenth Congress, nakita po kasi natin na mayroon din po talagang nai-file na bill para mas lalo pa natin talagang magamit din iyong renewable energy. So, it is currently pending sa ating Committee on Energy and mabuti rin naman at sumusuporta rin iyong ating Sponsor.

But now, going back, Mr. Speaker, doon sa descriptions ng natural gas sa ating panukalang batas, nabanggit po kasi na ito ay environment-friendly, pero marami na pong mga pag-aaral din, saka mismo iyong

mga environmental groups natin ay nagsasabi na bagama't relatively, compared naman sa coal o sa oil ay mas malinis iyong natural gas, pero hindi pa rin natin masasabi na ito ay entirely environment-friendly dahil po sa maraming mga dahilan. For example, I can cite methane leaks dahil primarily methane iyong component ng natural gas, at kahit maliliit na leaks ng natural gas during production, processing, transport and distribution, nagre-release po ito ng methane sa ating atmosphere, and methane is around 30 times more potent as a greenhouse gas over carbon dioxide over a 100-year period. Kaya paano po kaya natin mase-safeguard iyong paggamit ng natural gas, lalo na kung nandiyan ang posibilidad ng mga methane leaks?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, kaya lang po natin sinabi na environmentally friendly kasi malinis naman po talaga ito kagaya nga ng sinabi mo compared to other fossil fuel. Malayo po iyong comparison. Tama po na methane lang naman po iyong sinasabi ninyo, pero napakaliit iyong contribution nito sa pollution.

REP. MANUEL. So far ba, Mr. Speaker, ay pwede rin namang based sa experience natin sa bansa o sa iba ring mga bansa kung mayroon man, mayroon bang mga pamamaraan paano ma-prevent o kung nangyari man, paano natin ia-address ang mga methane leaks?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, marami po tayong pwedeng i-adopt na mga standard, iyong handling, iyong pag-transport, iyong virtual na pag-transport, so far naman sa ngayon, wala pa naman tayong nababalitaan na ganyan. Iyong Japan ang pinaka sa mga standard na kinokopya ng other jurisdictions. So, mayroon po, and that will be later on to be evaluated by the Department of Energy, kung anong standard as far as safety is concerned doon sa paglipat o pag-transport ang kanilang ia-adopt.

REP. MANUEL. Okay. Kasunod po na punto, Mr. Speaker, bakit hindi natin masasabing entirely environment-friendly ang natural gas as mentioned sa Section 2, part (a)

“Declaration of Policy” pa lamang, dahil din sa carbon dioxide emissions?

Bagama’t ang mga power plants ng natural gas ay nag-e-emit ng mas mababang carbon dioxide per unit of energy, kumpara sa coal ay nag-e-emit pa rin ito ng significant amounts of carbon dioxide, which is a major driver of climate change. Kaya ang mere na pagpapalit-gamit noong facilities or ang pag-switch natin from coal or oil to natural gas, that alone will not meet our emissions reduction targets. Lalo na po iyong Pilipinas, dahil nga po isa tayo sa mga pinaka-vulnerable when it comes to climate change, and when our government officials go to other countries to represent our country in a climate change talks or negotiations, nagko-commit po tayo na gagawa ng aksiyon, of course, to mitigate the impacts and to reduce our risk sa climate change.

So, paano po kaya iyon, Mr. Speaker, lalo na at may ganitong disjunct, dahil nga emitter din naman ng carbon dioxide in large amounts ang natural gas plants?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, that is why we are promoting natural gas dahil napakalayo po ng comparison. Iyong coal natin is 169 molecules po kada isang emit nito, pero iyong LNG natin is one is to one. One molecule lang po iyong nai-emit nito. So, 168 po iyong nabawas natin na molecules of carbon dioxide. Kaya nasasabi natin na mainam na i-promote natin ito dahil napakataas po ng maibaba natin kung patuloy tayong gumagamit ng coal. Kasi hindi natin maiiwasan na gumagamit ng fossil fuel dahil babalik tayo sa isyu na other renewable.

Again, I am supporting the transition to renewable, pero hindi natin pwedeng tanggalin kaagad iyong ating mga fossil fuel technology dahil ito po ang ginagamit sa baseload, sa mid-merit, at sa ancillary.

So, napakalaki na pong bawas sa emisyon, 168 versus 1 molecule, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, kaya rin po natin na-point out iyon dahil nga kung ipo-promote natin iyong natural gas and eventually ay isa ito sa magiging mga base

load na sources of energy natin, eventually we will still encounter iyong ganitong mga usapin, iyong long-term impact ng ating mga energy sources kasi aside po doon sa dalawang nabanggit, nandiyan din iyong fracking impacts. Most new sources of natural gas require hydraulic fracturing o tinatawag po nating “fracking” which carry significant environmental risks on its own, including ground water contamination and induced seismicity. Fracking also uses and contaminates large amounts of water. Pagdating naman sa fracking, ano naman po iyong pamamaraan natin para mapigilan iyong ganoong mga pwede nitong consequences?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, again, this measure does not cover the upstream. Iyong fracking po, pagta-transport, upstream po iyon na aspect nang utilization of natgas. Ang Bill na ito ay tumatalakay lang po sa downstream.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, kung lagpas nga ito roon sa scope, if we will suggest, mas mainam talaga na ma-harmonize natin iyong iba’t ibang laws concerning natural gas, lalo na kung upstream, mayroong usapin; sa downstream, mayroon din.

Dagdag pa, Mr. Speaker, air pollution. Natural gas power plants and other uses still emit nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and other air pollutants that harm human health and environment. Kaya liban pa sa hindi ito totally environment-friendly, we also underscore the fact na fossil fuel din naman ang natural gas at ito ay hindi forever ang supply. It is a nonrenewable resource. It took millions of years for us to have supply of natural gas na ginagamit ngayon ng mga tao and hindi rin tatagal ng millions iyong supply na ito. Kaya we would like to ask, mayroon po ba tayong pag-aaral sa ngayon, kung iyong supply na nahahanap ngayon, how long will it last?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, again, hindi sa umiiwas ako sa tanong, but again, I cannot delve on that question because that is part of P.D. No. 87. Iyan pong safety standards sa fracking at iyong kasalukuyang tanong ay

nasa P.D. No. 87 po iyong mga issue, then admittedly, wala po akong datos dahil that is not a part of this measure, doon sa pag-aaral kung gaano katagal iyong mga available na natural gas sa ating bansa.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, dahil isa rin naman sa sources natin ay imported na liquified natural gas and we have this Bill in anticipation na mayroon tayong mapagkukunan sa ibang bansa. On top, of course, iyong pwedeng makuha natin in our own country. So, sa ibang mga bansa po ba mayroon na po bang nagpe-pledge or nagcommit or at least nagsa-sign na they have supply of natural gas that they can open up para maging supply ng Pilipinas?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, maybe we will just ask the concerned government agency on that data, then we will submit that to your office.

REP. MANUEL. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Our office would truly appreciate such data, lalo na nga at gusto natin or when we plan, long-term din talaga tayong magplano. Last time here in Congress, we also discussed the 30-year National Infrastructure Program na nasa-cite rin ng magiging mga energy infrastructure natin, kasama diyan ang natural gas. Gusto natin, if you have infrastructure for 30 years na nandiyan iyong natural gas, iyong supply natin ng natural gas should exceed the 30 years para naman hindi nagka-clash iyong iba't ibang mga plano natin.

If I may suggest, if anyone would be willing to suggest amendments to this Bill, kasi sa bahagi po natin, Mr. Speaker, meron tayong mga question doon pa lang sa "Declaration of Policy and Principles," but at least doon sa wordings, kung maaari nga lamang, we use different terms. It will be more accurate and our environmental groups would believe that it will be more factual and evidence-based if we do not call natural gas environment-friendly, at hindi din po natin ito tawagin — or i-consider na hindi fossil fuel kasi sa Section 2, part (d) nitong panukalang batas, ang phrasing kasi ay "Promote the conversion of existing fossil fuel-operated equipment and facilities to natural gas use, x x x."

Mr. Speaker, this implies that natural gas is not a fossil fuel which, again, is inaccurate. Kung maaari po sana ay maging bukas din ang ating Sponsor at ang ating Kapulungan na mabago po ang bahaging ito.

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, we will address that in due time.

REP. MANUEL. Now, Mr. Speaker, on Section 2 part (g), it says, "Promote the role of natural gas as an additional energy source and complementary fuel to variable renewable energy x x x."

Mr. Speaker, with that, meron po ba tayong targets, kahit hindi naman short-term, puwede pong decades away from now, ano ang magiging share ng natural gas at renewable energy sa energy mix ng ating bansa? Probably, 10, 20, 30 years from now.

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, based on our Philippine Energy Plan, by 2040, we are targeting 55 percent share of our energy mix from renewable energy, and 25 percent of that will come from natural gas.

REP. MANUEL. From natural gas po, 25?

REP. DAGOOC. I stand to be corrected, 25 percent iyong natural gas at 55 iyong renewable by 2040. Also, coal technology will be reduced from 40 to 14 percent, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. MANUEL. Okay. So, that would be a total of 99 percent or 94 percent. Iyong natitirang 6 percent po, Mr. Speaker, saan po natin ito balak na makuha?

REP. DAGOOC. The rest is oil-based, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor; we cannot abandon that because we still have Small Power Utilities Group or the SPUG areas, those scattered islands and islets which are not connected to the grid, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. MANUEL. Okay. With that, Mr. Speaker, I think we see a glimmer of hope

kahit papaano, na by 2040, majority or 55 percent ng ating sources ay renewable na.

Mr. Speaker, gusto lang natin na mas ma-accelerate ito, at kung meron mang natural gas, it would not take up as much doon sa percentage ng ating energy mix.

Now, on Section 2, part (i), it says, "Encourage the inflow of private capital through equity participation x x x." With that, Mr. Speaker, nabanggit kasi iyong role ng private entities sa ating "Declaration of Policy" pero it seems understated, if mentioned man, ang role mismo ng ating pamahalaan o ng ating GOCCs. May we solicit a comment on that from our Sponsor?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, that provision is just consistent with Republic Act No. 9136, na iniwanan na natin iyong sector na iyan sa private sector.

Sinasabi ko kanina, iyong PNOC natin, iyong mga GOCC na involved dito, has no financial and technical capability in terms of manpower kaya exploration lang sila with private partners. Kaya dito sa batas na ito, more on regulation lang nakatutok iyong Department of Energy, the government, more on regulation lang, then setting the standards, particularly safety standards.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, kapag ganoon po parang ang lungkot naman ng prospects natin since this Bill will last not just for a few years but pangmatagalan, pero ang outlook po natin, the government will not have, masama pa if it will never have the capacity or the financial capability para sa ganitong mga proyekto, lalo na po, iyong government natin ang priority nito ay iyong Maharlika Investment Fund, na ang gusto din noon ay magkaroon tayo ng dagdag na resources para sa mga infrastructure project natin at iba pang mga proyekto.

So, kung may vision naman po tayo ng mga puwedeng pagkunan, at ang ating mga ginagawang fund, like the Maharlika Investment Fund, para din naman talaga sa tunay na benefit ng mamamayan, bakit po hindi mag-take ng mas daring na papel ang ating gobyerno sa pagpopondo, kung hindi

man mismo iyong mga government agency, iyong mga GOCC po natin, Mr. Speaker?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, that is why we need the urgent passage of this Bill because this is a stepping stone. Kapag nakita natin na--that is why we used here the term "mature," -- nag-mature na itong industry na ito, at that time may kakayahan na financially iyong ating mga GOCC na sasali dito, so that is the time. Puwede naman natin amyendahan anytime. Trabaho po iyan ng Congress, na kung sa tingin natin ay puwede nang pumasok iyong pamahalaan sa mga sector na ito ay puwede naman po nating amyendahan. For the meantime, step one lang muna tayo, development and promotion, using the private sector as a vehicle in order to make this industry help our energy security without financial support or funding support from the government, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. MANUEL. Now, Mr. Speaker, kapag meron ng facilities for natural gas, ang tanong po natin, sino ang magha-handle noon? Meron po ba doon na iha-handle ng ating gobyerno, or purely po ba it will be up to the players from the private sector? Meron po bang mga ibubukas din sa public-private partnership? Alin po doon ang modes of ownership ng mga magiging facilities for natural gas?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, it will be all operated by the private sector. The role of the government, through the Department of Energy, is just to regulate and see to it that all the standards, particularly the safety standards, will be complied with by all the players.

REP. MANUEL. How about kung merong mga foreign player, under this Bill and of course, in conjunction with the existing laws, Mr. Speaker, puwede ba na ang facilities ay pagmay-arian ng private entities?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, again, ang pinag-uusapan po

dito ay iyong downstream. Kagaya ng oil, deregulated po iyong oil, so pwede pong papasok iyong foreign entities kasi parang oil din naman ito. In this case, natgas lang ito, and under this proposed measure, the PNOC is not barred to participate.

REP. MANUEL. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAGOOO. The PNOC is not barred; the PNOC can participate.

REP. MANUEL. Kaya po natin naitanong, Mr. Speaker, kasi paano po kung meron tayong nahanap na source ng natural gas sa ating bansa liban pa sa kung ano iyong nasa Malampaya? By that time, while I would not want such a possibility, paano po iyon, Mr. Speaker, kung iyong susunod na officials natin, kung sinuman po iyong nasa gobyerno, ang sasabihin na naman po ay wala tayong capacity, hindi natin kaya, wala po tayong resources para i-harness ang nahanap nating supply kahit pa po supply natin iyan? Kapag ganoon po ba ay puwede na foreign players ang mag-manage po niyan hanggang sa magamit iyong supply ng natural gas na nahanap natin, Mr. Speaker?

REP. DAGOOO. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, iba pong usapin iyan. Kapag galing po sa ating bakuran iyong ating mahanap, that is subject to the constitutional provision na 60-40. Pero kapag imported po gaya ng sinabi ko kanina, kapag-i-import po natin, wala pong restriction iyan.

REP. MANUEL. Now, Mr. Speaker, sa scenario naman na meron tayong nahanap na stable supply ng natural gas pero meron din pong mga foreign player na nagbebenta sa atin, paano po natin matitiyak na ang ating inclination ay doon sa local sources kaysa iyong mga gustong mag-import tayo?

REP. DAGOOO. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, under this measure, ang preference ay iyong sa atin. Kumbaga sa power, ang tawag po sa EPIRA niyan, priority dispatch po ito, iyong galing sa atin.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, how, in concrete terms, can we ensure that we prioritize our local sources? For example, in the event, Mr. Speaker, na merong gustong mag-export sa atin, tapos mas mura iyong pagbenta nila, iyong cost in the world market, inasmuch as gusto nating protektahan iyong atin, pero several times din po nating nababasa sa Bill iyong competitiveness. So, in the event na mas competitive iyong foreign source at tingin ng agencies natin ay mas doon tayo makatitipid, pero in the long run hindi naman natin na-fully utilize iyong ating local sources, paano po natin mapipigilan ang ganoong possibility, Mr. Speaker?

REP. DAGOOO. Actually, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, it is highly impossible na mas mura, iyong imported kasi subject to excise tax, customs duties, et cetera. Iyong handling pa lang, iyong pagta-transport mula sa bansang pinanggalingan papunta dito, may additional expenses na po iyan as compared doon sa ating sariling natural gas na deretso na sa pipe, deretso na ang gamit. However, under this measure, sa Section 19, the Department of Energy is mandated to give complements and support doon sa sariling atin kasi ito iyong mandated sa regulation.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as iyon ang gusto nating mangyari, I believe doon sa intentions din ng ating Sponsor, pero meron din po kasing tax perks iyong mga gustong magbenta ng natural gas.

Let me cite from this Bill, Mr. Speaker, iyong zero percent VAT. It mentions that: "The sale of natural gas shall be subject to zero percent (0%) VAT, pursuant to the NIRC, as amended." Dagdag pa diyan, Mr. Speaker, "LNG terminals, PDNG Transmission Systems, and PDNG Distribution Systems shall be entitled to zero-rated VAT on their purchases of local supply of goods, properties and services needed for the development, construction and installation of their facilities." Would the Sponsor confirm this, Mr. Speaker?

REP. DAGOOO. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, the subject matter of the Bill is promotion, pino-promote natin iyong



natural gas na pinaka-clean fossil fuel, one is to 169 molecules. May proseso pa iyan—i-liquify o i-regasify, so, tataas po iyong cost in the process kaya minabuti na natin na i-incentivize ito. Hindi na natin inuulit iyong Renewable Energy Act na iyong incentives na ibinibigay sa mga developer ay talagang monetary in nature at nangongolekta tayo sa mga consumer with this universal charge na feed-in tariff allowance. In this case, ang incentive ay zero VAT na lang para ma-encourage at dumami ang players, in effect, matutulungan tayo na makamit iyong ating target na percentage share sa ating energy mix by 2040, at bababa iyong coal utilization, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify itong fiscal incentives sa Section 33. Hindi ba po applicable din ito kahit sa foreign companies na gustong mag-set up ng LNG terminals, itong mga transmission and distribution system?

REP. DAGOOC. Tama po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, kaya natin ipinopropose iyan to encourage nga ang mas maraming players at magkaroon ng competition, at bababa iyong cost.

REP. MANUEL. Iyon lang po ang underlying na pangamba natin, Mr. Speaker, dahil paano nga po kung meron na ngang mga foreign player? Whether we like it or not, Mr. Speaker, kahit gusto natin ng free competition sa ngayon, meron talagang mga nakalalamang, meron nang mga nakaabante sa industriya. Globally for example, Mr. Speaker, nandyan ang Gazprom ng Russia na merong 131.7 billion in US dollars na revenue noong 2021. Nandyan din po ang PetroChina with \$366 billion in revenue. Sila po iyong may malaking reserve na puwedeng pang capital nila, at kung makipag-compete sila sa mga nasa atin sa Pilipinas, nasa disadvantage talaga tayo at maa-avail pa nila ang ganitong mga tax incentive, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, hindi naman talaga natin maiiwasan iyong mga ganyang bagay. Ang kompetisyon

ay isang realidad sa buong mundo, lahat naman ay may kompetisyon.

This Representation would just like to appeal na bigyan muna natin ng pagkakataon ang panukalang batas na ito kasi hindi naman talaga mawawala iyong mga ganyan. Kung hindi natin susubukan na magkaroon ng mga ganitong panukala, so mawawalan tayo ng pag-asa na mayroon tayong gagawing mga hakbang para maresolba iyong ating energy requirement, iyong pangangailangan natin.

So, I am appealing to this Chamber, to my colleagues, pagbigyan muna natin na maisabatas ang panukalang batas na ito, then later after its implementation, anytime naman we can amend the law kung sa tingin natin ay hindi maganda iyong kanyang resulta para sa taong-bayan.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, bago ko po mapagbigyan ang ganitong panukalang batas ay may natitira pa po akong mga tanong. Mabuti naman at patuloy pa rin tayong in-entertain noong ating Sponsor.

In relation to that, Mr. Speaker, ano po ang local companies na ngayon ay may capacity para maging bahagi nitong Bill natin?

Ibig sabihin, sila po ay may capacity para maging players din doon sa natural gas industry. Puwede ba iyong mga currently ay nagpa-participate na or iyong mga nakikita rin nating kayang mag-participate eventually?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, so far dalawa pa lang po iyong mga player na more or less mag-o-operate, na hopefully mag-o-operate next year o this year. Ayaw ko na pong banggitin, basta in terms of number, dalawa lang po. That is why we need this measure to encourage more players in the industry, Mr. Speaker.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, again, with reference to Section 33, on “Fiscal Incentives,” mayroon po ba tayong taya o calculation kung magkano iyong government revenue na mawawala sa atin dahil ito ay na-convert natin into incentives, iyong mako-collect sana nating VAT mula roon sa mga magse-set up ng LNG terminals, transmission and distribution systems, *et cetera*?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, since we are still starting, we are still in the infancy stage, wala pa tayong mga historical data, kaya nga we need to start para at least in a matter of a certain period or duration, upon implementation if this will become a law, magkakaroon na tayo ng evaluation, magkakaroon na tayo ng historical data.

REP. MANUEL. Okay. Now, Mr. Speaker, fast forward, "SEC. 24. LNG Storage and Regasification Terminals," nabanggit po rito, Mr. Speaker, "The operation of an LNG Storage and Regasification Terminals shall not be considered as a public utility operation." Ano po ang basis natin bakit hindi po natin ito maituturing na public utility?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, bago pa lang po natin naipasa iyong amendment ng Public Service Act, so hindi po ito under that law, hindi po ito itinuturing na public utility kaya open po. Kaya po kanina, naitanong na po ng ating kasamahan bakit hindi ito kukuha ng Congressional franchise. So, iyan po iyong dahilan na open po ito.

REP. MANUEL. Okay. Mr. Speaker, on Section 23 pala, "Transmission and Distribution System and Related Facility," ano po ang rubrics natin? Ano iyong gagamiting rubrics ng Department of Energy to determine if an operator is fit, willing, and reliable. As the Section reads right now, Mr. Speaker, these are more qualitative pero ano po iyong ating magiging batayan para masabing fit, willing, and able ang isang operator?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, kagaya po ng ginagamit natin sa EPIRA o Republic Act No. 9136, na iyong four sectors, like transmission and distribution, magkakaroon po ang ERC ng--on the part of transmission, ng grid code, at sa distribution, distribution code. So, iyan po iyong gagawin ng Department of Energy, mag-i-issue po ito ng transmission at distribution code rito sa sektor na ito.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, bahagi po ba ng qualifications and pagsisiyasat natin kung

mayroong sapat na capital talaga ang isang magpi-present na operator?

REP. DAGOOC. Definitely, Mr. Speaker. Definitely, isa iyan sa pinaka-basic as far as regulation is concerned, basic po iyan.

REP. MANUEL. Kasi, Mr. Speaker, iyong isa ring gusto nating pag-ingatan iyong entities puwedeng magpe-present na mayroon itong capital pero ang kanilang operations, it is more of nagba-buy and sell lang ng mga iba't ibang corporation sa various sizes, pero iyong stable talaga at hawak nito ang capital ay hindi pala nakakasapat at nagpe-present lang na mayroong capital para makapag-acquire ng management ng kahit anumang supply ng energy sa ating bansa kaya po natin naitanong iyon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAGOOC. Financial capability, Mr. Speaker, is a basic requirement bago ka maisyuhan ng permit.

REP. MANUEL. Now, Mr. Speaker, how about specific types of machineries? May mga minimum requirements din po ba tayong itatakda?

REP. DAGOOC. Kasama po iyan sa standards na i-issue ng Department of Energy kaya tinukoy na natin dito iyong lead agency para wala na pong turuan, Mr. Speaker.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, how about the workforce of any entity? Bahagi rin po ba iyan ng ating itse-check?

REP. DAGOOC. Definitely. Are you referring to the workforce of the Department of Energy?

REP. MANUEL. Workforce po ng private entity.

REP. DAGOOC. Kasama po iyan sa ie-evaluate roon sa mga applicant, permit applicants kasi made-determine iyong financial nila, mayroon din pong requirement sa technical capability. So, titingnan doon

iyong workforce requirement for them to comply with the technical capability requirements.

REP. MANUEL. Now, Mr. Speaker, on Section 23 din, it says that, "PDNG Transmission Systems and Distribution Systems operating as public utilities..." will be issued a license or authorization if "...such service is required by the public convenience and necessity." Ano po ang ating gauge for public convenience and necessity? This might be elaborated din naman sa ating implementing rules and regulations, pero at this point, Mr. Speaker, we would want to fully understand ano ang ating pamantayan ng public convenience and necessity.

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, nasa Public Service Act po iyong mga probisyon na iyan. Kapagka iyong kanilang business ay papasok na po roon sa mga enumerated provisions ng Public Service Act na considered public utility na ito, that is the basis na they will be required by the Department of Energy at ituturing na public utility na.

REP. MANUEL. Mr. Speaker, tungkol naman sa presyo. Meron na po ba tayong pag-aaral din sa epekto ng pag-promote natin ng natural gas sa presyo ng kuryente sa ating bansa?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, competition po, law of supply and demand ang nagiging batayan ng Energy Regulatory Commission. So, kung gagamitin natin ang natgas sa generation of electricity, dadaan po sa competitive selection process. Iyong mananalò po sa competitive selection process, ifa-file pa po iyan sa Energy Regulatory Commission for further evaluation sa cost na ipapasa sa captive market. So, wala pong benchmark kung magkano, because it will depend on the result of the competitive selection process using the principle of law of supply and demand.

REP. MANUEL. Okay. Mr. Speaker, naitanong po natin iyon dahil kung meron

tayong i-import na liquefied natural gas, e hind puwedeng maging subject sa fluctuation sa global supply and demand and, of course, sa presyo ang dadalhin natin dito sa Pilipinas. Kaya ano po kayang safeguards natin, para naman maiwasan natin na kapag merong mga untoward incidents, global events that would affect the supply of natural gas sa kung saan tayo mag-i-import para naman hindi kawawa iyong bansa natin at iyong mga Pilipino, Mr. Speaker?

REP. DAGOOC. Kaya po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, palagi ninyong naririnig doon sa mga privilege speech ko na kailangang papasok ang ERC pagdating sa mga usapin na iyan kasi sa ngayon, natgas is like coal. Pagka na-import mo ito, kung kinulang tayo sa sarili natin, i-import mo talaga ito kung gagamitin sa generation of electricity, so subject to volatility iyong presyo nito.

Sa ngayon, the ERC is reviewing ang mga role and issuance pagdating sa regulation ng generation cost, kasi generation sector po ang nagpo-produce ng kuryente. So, kung mabago na nila ito, that is why they are reviewing—under the EPIRA kasi deregulated iyong generation. Ang regulated lang ay transmission at distribution. Sa ngayon, ang puwede lang gawin ay hihingin nila o ginagawa na nila iyan ngayon. They are requiring the GenCos to submit the importation documents, magkano iyong bili. Siguro, while hindi pa natin na-amend iyong EPIRA, iyan din iyong gagawin nila for the meantime na hihingin iyong mga importation documents sa natgas for purposes of determining the correct amount of generation cost.

REP. MANUEL. Now, Mr. Speaker, in relation doon sa price para maprotektahan natin iyong ating mga consumer, bukas po ba iyong ating Sponsor sa ideya na lumikha tayo ng isang price buffer fund? Ito po ay inspired doon sa isang section din ng Downstream Petroleum Industry Bill na na-file ng BAYAN MUNA Party-List at ng Makabayan coalition. Ang ideya po nitong buffer fund ay isa itong account na ide-designate for strict and unique

purpose of cushioning consumers against the frequent and drastic price increases of products. Kung may ganoon po tayo na na-envision for our oil industry, isa rin po ito sa mga naiisip natin para rin naman sa natural gas. Ano po kaya ang opinyon dito ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, I cannot solely decide on that proposal. We will just address that at the proper time. I will consult the Committee.

REP. MANUEL. Now, Mr. Speaker, for my last question for this interpellation, kanina nabanggit naman na ang ating target energy mix for natural gas, it will constitute 25 percent. Now, doon po sa 25 percent na-calculate po ba natin or nakapag-set tayo ng targets? Ilang percent ang local at ilang percent ang imported, Mr. Speaker?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, at present, dahil wala pa tayong nadi-discover na additional well na pagkukunan, so wala tayong matutukoy kung ilang percent iyong locally produced.

REP. MANUEL. Okay. Now, to end this interpellation, Mr. Speaker, ang gusto lang talaga nating ma-underscore pagdating sa ating energy sources, priority talaga natin ay iyong ating indigenous sources para matiyak natin ang ating energy security. At gusto rin natin na ang ating energy sources ay iyong mga pinaka-safe, mga pinaka-environment-friendly na available, para rin talaga iyong ating mga salita when it comes to climate change ay mapangatawanan po natin dahil nga these energy sources will affect the young and the generations to come.

Hanggang doon na lang muna sa puntong ito, Mr. Speaker, and we thank our good Sponsor for being patient with the questions that we raised in this interpellation. Salamat po.

REP. DAGOOC. My pleasure, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Thank you very much.  
Majority Leader.

REP. YU (J.V.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. France Castro from ACT TEACHERS Party-List for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Hon. France Castro is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Would the distinguished Sponsor yield to some of my questions, and most of my questions naman din were already tackled by the previous interpellators?

REP. DAGOOC. Like in the previous two interpellators, I will gladly answer your interpellation to the best of my knowledge and ability, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.). (*Laughter*) Thank you, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, we start with the title, the “Philippine Downstream Natural Gas Industry Development Act.”

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, paulit-ulit na nating sinasabi iyong upstream, downstream na natural gas industry. So, for the benefit of our kababayans who are listening now, could you please explain in a simple way or manner iyong difference noong downstream industry at iyong upstream industry, and could you give some examples.

REP. DAGOOC. Iyong upstream, iyan po iyong pag-e-explore, pag-e-extract. Iyon po, iyong downstream, ito na po iyong paggamit na. Kung saan mo ito gagamitin, kasama na po iyan sa downstream, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. Malinaw po kapag sinabi nating “downstream natural gas,” ibig sabihin ito na iyong nalinang na natin, sa Tagalog, nalinang na natin na source of gas mula roon sa upstream na na-drill pa natin, in-explore pa natin. Correct?

REP. DAGOOC. Exploration and operation.

REP. CASTRO (F.). And exploration, okay.

Sa ngayon ba, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, wala pa tayong, wala pang effort ang ating gobyerno for this downstream natural gas industry? Do we have already?

REP. DAGOOC. This is an existing industry. Kaya lang minabuti natin na magkaroon ng ganitong batas para matukoy natin iyong agency na in-charge rito para hindi nagtuturuan.

Then on the part of the upstream, continue iyong ating exploration at we are operating also the Malampaya. So, iyong operation ng Malampaya at iyong exploration is part of the upstream. Iyong paggamit natin noong natural gas na na-extract sa Malampaya rito sa mga planta natin kagaya ng Ilijan, iyan iyong downstream, so meron tayong existing.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. Malinaw na meron tayong existing downstream industry mula sa Malampaya. Tama po? At ito ay nasa kamay ng private sector.

REP. DAGOOC. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. Pero kanina, noong itinatanong ni Congresswoman Brosas about the Malampaya—kasi nagtataka tayo dahil developed na itong Malampaya at muli nating ipinasa ito roon sa private sector. In fact, lately nga nagkaroon pa ng 15 years na extension. Tama po? Na ibinigay natin sa Udenna at roon sa company ni Razon. Tama po?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, iyong 15 years na extension ay exploration po iyon sa mga bagong wells. So, iyong remaining life ay kino-continue lang nila, but the extension is more on exploration of new wells. Kasi magastos po iyong exploration at hindi ka pa sigurado mababawi iyong gastos mo sa pag-explore kasi baka wala kang makikita.

REP. CASTRO (F.). I know. I beg to disagree. I beg to disagree doon sa exploration dahil meron doon sa contract na kapag mayroong company na nag-extract ng oil mula doon sa, halimbawa, doon sa Malampaya na isang example, iyong kanilang gagastusin sa pag-e-

extract, whether meron silang na-extract o wala, sasagutin din iyon noong makukuha na nilang mga tubo o ibig sabihin meron silang return, kumbaga hindi sila lugi. Mag-explore man sila o hindi, may makuha man sila o wala, bayad pa rin iyon. So, nandodoon po iyon sa kontrata na nakita natin doon sa bahagi ng Malampaya.

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, doon po sa kontrata, hindi po 100 percent na ganoon. May mga bagay-bagay po na pwede nilang i-reimburse, pero karamihan po doon talagang—kaya very financial risk po iyong exploration. Kaya nga hindi po kakayanin mag-isa ng ating PNOC dahil maiksi lang po iyong pisi nila, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes, totoo po. Meron tayong tinatawag na recovery cost. Kaya iyong sinasabi ko kanina, Mr. Speaker, whether you have extracted, may nakita kang gas o wala, iyong kontrata natin doon sa Malampaya, dati kasi nasa Shell and Chevron iyan.

REP. DAGOOC. Opo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Kasama iyan doon sa recovery cost na mababawi rin sa kinikita. So, alam naman natin iyong hatian, hindi ba, ng kikitain. Halimbawa, iyong 60/40 or bago mangyari iyan, meron munang 70 percent na sa start ay makukuha at mababawi nila, mare-recover sa kikitain yung cost nila sa exploration. Alam ko po iyon, doon po iyong Malampaya ...

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to my distinguished colleague, again, upstream na po ito, pero sagutin ko lang. Hindi po iyan kasama sa Bill, pero sagutin ko lang. Iyong 60/40 kaya ganoon po, dahil kung mayroon po silang nakikita na natgas, pero kung wala, bokya po. Kaya 60/40 po iyon para mabawi nila iyong kanilang part or portion noong kanilang expenses. Pero kapag wala po silang makuha, wala po iyong 60/40, wala po silang share kasi saan nila kukunin? Iyon po.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes. Huwag po nating...

REP. DAGOOC. Again, nasa upstream na po iyon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes, alam ko, kasi kaya nga po itinanong ko sa umpisa ng aking interpellation iyong difference ng downstream and upstream. Actually, hindi naman ito magkahiwalay na industry, okay. Hindi naman ito magkahiwalay. Inaano lang natin na halimbawa, kapag nagkaroon po tayo ng upstream industry na iyon na nga po, example nga po ay ang Malampaya, hindi ba? Tapos ito, iyong ipinapasa nating batas, proteksiyon doon sa downstream. Maaring iyong company na nasa upstream ay puwede ring company na nasa downstream kasi ito iyong private sector na tinutukoy natin. Wala naman sa kamay ng gobyerno iyong upstream and downstream.

REP. DAGOOC. Agree. Tama po iyon.

REP. CASTRO (F.). So, parang ginagawa nating inutil ang PNOC na kung saan ito na nga, ipinapasa na nga sa atin, halimbawa ang Malampaya na upstream industry na, na nalinang, na-improve, at nakagawa na ng mga pipeline, kung saan iyon. Pero ano ba ang ginawa ng gobyerno natin? Ipinasa pa rin sa private sector na kung saan puwede na iyong public, pwede nang sa atin ito.

Alam po ninyo, ang kinikita ng private sector dito sa upstream industry ay P100 million a day na ipinasa natin, na kung tayo na ay naglilinang through the PNOC, sana sa atin na iyan. Halimbawa, katulad ng Malaysia, ng Indonesia, nagsimula iyan doon sa mga private sector na nag-explore noong mga oil sa sarili nilang resources. Kaya nakapagtayo sila ng Petronas, na iyon ang pinagkukuhanan at controlled ng gobyerno nila sa Malaysia dahil nalinang na rin ito. Ganoon din iyong example natin sa Malampaya na kung sa atin iyan, through the PNOC, siguro iyong P100 million a day na kita, sa atin din. Kasi sino ba iyong mga pinagpasahan? Mayroon ba itong mga expertise? Nakilala ba ito doon sa kanilang industry? Meron ba silang ganitong expertise? Pero ang kanilang mga expert nanggagaling din naman sa Chevron, nanggagaling naman din sa Shell.

Nabanggit ko iyon, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, dahil ayaw nating paghiwalayin ang upstream and downstream, dahil sinasabi natin dito na kapag mayroon tayong napagkuhanan through exploration, malilinan natin iyong ating sariling LNG, hindi ba? Malilinan natin iyong ating sariling LNG and tayo rin iyong maglilinang noong sa ating sarili, katulad ng example ng Malaysia. Tama po ba?

REP. DAGOOC. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, I agree with you in principle ngunit sa kasalukuyan, magkaiba po iyong batas sa upstream at sa downstream, so P.D. 87 at P.D. 72. May provision po doon sa P.D. 87 na iyong kita po doon sa upstream ay hindi pwedeng gamitin sa downstream. Siguro mag-file na lang tayo ng panukalang batas, amendment sa P.D. 87, para matalakay iyong – magkahiwalay kasi, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, but I agree with you in principle.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes, tama po, related itong upstream and downstream bagaman meron itong sariling batas.

REP. DAGOOC. Agree, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. Punta na po ako sa “Declaration of Policy.” Dito sa ginagawa nating batas on downstream industry ng oil, nakalagay dito, “x x x liberalizing the entry of investors under the system of competition, transparency and fair trade and providing responsive policy support, with the end goal of attaining fair prices for all stakeholders x x x” Dito iyong salitang “liberalizing the entry of the investors under a system of competition.” Yes, itong panukalang batas po talaga natin ay para doon sa private sector. Kasi nga, for so many years, wala pa talaga tayong teknolohiya. Okay.

Meron na po bang naisip iyong DOE, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, na mga investor na puwedeng mag-provide sa atin nitong downstream, itong LNG na ito, meron na po ba?

REP. DAGOOC. As I have said, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, meron na tayong mag-o-operate na dalawa, then siguro kung maipasa natin ang batas na ito, lalong dadami ang mag-participate at ang makinabang po ay iyong maka-generate tayo ng employment at more source of energy, particularly on electricity.

REP. CASTRO (F.). So, alam na po natin itong dalawang company na ito, Mr. Speaker?

REP. DAGOOC. Ang FGEN LNG Corporation at Linseed Field Corporation.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. Thank you po. And doon po sa "Declaration of Policy" rin nakasaad, "Encourage the inflow of private capital through equity participation by the private sector in the PDNGI value chain including gas transmission and distribution utilities." Also, sinasabi natin dito, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, magkakaroon tayo dito ng equity participation. Ano po ba iyong "equity participation?" Meron din po pa ditong participation ang ating government?

REP. DAGOOC. It is open to PNOC, Mr. Speaker. Kaya nilagyan po iyan ng equity, baka po may sektor diyan na pwedeng salihan ng PNOC, iyong depende sa kanyang financial at technical capability sa ngayon.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. Including the gas transmission and distribution utilities, ang PNOC.

REP. DAGOOC. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. So, okay po ba kung magkakaroon naman tayo ng budget hearing dahil lagi naman nating sinasabi na may financial capability at mga technical capability ang PNOC. Kailan kaya natin maa-attain iyong stage na ito ng PNOC na ito ay talagang magsisilbing ahensiya na talagang mag-e-explore ng ating mga oil. Kasi halimbawa po, ito naman talaga dapat iyong kanilang mandate, ang PNOC, tama po ba, na makatulong?

REP. DAGOOC. Tama po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Oo. So, mahalaga na mabigyan po ang PNOC nang sapat ng budget siguro, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. DAGOOC. I agree distinguished colleague, kung kakayanin ng ating budget.

REP. CASTRO (F.). At mag-start na rin siguro tayong mag-train ng expertise at iba pang mga specialty na skills para dito sa ating PNOC.

REP. DAGOOC. I agree, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague. Kung mayroon tayong sapat na pondo, kailangan natin ng tao at kailangan natin o kung kaya nating magbigay ng compensation doon sa mga expert.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes, kasi po parang ikukumparalang natin iyan doon sa nangyayari sa atin, sa industriya ng agrikultura. Kung hindi makasasapat iyong mga produksiyon ng ating mga magsasaka, iaasa natin iyan sa importation, so ganoon din ito. Kung hindi makasasapat, walang budget ang PNOC, walang mga expertise, iaasa lagi natin iyan sa private.

At kailan pa tayo magsasarili, na tayo iyong naglilinang ng sarili natin through this PNOC? Kasi ang tagal na rin naman nitong nag-e-exist, pati ang DOE, pero hindi natin ito napapagbigyan ng atensiyon. So, it is time siguro dahil dito sa batas na ito, mabigyan din sila siguro kasi wala akong nakita rito, Mr. Speaker, na parang papel ng PNOC na ganoon.

REP. DAGOOC. Yes, Mr. Speaker, dahil downstream nga ito. I can assure my distinguished colleague, I will personally look into the Charter of PNOC and file the appropriate measure, if necessary, for the amendment of the Charter of PNOC going into the direction of your premise, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I understand din kasi galing po

ang ating distinguished Sponsor sa industry na ito at alam ko he has all the knowledge about power. Kahit nga sabi mo kanina, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, sinabi mo kanina na medyo hindi mo kabisado itong downstream pero excellently naman nasagot mo iyong--at siguro kung magkakatulungan tayo, kung magkakaroon ng panukalang batas na naisabansa natin, hindi ba, iyong exploration and others na ginagawa para magkaroon talaga tayo. Hindi na sa private sector mapupunta iyong P100 million a day, mapupunta na iyan sa ating mga kababayan, sa ating bansa.

REP. DAGOOC. Yes, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, titingnan natin iyong Charter ng PNOC.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes. In "SEC. 19. Natural Gas Supply," nakalagay po dito yuong "x x x procurement, delivery, and pricing of natural gas from indigenous production facility or from LNG importation to the PDNGI shall be transparent, competitive and secure. The DOE may require the suppliers to submit relevant information pertaining to supply contracting, procurement, pricing, and distribution scheme to users for the purpose of monitoring."

So, ano po ba, ang ibig sabihin po ba iyong pricing, halimbawa kung nagkaroon na po ng mga player dito sa LNG, iyon po bang pricing ay kokontrolin po ng ERC?

REP. DAGOOC. Ang makokontrol lang ng Energy Regulatory Commission, Mr. Speaker, ay iyong generation component kapag iyong natgas ay ginagamit to produce electricity. However, in other uses, hindi po ito saklaw ng Energy Regulatory Commission under Republic Act No. 9136.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Sino po ang agency na may control dito, Mr. Speaker?

REP. DAGOOC. Kapag ginamit po ito sa public transport, ang LTFRB, depende po sa agency, but the lead agency is the Department of Energy.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay, that is clear. Ano

po ba iyong mga confidential or commercially sensitive na mga information? Kasi mayroon din pong nakalagay dito, included ba iyan doon sa pricing na sinasabi natin?

REP. DAGOOC. We are going to refer that, iyong facts or data, iyong nakapaloob sa ating Data Privacy Act na hindi puwedeng i-divulge din iyong mga kontrata normally na may confidentiality provision. Baka in effect, dahil competition ito, mayroong trade secrets pagdating sa mga calculation ng cost, sa mga competitor, that is part of the provisions ng mga kontrata na hindi puwedeng i-divulge.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Pero dahil ito ay may kinalaman naman sa natural resources, hindi po ba dapat may karapatan ang taong-bayan na malaman?

REP. DAGOOC. Hind po iyon, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Ano po iyon?

REP. DAGOOC. Ang tinutukoy diyan na hindi puwedeng i-divulge, iyan pong mga presyo at calculation. Halimbawa, iyong natgas kung ginagamit sa power generation at magkakaroon ng bidding or competitive selection process na 10 natgas supplier iyong naglalaban-laban, so hindi po puwede iyong kontrata doon sa mananalo, iyong kontrata between the supplier na nanalo at sa distribution utility, hindi po ito puwedeng ipakita sa mga competitor kung paano na-compute iyong kanyang presyo. Ganoon po. Pero the other parts, halimbawa, kung ilang barrels iyon nakuha natin sa ating wells ay public document po iyon.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay, Mr. Speaker. Gusto ko lang i-clarify ito. Kaya nga ito iyong nagiging problema natin sa presyo ng ating mga petrolyo, ng mga gas dahil itong oil companies ayaw nilang i-unbundle, hindi ba, iyong unbundling ng prices. So, paano ba sinasabing maliit lang iyong kita or nalulugi sila, paano natin malalaman? Paano natin malalaman kung walang unbundling noong prices?



REP. DAGOOOC. Kaya po, distinguished colleague, nangyayari iyan dahil sa ating Oil Deregulation Law sa ngayon. Kung gusto po nating maano iyan, magiging transparent doon, ma-unbundle iyong presyo sa ating oil kagaya po ng ginawa ng EPIRA, prior sa EPIRA, the electric bill is bundled, hindi po natin alam kung, halimbawa, P5 per kilowatt-hour, hindi po natin alam ano iyong composition noong P5.

After the EPIRA, EPIRA requires rate unbundling kaya napakahaba na po iyong ating electric bill. Hiniwalay na po iyong generation, transmission, systems loss, distribution, supply, metering, universal charge. Pagka ginalaw po natin iyong Oil Deregulation Law at i-pattern natin sa EPIRA iyong magiging amendment, ganoon din po ang gagawin noong mga oil industry players, ia-unbundle po nila iyon.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes.

REP. DAGOOOC. Sa ngayon, kaya po hindi po maipakita iyan ng Department of Energy dahil deregulated po ang ating oil industry.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, ang distinguished Sponsor po ba natin ay pumapayag ng unbundling ng presyo ng oil?

REP. DAGOOOC. Ako, personally, I am supporting na i-regulate ulit, pero ang problema, we are not the decision-maker, so puwede tayong mag-file ng panukala na ganoon.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes.

REP. DAGOOOC. Kasi sa kuryente unbundled kaya napakahaba, naka-detalye iyong binabayaran.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Oo. So, parang hinahalintulad ko lang din iyan sa energy, sa kuryente, at dito sa oil, Mr. Speaker. Kaya hindi natin alam iyong presyo kung talagang ito ba iyong presyo, ano iyong mga add-ons sa presyo ng oil for the benefit din naman ng mga tao. Although dahil nga iyan sa Oil Deregulation Law na kailangan din siguro

natin, as policymakers, palitan itong law na ito for the advantage of the Filipino people.

Okay. Wala na po akong ibang mga tanong, Mr. Speaker, dahil iyong iba po ay na-explore na, especially iyong mga tax noong ating mga kasama.

Thank you, distinguished Sponsor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAGOOOC. Maraming salamat din po, my distinguished colleague.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Thank you very much.

Majority Leader.

REP. YU (J.V.). Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to interpellate, I now move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is hereby terminated.

Majority Leader.

REP. ADVINCULA. Mr. Speaker, before we continue, may we acknowledge and welcome to the House of Representatives the guests of Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez. They are the members of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Committee of the House of Regional Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia.

With us today, we have honorable Sen. Gusti Farid Hasan Aman; (*Applause*) honorable Sen. Abdul Hakim; (*Applause*) honorable Sen. Ali Ridho Azhari; (*Applause*) honorable Sen. Evi Zainal Abidin; (*Applause*) honorable Sen. Mamberob Yosephus Rumakiek; (*Applause*) honorable Sen. Badikenita Sitepu; (*Applause*) Mr. Partogi Samosir; (*Applause*) Mr. Sammy Kurniawan; (*Applause*) Mr. Faizal Anhar Pasaribu; (*Applause*) Mrs. Nana Nasilah, spouse of Sen. Abdul Hakim; (*Applause*) and Mr. Shidqi Atho Robani Mohammad. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). To the special guests of our honorable Speaker Martin Romualdez from the Inter-Parliamentary

Cooperation Committee of the House of Regional Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, good afternoon and welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

Majority Leader.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

*It was 5:42 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:46 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

Majority Leader.

REP. ROQUE. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge and welcome to the House of Representatives the guests of our honorable Cong. Mark Go of the Lone District of Baguio City. The following guests are members of the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation of Baguio City. We have Coun. Levy Lloyd Orcales, SK Chairpersons Jessica Valerie Julian, Zion Jake Tolyaden, Jessie Ric Pacleb, Edward Sargie Ramos, Adrell Kenth Mencias, Sharrah May Buting, Angelo dela Cruz, Jobelee Siagan, Carla Joy Cacho, Garth Erwin Soriano, and Anderson Accatan, Mr. Speaker. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). To the guests of our honorable Cong. Mark Go, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

Majority Leader.

REP. ROQUE. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge and welcome to the House of Representatives the guests of honorable Rep. Josefina Tallado of the First District Camarines Norte, Deputy Speaker Isidro Ungab of the Third District of Davao City, Hon. Jonathan Keith Flores of the Second District of Bukidnon, and Hon. Lordan Suan of the First District of

Cagayan de Oro City. The guests are from Out-Of-Home Advertising Association of the Philippines, they are the following: Mr. Ramil Gutierrez, Mr. Daryl Abueva, Mr. Melvin Oloris, Mr. Edberto Acosta, Mr. Rorberto Mariano, Mr. Rodrigo Guevarra, Ms. Alpha Gracias Allanigui, Mr. Hospicio Neri Jr., Mr. Jemil Bulawin, Mr. Joseph Nacion, Mr. Rafael Sto. Domingo, Ms. Rowena Reyes, and Ms. Jeany Lyn Grabador, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). To the guests of our honorable Cong. Josefina Tallado, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

Majority Leader.

REP. ARBISON. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the guests of the honorable Rep. Bai Dimple Mastura of the First District of Maguindanao with Cotabato City. Here with us today are Coun. Bai Norahaina Mastura Maik, Coun. Datu Kadapi Taruyan, Coun. Datu Nasser Ali, Coun. Datu Mohammad Casim, Coun. Datu Omar Bakar, ABC Datu Norman Otto, and Board Member Datu Mashur Biruar all from Sultan Kudarat; Coun. Bai Zyra Thalia Sinsuat-Biruar of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao del Norte; and former Board Member of Maguindanao Saqqap Maip.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). To the guests of our honorable Cong. Bai Dimple Mastura, good afternoon and welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

Majority Leader.

REP. ARBISON. Mr. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the guests of the honorable Rep. Christopherson "Coco" M. Yap of the Second District of Southern Leyte. They are Mr. Ben de Paz and Mr. Jesrael Vince de Paz.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). To the guests of our honorable Cong. Christopher "Coco" M. Yap, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

Majority Leader.

REP. SAULOG. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the guest of honorable Cong.

Edgar Chatto, Cong. Vanessa Aumentado, and Cong. Kristine Alexie Tutor, all from the province of Bohol, namely: Manny Sales, Filipino UK vlogger with the channel "Breaktime with Manny."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). To the guest of our Cong. Edgar Chatto, Congw. Vanessa Aumentado, Congw. Alexie Tutor, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)* Thank you.

Majority Leader.

REP. YU (J.V.). Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the guests of the Hon. Wilbert Lee from AGRI Party-List. These are from the Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Pamilya ng Pantawid or SNPP. The guests are as follows: Pres. Angela Tubello, Vice Pres. Annabelle Luna, Sec. Gen. Vina Buenafe, Treas. Nida Carrillo, Aud. Perla Adolfo, and BOT members Jaena Catacio and Analiza Natalio.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). To the guests of our honorable Cong. Wilbert T. Lee, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)* Thank you for your visit.

Majority Leader.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8456

*Continuation*

#### PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

REP. YU (J.V.). Mr. Speaker, I now move that we open the period of amendments.

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

Majority Leader.

REP. YU (J.V.). Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we proceed to consider the individual amendments.

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

Majority Leader.

REP. YU (J.V.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Rep. Ray Reyes for his individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Hon. Ray Reyes is recognized for his individual amendments.

#### INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. REYES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This Representation proposes the amendments with the concurrence of our Sponsor.

On page 13, line 13, "SEC. 19. Natural Gas Supply," please insert the following paragraph after the phrase "including the dispatch of indigenous gas."

IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS GAS SOURCES AND MAXIMIZE GOVERNMENT REVENUE IN RELATION TO THE SALE OF INDIGENOUS GAS, INDIGENOUS GAS SHALL HAVE FIRST DISPATCH PRIORITY FOR POWER GENERATION, SUBJECT TO SECTION 6 OF THIS ACT. PROVIDED THAT THE PRESIDENT, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE DOE, MAY SUSPEND SAID PRIORITIZATION DUE TO SIGNIFICANT PRICE DIFFERENCES AND THE LEVEL OF ADEQUACY OF INDIGENOUS GAS SUPPLY.

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

REP. DAGOOC. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. YU (J.V.). I move that we approve the amendment.

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

REP. REYES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. REYES. The second proposal. On page 14, line 2, "SEC. 24. LNG Storage and Regasification Terminals" of the substitute Bill, please insert the following wordings after the word "operation."

FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT, THIS APPLIES EVEN IF THE LNG STORAGE AND REGASIFICATION TERMINAL SUPPLIES GAS THROUGH A PIPELINE TRANSMISSION SYSTEM, WHERE THE RECIPIENTS OR OFFTAKERS OF THE GAS ARE POWER GENERATION PLANTS OR OTHER WHOLESALE CUSTOMERS AND NOT THE GENERAL PUBLIC, OR IF THE LNG STORAGE AND REGASIFICATION TERMINAL HAS A JETTY, WHERE THE JETTY IS NOT USED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF PASSENGERS OR CARGO FOR GENERAL COMMERCE.

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

REP. DAGOOC. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

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

What does the House say?

REP. YU (J.V.). I move that we approve the amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the individual amendment is hereby approved.

REP. REYES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The third proposal. On page 14, line 1, a new Section denominated as Section 24 be inserted, to read as follows:

SEC. 24. CROSS-OWNERSHIP. – CROSS-OWNERSHIP OF NATURAL GAS FACILITIES (INCLUDING UPSTREAM FACILITIES), THEIR OPERATIONS, IMPORTATION AND SUPPLY OF NATURAL GAS TO CUSTOMERS (INCLUDING BY AGGREGATORS) SHALL BE ALLOWED

FOR OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS. THE DOE SHALL APPLY THE APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO ENSURE THAT PUBLIC INTEREST IS PROTECTED.

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

REP. DAGOOC. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. YU (J.V.). I move that we approve the amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the individual amendment is hereby approved.

REP. REYES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The fourth and last proposal. The subsequent sections shall be renumbered accordingly.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DAGOOC. Accepted, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. YU (J.V.). I move that we approve the amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the individual amendment is hereby approved.

REP. REYES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

No further proposed amendments. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Thank you very much, Congressman Reyes. Majority Leader.

REP. YU (J.V.). Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to propose amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Is there any objection? (Silence) The Chair hears none; hereby declared, the period of amendments is terminated.

Majority Leader.

REP. YU (J.V.). Mr. Speaker, I now move that we vote on House Bill No. 8456, as amended, on Second Reading.

### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 8456 on Second Reading, as amended.

All those in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). All those against, please say *Nay*. (Silence)

### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8456, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 8456, as amended, is hereby approved on Second Reading. (Applause)

Congratulations!

Majority Leader.

REP. YU (J.V.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Edcel Lagman for his manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). The Hon. Edcel Lagman is recognized.

### MANIFESTATION OF REP. LAGMAN

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the draft Rules of the House of Representatives for the Nineteenth Congress was summarily approved without

any discussion. I noticed that there are certain provisions which must be reexamined like the following:

1. On Rule III, "Officers" and Rule V, "Deputy Speakers," there appears to be no provision for the number of Deputy Speakers, and likewise, there is no provision on the position of Senior Deputy Speaker. In the absence of a provision recognizing a Senior Deputy Speaker, what will happen, Mr. Speaker, to the recent elevation of the Hon. Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. as Senior Deputy Speaker?

2. Under Section 48 of Rule X, "Bills, Resolutions, Messages, Memorials and Petitions," there is no provision that bills and resolutions approved by the pertinent committees will pass the so-called ManCom. The ManCom was also not mentioned in previous Rules. Why is it, Mr. Speaker, that bills and resolutions approved by the various committees are passed to the ManCom where the bills and resolutions remain pending for quite some time, and some bills are suggested to be amended by the ManCom substantially. Does the ManCom has the authority to alter or amend the bills and resolutions approved by the proper committee? Is it not that its authority, if ever, is limited to styling and correction of typographical or grammatical errors?

3. In the earlier Congresses, the explanation of vote on Third Reading was made immediately after a Member cast his or her vote. The reason for this is the explanation of the vote can clarify issues and also properly influence the vote of Members who subsequently would be voting. I firmly suggest that we revert to the old Rule where the explanation of vote is made immediately after a Member casts his or her vote, amending for that purpose, Section 53 on "Third Reading."

4. On bills with national consequence, the conference committee report shall be ratified by a majority vote of Members present through nominal voting and explanation of vote.

5. With respect to Section 74 on "Roll Call," Section 75 on "Quorum," and Section 91 on "Nominal Voting," we have been suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that the roll call,

quorum, and voting shall be determined by the physical presence of Members, thus, removing attendance or voting by Zoom or any other electronic platforms.

6. On Section 94 on "Time Limit," the one-hour period for debate granted to a Member shall exclude, let me repeat, shall exclude the time consumed by the Member or resource person being interpellated.

7. Under Rule XX on "Code of Conduct", we must include the prohibition and sanction of inordinate absenteeism; and, finally,

8. On Section 143 on "Proposals to Amend the Constitution," it must be stressed for the record that the word "Congress" shall refer to the House and the Senate.

That will be all, Mr. Speaker, and I hope the Rules Committee would consider the amendment of the Rules of the House for the Nineteenth Congress in order to accommodate these observations.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Thank you very much, Honorable Lagman. Very well noted.

Majority Leader.

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Mr. Speaker, we note the manifestation of the Hon. Edcel Lagman, and may we refer the manifestation of Representative Lagman to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Is that a motion, Majority Leader?

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Is there any objection to the motion of the Majority Leader to refer the manifestation of Representative Lagman to the Committee on Rules? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The manifestation of the Honorable Lagman is hereby referred to the Committee on Rules.

Majority Leader.

## CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8218

### *Continuation*

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. COJUANGCO (J.). Mr. Speaker, under the Calendar of Unfinished Business, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 8218 contained in Committee Report No. 559 as reported out by the Special Committee on Nuclear Energy, and the Committees on Appropriations, and Ways and Means.

For this purpose, may I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Secretary General is directed to read the title of House Bill No. 8218.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8218, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE ATOMIC ENERGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY AND PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR RADIATION PROTECTION, NUCLEAR SECURITY, SAFETY, AND SAFEGUARDS, AND PHYSICAL SAFETY IN THE PEACEFUL UTILIZATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Thank you very much.

Majority Leader.

REP. COJUANGCO (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move to open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. COJUANGCO (J.). Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that it is in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that the Chairperson of the Special Committee on Nuclear Energy, Cong. Mark Cojuangco, be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). The Hon. Mark Cojuangco is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. Before I answer questions, yesterday, I delivered my sponsorship speech to House Bill No. 8218. I missed out a paragraph which I would like to insert into the Record of my sponsorship speech. It is a paragraph which comes after the 13 coauthor stated in my speech yesterday, that reads like this, "The reason why I authored a second Bill is that we requested the assistance of Speaker Martin to be able to engage an international nuclear law expert, Atty. Helen Cook of Australia, to help us draft a new bill. We did this so that the Bill's language would conform to the language as recognized by the IAEA and the international community."

I move that this paragraph be inserted into my sponsorship speech yesterday, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Yes, certainly. Is there any objection to the motion of the Sponsor to include that missing paragraph? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). I am ready to answer questions about the Bill, Mr. Speaker.

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

Majority Leader.

REP. COJUANGCO (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of interpellation.

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

Majority Leader.

REP. COJUANGCO (J.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Gabriel Bordado of the Third District of Camarines Sur for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). The Honorable Bordado is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be posing some clarificatory questions, and I am sure that the distinguished Sponsor of the Bill will be more than willing to answer such questions.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Indeed, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute is mandated, and I quote, "to undertake research and development activities in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, to institute regulations on the said uses and to carry out the enforcement of said regulations to protect the health and safety of radiation workers and the general public."

Mr. Speaker, this is quite similar to the objective of the proposed Philippine Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, why do we need to create a separate regulating authority transferring functions, people, and resources when we could instead strengthen, review, and revise the functions and mandates of existing organizations like the PNRI?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Mr. Speaker, it is precisely because the PNRI is tasked to both promote nuclear energy and regulate nuclear energy, and that is where we have a problem. Those are conflicts of interest and as such, the PNRI is not a credible regulator in the eyes of the international community or the IAEA. The remedy is to constitute a truly independent, fiscally independent, and politically independent regulator so that there is no conflict of interest. The PNRI remains as the promoter and research department of nuclear technology, and the new regulator, the PhilATOM, becomes the sole regulator in the country.

REP. BORDADO. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. One of the reasons cited for considering the use of nuclear energy is saving billions worth of US dollars in fossil fuel importation. But, Mr. Speaker, according to Greenpeace, and I quote, "Nuclear energy is the most expensive and most dangerous source of electricity." Likewise, Mr. Speaker, the cost of construction and maintenance of facilities, and the cost of managing risks are higher than if we focus on renewable energy sources.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). What is the question?

REP. BORDADO. Mr. Speaker, why is there a need to explore nuclear energy when we could instead develop renewable sources of energy such as solar and wind power?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleague, the solar and wind power's biggest problem is that they are intermittent sources of energy. One example is that solar power has a capacity factor in the Philippine setting of 15 percent and so it requires gas backup; LNG, which is imported requires coal backup 85 percent of the time; while wind has a capacity factor of 40 percent and so it requires gas or coal backup 60 percent of the time.

Those are not really that independent on fossil fuels, number one. Number two, it require additional investments in backup capacity which are new coal and gas plants, that is why we have a previous law. We are running out of Malampaya gas, so the DOE intends to authorize LNG receiving terminals so that we could import LNG. It is no longer cheap when you consider the work arounds to address solar and wind intermittency.

Greenpeace has always been against nuclear power, but one of its founding members says that Greenpeace is completely wrong about nuclear power. In Germany, where Greenpeace holds sway, they have already closed all their nuclear power plants sometime this year and they now have an economic crisis because of the skyrocketing

price of electricity due to their dependence on imported ration gas. Now, they have to buy their gas, their LNG from the United States, and they have to open coal mines that they had already closed down. They have to open coal plants that they have already closed down.

There are many countries that do not agree with the viewpoints of Greenpeace, and I think that we should examine their suggestions very closely, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). I would like to add, the billions of dollars in savings for every 1,000 megawatts of coal. We import during the height of the crisis about a billion-dollars-a-year worth of imported coal. Mas mahal pa po ang LNG kaysa coal, but if that was nuclear power, it is only \$30 million for the same amount of electricity in one year, so there is a difference of around \$900 million-plus every year for every 1,000 megawatts.

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

As to the waste management, Mr. Speaker, radioactive waste can stay active for hundreds of thousands of years. According to the World Nuclear Association, deep geological disposal, where nuclear waste is stored in deep underground repositories and sealed with clay, rocks, and salt, is the preferred method of waste management in many countries. Now, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, what are the locations in the Philippines where we could potentially hold nuclear waste safely?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Mr. Speaker, one of the big advantages of nuclear waste is that the amounts we are considering are tiny. We had a fuel assembly on display in the North Hall and the South Hall a few months back. That was one of the nuclear assemblies in the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant that we borrowed to display to our colleagues. Every year, Bataan would use up around 26 pieces of those. Those are all the wastes we are talking about as compared to the eight million tons of carbon dioxide, the 400,000 tons of coal ash,



and the particulate matter that we emit into the atmosphere that we breathe, so it is a tiny amount compared to other sources of energy.

These used fuel assemblies can be inserted into thick stainless-steel tubes that are sealed on both ends and are disposed of in two-kilometer-deep horizontal boreholes, which the Philippines has expertise in drilling because we are the number two country in geothermal energy. Then, these canisters are put in the horizontal borehole, backfilled with bentonite clay and concrete, and it is gone for eternity. It becomes attention-free and cost-free forever.

Mr. Speaker, why would we want to do that? Because spent nuclear fuel or nuclear waste is a great resource for the country. When we use it once in a light water reactor which is one of the types of reactors we are considering to build immediately, we only consume less than 5 percent of the energy in that fuel. That fuel which you call high-level nuclear waste can be reused 20 times in my coming grandsons' generation, for fast iso-breeder reactors.

It is a great wealth that we can bequeath to our descendants. Why would we want to bury such a great wealth that we could no longer retrieve at all in the future?

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Thank you.

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

REP. COJUANGCO (J.). Mr. Speaker, the next Member who wishes to interpellate is the Hon. Geraldine Roman from the First District of Bataan. I move that she be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). The Honorable Roman is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

MANIFESTATION OF  
REP. ROMAN

REP. ROMAN. Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, I rise today to speak in earnest about an important piece of legislation

currently before us which has been penned and spearheaded by our dear colleague, Rep. Mark Cojuangco, and this is about the Philippine Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority Bill known as the "PhilATOM Bill." This Bill marks a decisive step forward in our commitment to harnessing the boundless power of atomic energy for the good of our people. It is a testament to our vision for a sustainable, reliable, and efficient energy future for the Philippines.

However, we must tread carefully in this new frontier. While we aspire to chart a new course towards energy security, we must equally be certain not to neglect the crucial aspect of local government participation. A project of this magnitude, complexity, and potential impact cannot be carried out in isolation. It necessitates the active consent, involvement, and cooperation of local government units or our LGUs where nuclear activities are to take place.

The LGUs are our eyes and ears on the ground, our first line of engagement with the communities we serve. They offer us insight into the unique needs, aspirations, and concerns of all our constituents. The establishment of nuclear facilities will undeniably have far-reaching effects on these communities, affecting everything from the local economy to the environment to public health. It is, therefore, imperative that the LGUs' perspectives and inputs be given due recognition and weight throughout the nuclear decision-making process. Mahalaga po ang ating mga LGU.

And for this reason, I propose that we refine the PhilATOM Bill to include robust provisions for LGU consultation and engagement. This could be done through scheduled public hearings, a formal process for collecting and considering LGU feedback, and a requirement for LGU endorsement before key decisions are made. Our people have to be heard. They are direct stakeholders and, therefore, should be represented and be heard. Not only will this ensure that our nuclear energy program is responsive to the needs of the people, but it will also build community trust and social acceptance. Alam naman po ninyo, there is really nothing wrong about nuclear energy but for the longest time, the common notion is that

it is not safe or it is not good. And, it is only through this direct engagement with the LGUs and the people that these misconceptions can be corrected.

This is not about creating barriers to progress, Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, rather it is about ensuring that progress is sustainable and truly beneficial for all Filipinos. The integration of LGU voices into our nuclear energy agenda is not a concession; it is a necessity. It is about making sure that we approach nuclear energy not as a unilateral imposition, but rather as a collective project. Sama-sama po tayong lahat, built on mutual consent, respect, and understanding.

I, therefore, urge my fellow lawmakers and our dear Sponsor to please consider this aspect of the PhilATOM Bill so that we can work towards its refinement. Together, let us ensure that our journey towards atomic energy is one of inclusivity, transparency, and deep respect for the communities we serve.

With that, I close my manifestation. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Is there a question from the Lady?

REP. ROMAN. No, this is simply a manifestation, my dear Sponsor.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Okay. May I respond to that, Mr. Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Thank you very much. Please proceed.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). I agree with the sentiments of the good Congresswoman from Bataan. However, the PhilATOM institution that we are trying to create is not the platform for social buy-in or buy-out. The local government involvement in decision-making of whether they want or do not want a nuclear plant is embodied in our Local Government Code. So, a province, a municipality is free to object to have a nuclear power plant in its jurisdiction. And, no company--because it cost money to get licensing done-- no company, in my opinion would venture to apply for licenses with PhilATOM unless they had

local buy-in as a prerequisite to justify their investment in the licensing process, which cost millions and millions of pesos, Mr. Speaker.

This argument was given during our committee meetings by no less than Cong. Abet Garcia and Congw. Angela Garcia. After discussing the measure and raising their points, there was a votation and they were soundly defeated in that votation because our members saw that we need experts, and not politics. to decide the safety of nuclear power plants. We need to protect this institution as a scientific institution run by engineers, experts, geologists, and the technical expertise that is enumerated in this Bill, Mr. Speaker.

Again, let me repeat, this Bill, this institute that we are trying to set up is not the platform to get or to reject social license. That is a completely different matter and deserves its own platform which is provided to us by law.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Okay. Thank you very much.  
Majority Leader.

REP. COJUANGCO (J.). Mr. Speaker, the next Member who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor is the Hon. France L. Castro of ACT TEACHERS Party-List. I move that we recognize her for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Hon. France Castro is recognized to interpellate.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Would the distinguished colleague yield to some of my clarificatory questions?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Absolutely, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. So, the primary objective of the Bill at hand, Mr. Speaker, is to create a regulatory board for the ...

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). A regulatory authority.

REP. CASTRO (F.). A regulatory authority. *(Laughter)* And, it is specified here,

Mr. Speaker and distinguished Sponsor, that the role of the PNRI will be lessened to reduce the regulatory function of the PNRI. Is that correct?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Mr. Speaker, in fact, the PNRI will be stripped of all its regulatory functions. There will be no more regulatory functions left with the PNRI. They are going to be transferred to this new PhilATOM, including some of the regulatory functions of the DOH and the FDA with regard to the equipment which produces ionizing radiation. This will now be supervised and regulated by this authority.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. That will be my next question sana, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, kasi alam natin that the PNRI is also in charge of the regulatory functions not for the energy, nor for the nuclear energy but for the nuclear technology including medical, agriculture, and other technology that uses nuclear.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Is that a question; what is the question?

REP. CASTRO (F.). Iyon nga po, iyong question ko kanina. Medyo nasagot na rin kasi sinasabi ninyo that the PhilATOM will be in charge now doon sa regulatory functions ng PNRI that includes iyong mga nuclear technology.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Yes po.

REP. CASTRO (F.). So, hindi lang po energy, Mr. Speaker.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Hindi po. We have X-ray machines, gamma irradiators, MRI equipment, CT scanners, stuff like that, including industrial radiation sources and agricultural radiation sources.

The PNRI is in an impossible situation, Mr. Speaker. For example, it recently reactivated its subcritical reactor in the PNRI complex. They are their own regulator. They are the ones who will say whether what they did is correct or not, safe or not. So, there is a

conflict of interest. That demonstrates it very well. We really need a separate regulator, and that is what the international community is clamoring for so that they will accept us for having a credible regulator.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. Mr. Speaker, malinaw sa atin kasi pag sinabi natin we will form this PhilATOM, we are just referring to the nuclear energy na pinag-uusapan natin.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). We are referring po, Mr. Speaker, to all ionizing radiation.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes, okay. That is clear. I know that if the regulatory functions of the PNRI will be transferred to this proposed PhilATOM, there would be personnel that will be affected. What will happen to the employees? What will happen?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Their budget will be transferred. Those who want to be transferred will be transferred.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Including po iyong--no diminution of benefits, no retrenchment, no forced ...

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). There is no retrenchment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Kailangan nating malinaw iyon, Mr. Speaker, dahil sa pagke-create kasi ng other authorities or nagkakaroon tayo ng merge or division ng iba't ibang mga agency, ang apektado kasi rito ay iyong mga personnel and employees. Gusto kong linawin na there is no way in the Bill that would retrench or that will force the employees na mawalan ng trabaho, *et cetera*.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Mr. Speaker, Section 48. Human Resources, second paragraph, line 16, and I quote: "There shall be no demotion in ranks and positions, and no diminutions in salaries, benefits, allowances, and emoluments of all PNRI and CDRHR personnel to be transferred to the Authority."

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. Hindi lang pala iyong PNRI, including din dito iyong CDRHR which is under the DOH? Ito po ba iyong under DOH or a separate institution?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Yes po, iyong agency po nila that deals with ionizing radiation. Kasi kailangan po sa buong Pilipinas isang Authority lang pagdating sa ionizing radiation, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor, for that clarification. Gusto lang natin, Mr. Speaker, na wala pong mawawalan ng trabaho.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Wala po.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. Napansin ko rito, Mr. Speaker, ang magiging qualification nang mga iha-hire na mga personnel, employees here, and we have earlier said that we will hire here highly technical personnel that are really expert in the nuclear field. Tama po?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Yes po. We are going to hire—sa Section 7 po, letter (d), line 16, dito po sa mamumuno po rito: “No person shall qualify for appointment under this Section unless such person:

- (1) Is a Filipino Citizen;
- (2) Has at least a graduate degree in one of the following:
  - (i) Engineering, specifically:
    - a. Power Engineering, Thermal Power Engineering;
    - b. Mechanical Engineering;
    - c. Electrical Engineering;
    - d. Chemical Engineering;
    - e. Material Science; or
    - f. Nuclear Engineering.”

So, marami po iyan, you can read the whole section. There are so many field of expertise that are specified po here, including combinations of expertise.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

Do we also have the human resource structure dito sa bubuuin nating PhilATOM? Do we have a personnel structure?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Mr. Speaker, because the Authority is meant to be independent, we are not supposed to dictate on them the structure. In fact, the international legal expert said that maybe even specifying all of these is already interfering too much, but we did anyway because we wanted quality. So, when these Director General and Deputy Director Generals, there are five po—one Director General and four Deputy Director Generals—when they convene, they will be the ones responsible to make all the rules and the structure.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Dahil napansin din natin, Mr. Speaker, na nakasunod din naman iyong mga sweldo nang mga personnel doon sa Salary Standardization Law.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Yes po. In fact, we want this Authority to have very high salaries.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Pero sabi po rito, di ba, nakalagay, “The Director General would have a Salary Grade 31.” Ang ibig sabihin, kapantay po iyan ng salary natin, Salary Grade 31.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Parang undersecretary po. Yes po.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Opo, kapantay. Ang 33 kasi iyong President; Vice President, 32; 31 iyong Senate President, *et cetera*, at tayo po. So, iyon po iyong level nang sweldo nila.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Yes po, dapat po kasi ayaw po natin na mataas po ang turnover rate nito, gusto natin na hindi po sila maimpluwensiyahan, ma-corrupt, so dapat suwelduhan po nang mabuti, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. I asked this kasi meron na tayong specified na position, item and salary for DG, pero wala tayo noong mga nasa baba na gusto rin natin na ma-ensure. Kung talagang gusto natin na makapag-encourage ng mga expert, ng mga specialty personnel para rito, dapat meron na po tayong parang structure nang human

resource para rito po. Kasi ano po ba ito? Ito po ba iyong itsura, parang corporation?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). This is frowned upon by the IAEA. They came here on a mission to share with us their knowledge and their advice. Of course, it is just an advice and not a dictation. We in the Committee saw the wisdom in adopting their advice so that our organization would be credible to the international community. That is the most important po there, na tayo po maging credible, hindi lang po sa vendors, vendor countries, kung hindi sa lahat ng bansa sa mundo na kailangan makasigurado sa atin na iyong security ng nuclear material hindi natin pababayaan. Kapag may transboundary crimes – maparusahan, mahatulan--kaya dapat independent po itong Body na ito.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. If it is independent, wala pong authority na naggo-govern dito?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Wala po.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Even the President?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). It is not under any department.

It is part of the Office of the President but even the President cannot meddle. He can only appoint the DGs and the DDGs, but he cannot meddle in its day-to-day operations. Yes.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. So, this PhilATOM pala is under the Office of the President.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Kasi Executive Department po; tatlo lang po ang ating branches of government

REP. CASTRO (F.). I know. I understand that kasi may attached agencies tayo that are under the Office of the President, so ito, hiwalay ito sa Office of the President.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Ministerial po kasi.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Ministerial.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Opo.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. Do we have a model in other countries na may ganitong authority; para mabigyan naman din po tayo ng idea how this Authority would be run by different personnel?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, may mga bansa na bagong pasok sa nuclear. Among them are the United Arab Emirates which we looked at. We looked at the US NRC, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of the United States. We looked at the UK Regulator and other regulators, pinag-aralan po iyan.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. Mayroon tayong model noong personnel structure, those that you have mentioned po?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Wala po.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Para magkaroon naman po tayo ng idea kung ilan ba iyong mga personnel na iha-hire under this Authority.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Mayroon pong ginawa ang PNRI, sa ngayon po around 300 iyong sa PNRI, pero the ultimate plantilla is around 400 po.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Also, it depends po siguro how many nuclear plants we will have at the end of the day. Kasi ang isang funding source po nito is the two centavos per kilowatt hour contribution of all electricity sold by nuclear power plants to be given to them as a regulatory fee.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Ibig sabihin, Mr. Speaker, preparation na ito doon sa binabalak natin na pagtatayo ng mga nuclear energy.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Yes po.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Tama. Kasi doon din manggagaling iyong kanilang compensation. Tama po ba?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Yes, sa collection po.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Doon sa collection noong made-derive o madi-distribute na energy.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Doon sa output po ng nuclear power plant.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes. Balik ulit ako sa structure ng mga personnel. Iyong under the PNRI now, we have 300 personnel. Right, 300?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Three hundred po sila.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Out of these 300 po, ilan iyong ililipat natin na mga personnel whose function is regulatory?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Around 100 po ang ililipat.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay, pero iyong PNRI hiwalay po ito sa Authority?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Iyong ano po?

REP. CASTRO (F.). Iyong PNRI, iyong Philippine Nuclear Research Institute magiging hiwalay na o attached agency na ng Authority?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Mr. Speaker, iyong sa regulatory function ng PNRI ngayon is around 100 personnel. So, itong PhilATOM, kapag nailipat po sila, hindi na po sila attached to any other agency. Tumatayo na po sila as PhilATOM, independent na po sila.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Hindi, iyong PNRI?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). It is under the DOST po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay, under the DOST. That is clear, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. Mr. Speaker, iyon lang po iyong gusto kong i-explore, iyong tungkol sa personnel structure na ating bubuuin sa PhilATOM. I hope makita natin. May I ask the submission, Mr. Speaker, iyon

talagang nakikita nating personnel structure ng Authority. Can we have it now kung meron tayo?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). The Director of the PNRI is present today. He hears the request of the Lady, Mr. Speaker. The Director of the PNRI will provide what the Congresswoman is asking for.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. Dahil hindi naman sakop ng Bill at present po iyong mga tanong natin about iyong safety noong mga nuclear energy na gagawin natin, na ipu-put up natin, so ito ay paglalagay lang po ng authority. Sa tingin ko po, maganda na ma-regulate din, magkaroon ng regulatory function or regulatory authority or agency hindi lang sa energy kung hindi doon sa nuclear technology.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Mr. Speaker, kasi sa ngayon, wala po tayong pinaglalaman ng ionizing radiation wastes ng mga hospital, for example, kung saan-saan lang po iyan, pakalat-kalat. So, there really needs to be an authority in charge of all of these.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. Sa ngayon, wala tayong ganon, so paano na iyong mga nanggagaling sa ospital, sa mga industry, iyong mga sinasabi ninyong wastes?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Meron po naka-locate sa mga ospital. Pero papaano po kung ilang dekada na ang lumipas, nakalimutan na po kung nasaan iyon o wala na nag-keep track? Kaya po sa South America noon, nagkaroon po ng malaking disgrasya dahil iyong gamma radiator napunta sa junk shop. Inoperahan ito noong mga taga-junk shop na akala nila kung ano lang iyong nasa loob. Mga dalawang tao po ang namatay dahil sa radiation. Dapat maiwasan po iyan. We really need a regulator.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. Iyon po ang medyo positive dito sa pagkakaroon ng authority para po iyong mga nuclear waste na nanggagaling sa health facilities and industry ay ma-put into proper order.

That is all, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). Thank you very much.  
Majority Leader.

REP. COJUANGCO (J.). Mr. Speaker, the next Member who wishes to interpellate is the Hon. Albert S. Garcia of the Second District of Bataan.

I move that we recognize the Gentleman for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Frasco). The Honorable Garcia is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader. To our honorable Sponsor, dear colleagues, magandang hapon po sa ating lahat.

At the onset, let me state that this Representation is inclined to support this measure because I believe that in order for our country to overcome our energy challenges, we should have a wide array of sources of power including nuclear, so we can have a more stable, ample, reliable, and cheap power which will result to a prosperous economy and better lives for our people.

But, a lot of things have to be clarified and eventually, probably even amended in this measure in the areas of the feasibility of nuclear energy, safety, maintenance and disposal of spent fuel, respect to local autonomy, and checks and balance to this new authority that this Bill plans to create, among other things, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

Sayang, Mr. Speaker, at nalimitahan ang aming oras doon po sa Special Committee on Nuclear Energy para linawin ang mga importanteng issue na ito. Sana dito sa Plenary ay bigyan kami ng sapat na oras upang magtanong at mabigyan ng linaw itong mga bagay na ito na napakaimportante.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, will the honorable Sponsor yield to several questions?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Absolutely, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, honorable Sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, alam po ng lahat na ang ating Sponsor ay talagang staunch advocate ng nuclear energy. Noong unang beses ko pa lang po na pumasok dito sa House of Representatives, talagang ito na po ang adbokasiya ng ating Sponsor. Ito po ay alam nating lahat at alam po marahil hindi lang ng buong Pilipinas, kung hindi ng buong mundo.

For my first question, I am sure our Sponsor would validate this. Very briefly, can he say why nuclear energy is very important?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Mr. Speaker, the number one magic of nuclear energy is the energy density of uranium, which is millions of times higher than any fossil fuel. To generate such a huge amount of electricity, you need such a little amount of fuel. With that little amount of fuel, you also have such a little amount of waste, which is not even waste because it has 20 times reusability.

I have a sample of a uranium fuel pellets here, if anybody want to see this. It will save us billions of US dollars in avoiding coal importation every year. Now, we are planning to import LNG which is even more expensive than coal. Also, because wind and solar are intermittent, kapag po tahimik na sa gabi, lahat po ng investment natin sa solar and wind, zero kilowatt hours po ang lalabas. Kaya kung iyon lang po ang ating solusyon, mapipilitan tayong mamuhunan sa backup gas generation. So, doble-doble na po ang ating puhunan para makapag-supply po tayo ng maaasahang koryente. Kaya nagmamahal po ang solar and wind, at hindi na po ito ganoon kalinis dahil, katulad po noong sinagot ko kanina sa isang colleague natin, solar is 15 percent capacity factor. It means that gas and coal is 85 percent of the time, and wind is 40 percent capacity factor. It means that gas or coal is 60 percent of the time.

Wala na pong ibang teknolohiya na naiwan pa sa atin para piliin, para i-solve ang ating problema sa koryente, kung hindi ang nuclear power. Ang lahat po ng ibang klaseng teknolohiya, napagbigyan na po natin, 37 years na po sila nasubukan, hanggang ngayon po may krisis tayo, sobra ang mahal

ng koryente, hindi na po kaya ng tao. That is why around 78 to 79 percent of Filipinos agree that nuclear power should be used to lower the price of electricity. Iyan po ang survey na galing sa DOE noong panahon ni Secretary Cusi. Hindi po iyan numero ni Mark Cojuangco. Ang dami pong dahilan kung bakit dapat po tayo mag-nuclear, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, for that answer.

Mamaya po, pupunta ako sa isyu ng nuclear versus renewable. Pero dahil nabanggit po ninyo—pero bago po iyon, kung ganoon po kalakas ang argumento para sa nuclear energy, bakit po sa ating bansa wala pa tayong nuclear energy, at sa buong mundo, napakaliit ng porsiyento ng ating power na nanggagaling sa nuclear energy. Bakit po kaya, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Mr. Speaker, may nuclear plant po tayo mula 1986, 100 percent complete po. Noong Mayo 1985, dumating po dito ang IAEA, OSART 2 mission at na certify po ang ating planta na ready for loading. Na-politika po si dating Pres. Ferdinand Marcos Sr. dahil ang American Ambassador noong panahon na iyon ay dine-delay ang nuclear power plant dahil masasabi ko, siguro maka-Cory siya noong panahon na iyon and wala naman siyang karapatan mag-complain. Puwede pong basahin itong lahat ng nangyari sa libro po ni Geronimo Velasco. In fact, I already got permission from his family to reproduce the chapter on nuclear power, and I will distribute it to all our Members here. Nakikipagtalos siya kay Presidente Marcos na, “Sir, paandarin na po natin ito.” Na-delay ni Presidente Marcos dahil sa pulitika at inabutan siya ng February 1986, and the rest is history.

Bakit po ako galit sa pangyayaring iyan? Kasi iyong Ambassador na iyon na Amerikano, noong ako po ay pumunta sa Korea, bisita po ako ng KEPCO at KHNP, sa board room po nila, nakita ko ang litrato noong Ambassador na iyon, nag-i-inaugurate ng bagong Korean Nuclear Power Plant. Kino-congratulate niya ang Koreano, pero nakialam siya dito para ma-delay ang ating nuclear power plant. So,

circumstance po ng pulitika, ng pangyayari, kaya po tayo walang nuclear power ngayon. Imbes na nagkaroon po sana tayo ng 55 percent nuclear power ngayon, tayo po ay mayroong 55 percent coal power na imported, 20 percent gas na malapit nang maubos ang Malampaya at mag-uumpisa na tayong mag-import ng LNG. So, 75 percent fossil fuels po tayo na dapat sana ay nuclear. Ilang libong Bataño, ilang libong Pilipino ang umiksi ang buhay dahil sa polusyon ng fossil fuels na sana hindi sila napinsala nang ganoon kung mayroon po tayong nuclear power fleet, Mr. Speaker.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Frasco relinquished the Chair to Senior Deputy Speaker Gonzales (A.).*

REP. GARCIA (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, for those details with regard to our history. Kami naman po ay naniniwala na kung napatakbo noong panahon na iyon ang ating Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, talagang malaking ginhawa po dapat ang naibigay sa ating bansa at hindi tayo nagkaroon ng power crisis noong 1990s na hanggang ngayon marahil ay pinagbabayaran po natin. Thank you for that answer.

But with regard to the rest of the world, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, bakit iilang porsiyento lang po ang gumagamit ng nuclear in terms of capacity?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Mr. Speaker, sa America po, mahigit 94, 96 yata ang tumatakbong nuclear plants doon, accounting for 20 percent of clean energy in America. It is the biggest, pinakamalaking bahagi ng malinis na energy ay nanggagaling sa nuclear sa America. Around 50 percent of all clean energy comes from nuclear alone. Sa buong mundo, 10 percent po ang nuclear power. Sa ngayon po, mahigit 50 ang bagong nuclear plants na under construction. By 2028, China will surpass the USA in nuclear power, and by 2050, their target is to have 400 nuclear plants in China.

So, we have had a nuclear plant since 1986, 37 years po, 100 percent complete. Imbes na itinakbo po natin dahil may krisis po tayo, itiningga po natin.



Tatlo po ang kapatid ng ating nuclear plant na tumatakbo, kambal po noong planta natin. Isa po sa Brazil, ang Angra 1; isa po sa Slovenia, ang Krsko; isa po sa South Korea, ang Kori 2 Nuclear Plant. Award winners po sa uptime and reliability. They are going for extension, 20 years itong 2025. So, bakit po hindi natin sila sabayan? Dahil 20 years po silang for extension, licensed extension, bakit hindi po natin sila sabayan para magkaroon na po tayo ng sariling atin?

But, Mr. Speaker, the Bill has nothing to do really with the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant except for regulation. Why is it the topic of this discussion, Mr. Speaker?

We are talking about the creation of a regulatory authority that would regulate a nuclear plant located anywhere in the entire Philippines. It would regulate how we treat high-level nuclear waste, interim storage, and final waste disposition. It sets an amount per kilowatt hour of 6 centavos to be collected for a nuclear plant end-of-life decommissioning trust fund and a final disposition of waste trust fund. So, iyon po ang mga pertinent details nitong panukala na ito, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. Ang tanong ko po sa honorable Sponsor is that you present very strong arguments for nuclear energy, pero sa haba-haba ng panahon na meron na pong teknolohiya sa nukleyar, bakit po hanggang ngayon, 10 percent lang sa buong mundo ang gumagamit ng nuclear energy?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Kasi po maraming enbayronmentalista na noong 70s ay naging anti-nuclear po dahil ang itinuturo po nila sa atin magtipid po tayo sa koryente. Mahilig din naman sa good living, hindi makapagtiis na magsakripisyo, na magtipid sa koryente, so ang nangyari po lumaganap ang coal power generation sa buong mundo. Kaya marami po sa mga enbayronmentalista iyon, ngayon po nagsisisi kung bakit nila tinutulan ang nuclear power. Sinisisi nila ang sarili na sila ang naging dahilan kung bakit ngayon may

global warming and climate change.

Kaya nagbabaligtad na po ngayon ang opinyon ng napakaraming enbayronmentalista sa buong mundo, yinayakap na po nila ang nuclear power. Example po iyong Greens ng Finland na nag-180 degree turn po. Ngayon, ine-endorso po nila ang mas maraming nuclear plant sa Finland. Sumusunod po and Sweden. Nandoon din po ang ganoong klaseng enbayronmentalista sa UK, sa France, sa America.

Example po sa California. Iyong Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant na ilang dekada nang ang Democrats po ay tumututol, gusto nilang isara. Ngayon, nakita nila, brownout dahil dumami po ang solar and wind, hindi na naging reliable ang kanilang koryente.

Ang Democrats mismo po, gumawa ng panukalang batas na i-extend ang Diablo Canyon. Overwhelming po ang boto sa Kamara at sa Senado ng California to extend Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

So, nagbabaligtad po ang kaisipan. Pati po ang Biden administration, dati taboo ang nuclear power, ngayon sinusuportahan po nila ang nuclear power. Hindi lang sa Amerika, kung hindi sa buong mundo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Thank you, honorable Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

Pero mamaya babanggitin ko rin, kung maraming mga bansa ang ngayon po ay yumayakap sa nuclear energy or nuclear power, marami rin pong mga bansa ang tumatalikod sa nuclear energy, pero mamaya po pupuntahan ko iyong mga bansang iyon para ma-discuss po natin.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Mr. Speaker, example po ang France, noong 2015, ipinasa po nila ang isang Nuclear Phase Down Law para ibaba ng 75 percent share ang nuclear nila to 50 percent. Nagsara po sila ng dalawang nuclear plants sa Fessenheim para mapagbigyan nila ang kanilang neighbor na ang Germany. Nagsisi po sila roon. Ngayon, nakita ni Macron at ng buong French government ang krisis na idinulot ng digmaan sa Russia at sa Ukraine, at pagtaas ng presyo ng gas and fossil fuels.

Ngayon, ni-reverse, ini-scrap nila ang kanilang Nuclear Phase Down Law at meron po silang bagong panukala na i-expand ang nuclear power sa France, and i-extend ang life ng buong French nuclear fleet.

Madali pong basahin iyan sa internet po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

Nabanggit po ninyo iyong France, although, nasa topic ko po iyan mamaya, ay nagkaka-problema po sila ngayon. Iyong mga bagong nuclear power plant na pinapagawa po ng gobyerno, tatlo po yata iyon, lumagpas na po sa kalendaryo, hindi pa rin tumatakbo hanggang ngayon, at lumagpas na rin po sa budget. Iyong kanilang maraming nuclear power plant na tumatakbo ay luma na at kailangan po nila ng humigit-kumulang sa \$60-70 billion para ipagawa at i-rehabilitate itong mga plantang ito.

Kaya hindi rin po ganoon kaganda ang sitwasyon ng ehemplo nitong bansang France, dahil ang dami rin po nilang problema pagdating dito, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). May tanong ba roon, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARCIA (A.). Ipinaliwanag ko lang po kasi na-cite po ninyo na example iyong France pero mamaya po pupunta po ako roon.

Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, let me direct your attention to the screen, meron lang ako gustong ipakita.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Mr. Speaker... Please proceed, Gentleman from Bataan, what I was going to say slipped my mind.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Okay. Thank you, honorable Sponsor.

Ito po ang gusto kong ipakita. Alam ninyo po ba ito, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, namumukhaan po ba ninyo itong naka-flash sa screen, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Ano ba po ang petsa ninyan, Mr. Speaker?

REP. GARCIA (A.). Siguro mga August of 2022, last year.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). That is freedom of expression, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Wala naman pong problema, Mr. Speaker. Itinatanong ko lang po kung namumukhaan ninyo? Nasaan na iyong...ayan, okay. Wala pong problema sa akin. Hindi naman tayo onion-skinned, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor. Namumukhaan po ninyo?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Ano po ito, para lang malinaw sa ating mga kasamahan.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Twitter po iyan. Twitter message.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Opo. From your account, Mr. Speaker?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Salamat. Ano po iyong gusto ninyong ipahiwatig dito sa inyong Twitter post na ito?

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Na ang katotohanan po tungkol sa nuclear, iniwasan po ninyo. Hindi po ninyo nasasabi sa tao ang katotohanan. Ang resulta po ay ang Bataan ay ngayon nagje-generate na ng 3,500 megawatts na coal fired power. Kung titingnan po ninyo ang lethality ng coal generation, it is the highest. So, ilan libong Bataño po ang pumayag po kayo na mapaiksi ang buhay nila dahil sa polusyon ng coal power generation? Yet, tinututulan po ninyo ang pinakamalinis na koryente na wala halos nasasaktan sa buong kasaysayan ng nuclear power. Iyan po hindi galing sa akin, galing sa WHO, galing po sa The Lancet, isang respetadong U.K. medical journal, at Our World in Data, respetado ring source ng information, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor.

Maraming beses ko na po nabanggit sa inyo na iyong pagho-host ng lalawigan ng Bataan sa coal power plants is like a necessary evil. Siyempre gusto natin iyong pinakamalinis, pero noong mga panahon na iyon, iyong teknolohiya na puwedeng asahan, siyempre we live in the real world, hindi naman po perpekto iyong mundo, so it is a necessary evil; otherwise, siguro blackout po tayo rito sa Metro Manila kung hindi ko po ginawa iyon.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Hindi po, Mr. Speaker, hindi po. Kung nagsagawa po tayo ng nuclear plant noong araw pa, wala na po tayong brownout at napakamura na po ng koryente. Iyon nga po ang aking reklamo sa aking tweet, pinipigilan ang solusyon ng Pilipinas ng isang probinsiya na hindi naman pag-aari niya ang pasilidades na iyon. Papaano ko ba na-justify sa aking constituents na nakikialam ako sa nuclear power dito sa Kamara? Ang sabi ko sa kanila, mahigit P100 bilyon na halaga ng mahusay na nuclear plant. At that time, mga 200 distrito po. So, ang ating bahagi riyan sa nuclear plant na iyan, sa pag-aari niyan, around P500 million worth.

May karapatan tayong makialam diyan dahil kung tumakbo iyan, naging mura na ang koryente at malinis na koryente, naprotektahan pa ang ating kalikasan dito sa Pilipinas, Mr. Speaker.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Mr. Speaker, para po sa kaalaman ng ating honorable Sponsor, hindi po kami ang naging rason kung bakit hindi tumakbo ang Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. Noong dumating po kami sa public service, sarado na po iyon. Dinatnan na po namin ito ng ganoon kaya hindi po kami ang may kasalanan kung bakit po hindi ito nag-operate. And kanina po, sinabi ninyo iyong kuwento kung paano nangyari at hindi ito nag-operate.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Mr. Speaker.

REP. GARCIA (A.). Mr. Speaker.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Mr. Speaker, are we not supposed to be discussing House Bill No. 8218? I am ready to answer all the

questions about House Bill No. 8218, but this conversation, discussion has been digressing, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). With the indulgence of Congressman Garcia, let us give way to the Majority Leader first.

Majority Leader.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, may I request for a suspension of the session.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The session is suspended.

*It was 7:15 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 7:20 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The session is resumed. Majority Leader.

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Mr. Speaker, may we again recognize the Hon. Mark Cojuangco to continue sponsorship of the measure.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Hon. Mark Cojuangco is recognized.

REP. COJUANGCO (M.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. I know it is late, 7:21 p.m. I know everybody wants to leave and I will not be the party pooper here. I just want to make a few comments.

Just before this Bill was taken up, we passed a Bill about natural gas, which we want to avoid. The Congresswoman from ACT TEACHERS Party-List expressed very legitimate concerns about us being committed to spending billions of dollars every year on imported fossil fuels. The only way we can wean ourselves from fossil fuels in a

meaningful way, in a permanent way, is to have nuclear power.

~~I fully understand the dilatory tactics of nuclear's opponents in this Chamber. It is the same tactics that were used in the Committee, that is why we had to vote on every single provision in the Committee.\*~~ Seventy-eight to 79 percent of Filipinos have already expressed na hindi na nila kaya ang presyo ng koryente. What are we doing about it? The choices of technologies can be counted on one hand. It is not an endless list of technologies that we can choose from. There is only one technology that we have not tried yet, although we had a 100 percent complete nuclear plant.

The NEDA says we are going to double, more than double our capacity, generating capacity by 2045. The question is, what is it going to be if we start building today? The first plan comes online in 2030. If we build 1,000 megawatts a year, for every year, from 2030 to 2045, we will only have 16,000 megawatts, none of the existing fossil fuel capacity will close, we will just build enough for incremental capacity. We need to grab this bull by the horns, and we need to pass this Bill, and we need to pass other legislation like a Nuclear Liability Law, like a Nuclear Waste Law.

This is just the first step, Mr. Speaker. We need to embrace nuclear and go for it as the French did recently in their Congress. The handwriting is on the wall, there is nothing left to try.

~~Ladies and Gentlemen of this august Chamber, when we come back on May 25, let us tackle this, let us not let this kind of dilatory tactics slow us down.\*~~

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep Gonzales, A.). Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. Majority Leader.

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8218

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 8218, as contained in Committee Report No. 559.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep Gonzales, A.). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the Secretary General is now directed to read the title of the Bill — please repeat your motion.

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Mr. Speaker, may I reiterate my motion. I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 8218, as contained in Committee Report No. 559.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep Gonzales, A.). Yes. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the motion is carried. Majority Leader.

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed with the Additional Reference of Business, and request that the Secretary General be directed to read the same.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep Gonzales, A.). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the Secretary General is now directed to read the Additional Reference of Business.

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

#### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 8467, entitled:

AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO DIGITAL BROADCASTING CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8686, ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING THE MOUNTAIN VIEW COLLEGE OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A RADIO STATION IN

\*Stricken off the records pursuant to a motion which the Body approved in plenary on August 1, 2023. See *Record No. 5* dated August 1, 2023.

THE MUNICIPALITY OF VALENCIA,  
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON”.

By Representatives Yu (D.G.) and Yu (J.V.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE  
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 8469, entitled:

AN ACT REMOVING PARDON AS A  
GROUND TO EXTINGUISH LIABILITY  
FOR THE CRIME OF RAPE AND CRIMES  
AGAINST CHASTITY, AMENDING FOR  
THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 13, 23, 89,  
and 344 AND REPEALING ARTICLE  
266-C OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL  
CODE, AS AMENDED, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Santos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF  
LAWS

House Bill No. 8470, entitled:

AN ACT EXPANDING PHILHEALTH  
COVERAGE TO INCLUDE BENEFIT  
PACKAGE TO ALL MENTAL  
HEALTH DISORDERS, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Santos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 8471, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FLEXIBLE  
WORK ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
PREGNANT WOMEN AND POST-  
NATAL MOTHERS

By Representative Santos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR  
AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE  
COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND  
GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 8472, entitled:

AN ACT PROMOTING THE AVAILABILITY  
OF HEALTHY BEVERAGES  
TO CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS BY  
REGULATING SODA AND OTHER  
ARTIFICIAL BEVERAGES, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Santos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC  
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8473, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SLEEP  
DISORDER AWARENESS AND  
EDUCATION PROGRAM

By Representative Santos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 8474, entitled:

AN ACT PENALIZING REFUSAL TO  
ENROLL STUDENTS, RELEASE  
CARDS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS  
FOR CLEARANCE PURPOSES, IN  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR FAILURE TO  
PAY MISCELLANEOUS AND OTHER  
FEES

By Representative Santos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC  
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8475, entitled:

AN ACT GRANTING CIVIL SERVICE  
ELIGIBILITY TO CASUAL OR  
CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES OF  
THE GOVERNMENT WHO HAVE  
RENDERED AT LEAST FIVE (5)  
YEARS OF CONTINUOUS EFFICIENT  
SERVICE

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

House Bill No. 8476, entitled:

AN ACT MANDATING THE  
INSTALLATION OF TIMERS IN  
TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND PEDESTRIAN  
LIGHTS

By Representative Santos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 8477, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
CONVERSION OF BADO-C-APATOT  
ROAD, BADO-C-POBLACION  
ROAD, TAPAO-PAGSANAHAN-  
ALOGOG ROAD, AND STA.  
CRUZ-PANAGSAHAN ROAD IN  
THE MUNICIPALITY OF BADO-C,  
BATA-C-POBLACION ROAD, BATA-C-  
PALONGPONG-CAMADINGAN  
ROAD, BATA-C PROCESSIONAL

ROAD, BATAK-SHORT CUT ROAD, AND CAMANDINGAN-SARRAT ROAD IN THE CITY OF BATAK, PAOAY-BATAK ROAD, PAOAY LAKE ROAD, PAOAY-PROCESSIONAL ROAD, AND PAOAY-TAYTAY-PASIL ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PAOAY, AND PINILI-NAGTRIGOAN ROAD AND BATAK-PINILI ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PINILI IN THE 2ND DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE FROM PROVINCIAL ROADS INTO NATIONAL ROADS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Barba  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8478, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE PHILIPPINE HANDLOOM WEAVING INDUSTRY

By Representative Bernos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 8479, entitled:

AN ACT UPGRADING THE CABADBARAN DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN CABADBARAN CITY, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE INTO A LEVEL II GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE CABADBARAN GENERAL HOSPITAL, PLACING IT UNDER THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY TO 100 BEDS, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Corvera  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 8480, entitled:

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7925, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES", BY REQUIRING PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES AND INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS TO INSTITUTE A REFUND MECHANISM FOR SERVICE OUTAGES AND DISRUPTIONS

By Representatives Duterte, Yap (Eric), Yap (Edvic), Tulfo (J.) and Tulfo (R.W.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 8481, entitled:

AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO MICHAEL JOHN BUTLER

By Representative Villa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 8482, entitled:

AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA FOR ALL NON-UNIFORMED WORKERS IN THE MILITARY AND OTHER UNIFORMED AGENCIES

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

## RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1068, entitled:

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING ERNEST JOHN OBIENA AND NATALIE UY FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN POLE VAULT EVENT AT THE 32ND SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES IN PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

By Representative Barba  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1069, entitled:

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINO

BASKETBALL PLAYERS FOR THEIR  
EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE AND  
MEDAL-WINNING FEAT AT THE  
32ND SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES  
IN PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

By Representative Barba  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1070, entitled:

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING  
AND COMMENDING FILIPINO  
GYMNASTS FOR THEIR  
EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE  
AND MEDAL-WINNING FEAT IN  
ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS, MEN'S  
PARALLEL BARS ARTISTICS,  
MEN'S RINGS ARTISTICS, MEN'S  
VAULT ARTISTICS, MEN'S  
FLOOR EXERCISE ARTISTIC  
GYMNASTICS, MEN'S TEAM ALL-  
AROUND ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS,  
WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL AEROBIC  
GYMNASTICS, AND MIXED PAIR  
AEROBIC GYMNASTICS AT THE  
32ND SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES  
IN PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

By Representative Barba  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated May 29, 2023, informing the  
House of Representatives that on even  
date the Senate designated Senators Mark  
Villar, Loren Legarda, Joel Villanueva, Win  
Gatchalian and Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel  
III as conferees to the Bicameral Conference  
Committee on the disagreeing provisions  
of Senate Bill No. 1594, entitled:

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING  
THE ONE TOWN, ONE PRODUCT  
(OTOP) PHILIPPINES PROGRAM,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

and House Bill No. 1171, entitled:

AN ACT PROMOTING INCLUSIVE  
AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE  
INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF  
"ONE TOWN, ONE PRODUCT"

PHILIPPINES PROGRAM  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated May 29, 2023, informing the  
House of Representatives that on even date  
the Senate designated Senators Jinggoy  
Ejercito Estrada, Grace Poe and Aquilino  
"Koko" Pimentel III as conferees to the  
Bicameral Conference Committee on the  
disagreeing provisions of 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

and House Bill No. 7939, 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 DEPENDENTS," AS  
AMENDED.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated May 29, 2023, informing the  
House of Representatives that on even  
date the Senate designated Senators  
Robinhood C. Padilla, Maria Lourdes  
Nancy S. Binay, Pia S. Cayetano, Ronald  
"Bato" Dela Rosa, Christopher Lawrence  
T. Go, Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino and  
Risa Hontiveros as conferees to the  
Bicameral Conference Committee on the  
disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No.  
1410, entitled:

AN ACT DECLARING THE FIRST  
DAY OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY  
YEAR AS THE NATIONAL DAY FOR  
AWARENESS ON THE HIJAB AND  
OTHER TRADITIONAL GARMENTS  
AND ATTIRE

and House Bill No. 5693, entitled:  
AN ACT DECLARING THE FIRST DAY  
OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR  
AS NATIONAL HIJAB DAY AND  
PROMOTING AN UNDERSTANDING  
OF THE MUSLIM TRADITION OF  
WEARING HIJAB.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated May 30, 2023, informing the House of Representatives that on even date the Senate designated Senators Christopher Lawrence T. Go, Loren Legarda and Risa Hontiveros as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2212, entitled:  
AN ACT ESTABLISHING SPECIALTY  
CENTERS IN HOSPITALS UNDER  
THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND  
CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR

and House Bill No. 7751, entitled:  
AN ACT ESTABLISHING SPECIALTY  
CENTERS IN HOSPITALS UNDER  
THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND  
CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH, AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated May 31, 2023, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 2020, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE  
MAHARLIKA INVESTMENT  
FUND, PROVIDING FOR THE  
MANAGEMENT, INVESTMENT,  
AND USE OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE  
FUND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Report No. 661, submitted by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations on H.B. No. 8483, entitled:  
AN ACT ESTABLISHING IN THE

MUNICIPALITY OF RODRIGUEZ  
(MONTALBAN), PROVINCE OF  
RIZAL, A LEVEL II HOSPITAL TO  
BE KNOWN AS THE NORTHERN  
TAGALOG REGIONAL HOSPITAL,  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 955

Sponsors: Representatives Gato, Co (E.) and Nograles (J.F.F.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 662, submitted by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations on H.B. No. 8484, entitled:

AN ACT UPGRADING THE BANGUI  
DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF BANGUI,  
PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE,  
INTO A LEVEL II DISTRICT  
HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1044

Sponsors: Representatives Gato, Co (E.) and Marcos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 663, submitted by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations on H.B. No. 8491, entitled:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE DR.  
CATALINO GALLEGOS NAVA  
PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF JORDAN,  
PROVINCE OF GUIMARAS,  
INTO A LEVEL II HOSPITAL,  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3344

Sponsors: Representatives Gato, Co (E.) and Nava

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 664, submitted by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations on H.B. No. 8492, entitled:



AN ACT ESTABLISHING IN THE CITY OF VICTORIAS, PROVINCE OF NEGROSOCCIDENTAL, A GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE VICTORIAS CITY GENERAL HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1239

Sponsors: Representatives Gato, Co (E.) and Benitez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 665, submitted by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture on H.R. No. 1074, entitled:

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE MEMBERS AND COACHES OF THE PHILIPPINE ROBOTICS NATIONAL TEAM FROM NARVACAN NATIONAL CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NARVACAN, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR FOR BAGGING 8 GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS IN THE 2022 WORLD ROBOT GAMES HELD IN THAILAND ON 11 DECEMBER 2022

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 770

Sponsor: Representative Romulo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 666, submitted by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations on H.B. No. 8494, entitled:

AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF TEODORO B. GALAGARD DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JAGNA, PROVINCE OF BOHOL, FROM SEVENTY-FIVE (75) TO ONE HUNDRED (100) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2535

Sponsors: Representatives Gato, Co (E.) and Tutor

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

ADOPTION OF S.B. NO. 2020 AS AN AMENDMENT TO H.B. NO. 6608

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Mr. Speaker, the House and the Senate have approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 6608 and Senate Bill No. 2020, respectively, on the establishment of the Maharlika Investment Fund.

We have been informed that the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries, the sponsor of House Bill No. 6608, as well as the authors thereof, are in concurrence with the provisions of Senate Bill No. 2020.

With this information and in accordance with our Rules, I move that we adopt Senate Bill No. 2020 as an amendment to House Bill No. 6608.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). There is a motion to adopt Senate Bill No. 2020 as an amendment to House Bill No. 6608. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Senate Bill No. 2020 is adopted as an amendment to House Bill No. 6608.

Majority Leader.

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Raoul Manuel of KABATAAN Party-List for his manifestation.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Cong. Raoul Manuel is recognized.

MANIFESTATION OF  
REP. MANUEL

REP. MANUEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would like to put on record our objection to the adoption of the Senate version of the Bill on the Maharlika Investment Fund. What we have discussed here and heavily debated in the House of Representatives is very different from what was approved by the Senate. Of course, for the information of our colleagues,

ang naaprobahan po natin ay P75 billion na Maharlika Investment Fund. Sa Senado po, P500 billion, equivalent to one-tenth of our annual National Budget.

Pangalawa po, bahagi din noong version ng Senado ay puwedeng mangutang ang ating pamahalaan para magkaroon ng pondo for the Maharlika Investment Fund. Ibig sabihin po, mangungutang tayo para ipangsugal through the issuance of bonds. At bahagi din na puwedeng mag-ambag ng pondo ay ang Department of Finance Privatization and Management Office, which has the authority to identify disposition of various assets, including those recovered by the Presidential Commission on Good Government. Ibig sabihin po, ang mga ninakaw na yaman ay puwedeng magamit pandagdag sa Maharlika Investment Fund, which could be a money-laundering investment fund.

To sum up, Mr. Speaker, ayaw po natin na magsusugal ang Malacañang gamit ang pera ng bayan. We are done with several scams, the Coco Levy Fund scam, and more recently, promises na agad ay magkakaroon tayo ng P20 per kilo na bigas, pamamahagi ng gold bars, at ngayon po, Maharlika investment scam.

With that, we pose our objection.

That would be all, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Your manifestation, Congressman Manuel, is duly noted.

Majority Leader.

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we now recognize the honorable Rep. France Castro of ACT TEACHERS Party-List for her manifestation.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Cong. France Castro is recognized.

MANIFESTATION OF  
REP. CASTRO (F.)

REP. CASTRO (F.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nananatili po iyong ating posisyon laban dito sa Maharlika Investment Fund.

Nag-debate at nag-amyenda o nag-amyenda pero sinusunod pa rin ang gusto ng Palasyo pero nakasasama naman sa interes ng malawak na sambayanang Plipino.

Hindi mare-resolba ng sinasabing ginawa nilang amendments sa huling Senate version ng MIF ang katotohanan na walang surplus na pera ang ating bansa. Tayo po ay lubog sa utang. Kulang-kulang na P14 trillion na po ang ating utang. Tayo po ay – we operate on a deficit budget, so kaya po nasasabi natin na wala tayo talagang sobrang pera para ibigay dito sa MIF.

Di rin binago ng Senado ang katangian ng Maharlika Investment Fund bilang isang massive pork fund ng Presidente na susunod sa yapak ng Coco Levy Fund scam, pork barrel scam, at iba pang mga corruption scandals na naglantad ng bangkaroteng programa at pananaw ng isang pamahalaang patuloy na nagpatay-malisya sa mga panawagan ng kanilang mga mamamayan.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the MIF can also be used for money laundering or even ill-gotten wealth laundering based on its Section 6, “Capitalization and Initial Funding,” subsection (iii).

Muli, Mr. Speaker, kami po ay nananatili ang posisyon na “No” dito sa Maharlika Investment Fund.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Thank you, Congressman France. Your manifestation is noted.

Majority Leader.

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Arlene Brosas of GABRIELA Party-List for a manifestation.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Cong. Arlene Brosas is recognized.

MANIFESTATION OF  
REP. BROSAS

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa Kinatawan, nais irehistro ng Kinatawang ito at ng malawak na

hanay ng kababaihan ang matinding pagtutol sa panukalang Maharlika investment scam.

Pagsusugal ito ng pondo ng bayan para sa pribadong ganansiya sa panahong lubog pa rin ang milyon-milyong Pilipino sa mababang pasahod, gutom, at kahirapan. Kalahating trilyon ang isusugal at isesentralisa sa Maharlika Investment Corporation pero kapag nalugi, walang mananagot sa pamahalaan. Taong-bayan ang papasan ng lugi at nawaldas na pondo ng mamamayan.

Sa Maharlika Investment Fund, para nating ipinangsusugal ang pera na itinabi ng mga magulang para sa edukasyon ng kanilang mga anak. Para nating nilulustay ang pera ng mga ordinaryong Pilipino na dapat sana ay ginamit na lang para sa kanilang direktang pakinabang.

Bagama't tinanggal ngayon sa panukalang batas ang probisyon kung saan maaaring pagkunan ng pondo para sa Maharlika Investment Fund ang SSS, PhilHealth, Pag-IBIG, OWWA, at PVAO pension, kahit pa tanggalin ang pensiyon sa pagkukunan ng pondo dito, public financial resources pa rin ang gagamitin dahil kasama pa rin sa pagkukunan ang Land Bank of the Philippines, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Development Bank of the Philippines, at pondo ng mga GOCC. Kapag pumalpak ang investment ng gobyerno sa ilalim ng Maharlika, malalagay sa panganib ang Philippine banking institution. Wala tayong napala, nasira lang lalo ang ating ekonomiya.

Worse, this Maharlika scam can be used as an entry point for the full-scale privatization of GOCCs – currently collectively worth P10 trillion. Upon initial public offering (IPO) for their dividends, these GOCCs will eventually become a listed company in the stock market. Magiging pribadong entidad na ang mga ito.

We are trying to pass a sovereign wealth fund as if we have a surplus, as if we have a strong economy. And we all know that is not the reality. We could have used our time and energy in passing meaningful legislation, but we, here we are, ni-railroad na naman natin ang Maharlika Investment Fund despite strong opposition from the public.

Naninindigan po ang Kinatawang ito na ang dapat pagtuunan ng pansin ng gobyerno ay ang pagtataas ng sahod ng

mga manggagawa at pagbibigay ayuda sa mamamayan sa kabila ng tumitinding krisis sa bansa. Creating a sovereign fund cannot possibly address the issues of the labor sector and will make public funds more vulnerable to abuse and corruption.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Thank you, Congresswoman Arlene, your manifestation is noted.

Majority Leader.

RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. RPT.  
ON H.B. NO. 7751 AND S.B. NO. 2212

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Conference Committee Report reconciling the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 7751 and Senate Bill No. 2212, on establishing specialty hospitals under the direct supervision and control of the Department of Health.

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

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). There is a motion to ratify the said Conference Committee Report. As many as in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). As many as are against, please say *Nay*. (*Silence*) The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

The Conference Committee Report on House Bill No. 7751 and S.B. No. 2212 on specialty hospitals is now ratified.

Majority Leader.

RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. RPT.  
ON H.B. NO. 1171 AND S.B. NO. 1594

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Conference Committee

Report reconciling the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 1171 and Senate Bill No. 1594, promoting inclusive and sustainable economic development through the institutionalization of “One Town, One Product” Philippines program.

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

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). There is a motion to ratify the Conference Committee Report on House Bill No. 1171 and Senate Bill No. 1594.

Those who are in favor of the Conference Committee Report, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Those who are against, please say *Nay*. (*Silence*) The *ayes* have it; the Conference Committee Report is now ratified.

Majority Leader.

#### RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. RPT. ON H.B. NO. 7939 AND S.B. NO. 1480

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Conference Committee Report reconciling the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 7939 and Senate Bill No. 1480, on rationalizing the disability pension of veterans.

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

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). There is motion to ratify the said Conference Committee Report on House Bill No. 7939 and Senate Bill No. 1480.

Those who are in favor, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Those who are against, please say *Nay*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The *ayes* have it; the Conference Report is now ratified.

Majority Leader.

#### REFERRAL OF H. RES. NO. 721 ON AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation, I move that we refer House Resolution No. 721 to the Committee on Public Works and Highways.

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

House Resolution No. 721 is now referred to the Committee on Public Works and Highways.

Majority Leader.

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Mr. Speaker, considering that copies of *Journal No. 78* dated May 29, 2023 and *Journal No. 79* dated May 30, 2023 were already distributed to the Members, I move that we dispense with the reading of the said Journals.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). There is a motion to dispense with the reading of the aforementioned House Journals. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The reading of the said Journals is dispensed with.

Majority Leader.

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNALS

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve *Journal No. 78*

dated May 29, 2023 and *Journal No. 79* dated May 30, 2023.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). There is a motion to approve *Journal No. 78* dated May 29, 2023 and *Journal No. 79* dated May 30, 2023. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. SUANSING (M.A.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The session is suspended.

*It was 7:44 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 7:46 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The session is resumed. Majority Leader.

#### CONSIDERATION OF CTTEE. RPT. NO. 660

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider Committee Report No. 660 as submitted by the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). There is a motion to consider Committee Report No. 660 as submitted by the Committee on Ethics and Privileges. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, Hon. Felimon Espares, for his sponsorship speech.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Hon. Felimon Espares, the Chairman, is now recognized.

#### SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. ESPARES

REP. ESPARES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Esteemed colleagues, honorable Members of this august Chamber.

Today is a defining moment and an unprecedented one. It is my honor to report to this august Body the result of the Committee's investigation relative to the *motu proprio* action of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges on the matter of the acts of Rep. Arnolfo "Arnie" A. Teves Jr. of the Third District of Negros Oriental, constituting disorderly behavior and violative of the Code of Conduct.

We all know that our colleague has been imposed by this august Body the penalty of 60-day suspension last 22 March 2023 for disorderly behavior. After serving the penalty, our colleague, Representative A. Teves Jr. remains abroad, fails to perform his duties and responsibilities as Member of the House of Representatives, and commits acts detrimental to the House of Representatives and its Members. Hence, the Committee, for the second time around, exercise its *motu proprio* authority to assume jurisdiction over his continuous unauthorized absences in the House of Representatives.

As the guardian of the moral foundation of our institution, where our purpose is to protect and maintain the dignity, integrity, and reputation of our institution, the Committee exercises its authority to recommend any action or remedial measures that will vindicate the authority and dignity of the House of Representatives.

As a public officer, Representative A. Teves Jr. is held to higher ethical standards because "public office is a public trust." It is crucial for a public official to uphold the public trust to remain in public service. The acts of Representative A. Teves Jr. cast serious doubts upon his ability to maintain the trust and perform his duties with integrity and uprightness expected from a public official.

As the Chairperson of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges and the designated person to sponsor its Committee Report, we present to this august Body the Committee's recommendation on the aforementioned case after conducting a rigid and exhaustive investigation that started on 23 May 2023 and concluded on 29 May 2023. After having notified and warned Representative A. Teves Jr., after two meetings and an intensive arduous investigation, the Members of the Committee have carefully analyzed and scrutinized the evidence submitted and presented before the Committee, as well as the testimonies of our resource persons from other government agencies became the basis of the Committee Report.

It is important to emphasize that the Committee has exercised prudence and a high degree of restraint in recommending sanctions against Representative A. Teves Jr. Recognizing the significance of fair treatment and due process, and in due deference to the people of the Third District of Negros Oriental, the Committee has carefully considered the circumstances surrounding Representative A. Teves Jr's actions, and has not rushed in judgment or resorted to extreme measures in response to his transgressions. Instead, it has taken a measured approach, taking into account the gravity and frequency of Representative A. Teves Jr's misconduct.

Indeed, the outcome of this investigation was on the basis of substantial evidence that is corroborated with testimonial and documentary pieces of evidence. The Committee established these facts and circumstances during the investigation and it is for this august Chamber to decide whether or not to adopt our recommendation.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Committee on Ethics and Privileges hereby find that the unauthorized absences of Rep. Arnie Teves Jr., aggravated by his act of seeking political asylum in Timor-Leste, resulted in his failure to perform his duties as a House Member under Section 7, Rule II, and violated the Code of Conduct as set forth in Section 142, paragraphs (a) and (b), Rule XX of the Rules

of the House of Representatives. His actions and all its consequences have compromised the integrity of the House of Representatives and constitute disorderly behavior warranting disciplinary action.

After a thorough discussion and deliberation, the Committee on Ethics and Privileges recommends to the House of Representatives the imposition of the following penalties:

1. A sixty (60) day suspension for violation of Section 142, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Rules of the House of Representatives and for disorderly behavior. As a consequence, all his rights and privileges as Member of the House of Representatives covering the said period are likewise suspended; and

2. The forfeiture of all Committee memberships of Representative Arnolfo "Arnie" A. Teves Jr.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Thank you, Chairman Felimon Espares.

Majority Leader.

#### ADOPTION OF FINDINGS AND RECOM. IN CTTEE RPT. NO. 660

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 660.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). There is a motion to adopt the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 660. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General is now directed to call the Roll of Members for nominal voting.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting\* on the adoption of findings and recommendations of the aforesaid Committee Report is reflected in Journal No. 80 dated May 31, 2023.*

REP. DUAVIT. Mr. Speaker.

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). What is the pleasure of Congressman Duavit?

REP. DUAVIT. My vote is "Yes" and I would like to explain my vote at the proper time.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Yes, Congressman Duavit, I will give you time after the nominal voting.

#### RESULT OF VOTING

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). With 285 Members voting in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and one abstention, the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 660 is now adopted.

In line with the adoption of the recommendations of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, the Secretary General is directed to furnish the appropriate agencies a copy of Committee Report No. 660.

Majority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Congressman Duavit.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Cong. Jack Duavit is now recognized.

#### EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF REP. DUAVIT

REP. DUAVIT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My dear colleagues here present and not present because they are abroad, I would just like to explain my vote.

My vote in the affirmative, Mr. Speaker, is not just a vote that reflects an administrative action of our institution. Sadly, it is far more than that.

In discussion (b) of the Committee Report, it says that the act of Representative Teves of seeking political asylum shows his intention to abandon his duties as a House Member and causes discredit to the House of Representatives and the Philippine government.

Mr. Speaker, if I may be allowed, maybe others here are not familiar with the concept of political asylum. Basically, in the United Nations and all over the world, by definition, when you apply for refugee status, when you apply for political asylum, you are making the accusation that your country does not have the capability to offer protection for those persecuted or that your own country is unwilling to provide protection for the persecuted. Worst of all, it may also imply that your very own country, your very own government is the perpetrator of such persecution. These accusations are so grave that in over 100 years of public existence, from the First Congress to today's Congress, the possibility of such a thing even happening has never been considered.

I would like to take this time, Mr. Speaker, to make a plea to our colleague, Rep. Arnie Teves. Perhaps, he was misadvised. Perhaps, he did not see that by applying in Timor-Leste, this was the accusation that he has brought upon our State.

I would like to make a plea to our colleague: "Please heed our call." To his insistence not to show himself to us, and this accusation he has made, the plea is: "Congressman Arnie, please think of this not as an attack on you, but please look at it as a lifeline. This can be cured if you did not mean to besmirch our State, if you did not mean to do any harm to our House. All of these can be cured by just coming home. We are asking you to have trust and faith in us, your peers."

If I can go back in time, Mr. Speaker, when I first entered these halls in 2001, I had the opportunity to work with his grandfather who was a wonderful man. At the time, he was maybe 81 or 82 years old. It was the end of the Twelfth Congress. Maybe at age 84 or 85, his body was wrapped by the ravages of time, but he was still very bright, always dedicated, and always present. He was a legend, a legendary octogenarian just like Manong Pablo from Cebu or Manong Rudy from Isabela. He took the time to teach us and show us the ropes, bringing us wisdom and regaling us with their stories.

Mr. Speaker, in 2007, right by the entrance of the South Wing lobby, we lost one of our Members to a bomb blast. A few weeks later, the list of suspects were published. In

fairness to all of those who were on the list that was published, who were Members of this House, they continued to come to work. They had faith in our institution. They had faith that we would not forget that we must presume innocence until final judgment. Please, Congressman Arnie, your brother was a victim of that blast. I sat with him. For years, his hands were disfigured, covered in gauze. Wala pa pong COVID-COVID, siya yata ang nagpauso na mag-handshake na gamit ang siko dahil sunog po.

Mr. Speaker, if hell is never being able to be with our Creator, hell on earth is being separated from all of those we love.

Congressman Arnie, take the lifeline. Please come home.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Thank you, Cong. Jack Duavit for that explanation of vote (*Applause*), and your explanation of vote is duly noted.

Majority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, the Majority enjoins the position of Cong. Jack Duavit in his call to our colleague, Cong. Arnie Teves, to please come home.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none — Congressman Arnie, uwi ka na lang — the motion is approved.

DESIGNATION OF  
SPEAKER ROMUALDEZ AS  
LEGISLATIVE CARETAKER OF THE  
THIRD DISTRICT OF NEGROS ORIENTAL

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, in the interest of the people of the Third District of Negros Oriental and in view of the adoption of the findings and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, I move that we designate the honorable Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez as the Legislative Caretaker of the Third District of Negros Oriental starting today, May 31, 2023, until July 30, 2023.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

Majority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. SUAREZ. I move that we suspend the session.

THE SENIOR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Gonzales, A.). The session is suspended.

*It was 8:11 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 8:15 p.m., the session was resumed with Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez presiding.*

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed. Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF H. CT. RES. NO. 12

REP. DALIPE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Concurrent Resolution No. 12.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read the title and text of the Concurrent Resolution.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the consideration of House Concurrent Resolution No. 12 is now in order.

The Secretary General will now read the title and text of the House Concurrent Resolution.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Concurrent Resolution No. 12, entitled: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ADJOURNMENT *SINE DIE*



OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES NOT LATER THAN TWELVE O'CLOCK MIDNIGHT, TODAY, WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023.

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives be, as they hereby are, authorized to declare the First Regular Session of the Nineteenth Congress of the Philippines adjourned *sine die* not later than twelve o'clock midnight, today, Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That a committee composed of all Deputy Speakers of the House of Representatives be appointed to join a committee of the Senate to inform His Excellency Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines, that the First Regular Session of the Nineteenth Congress of the Philippines is about to close, and that the two Houses are ready to adjourn, unless the President has some message or communication to transmit to them.

THE SPEAKER. Majority Leader.

#### ADOPTION OF H. CT. RES. NO. 12

REP. DALIPE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Concurrent Resolution No. 12.

THE SPEAKER. There is a motion to adopt House Concurrent Resolution No. 12. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Concurrent Resolution No. 12 is adopted.

Majority Leader.

REP. DALIPE. Mr. Speaker, in view of the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution No. 12, which likewise authorizes the appointment of a Joint Committee of Both Houses to inform the President of the Republic of the Philippines of the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the Nineteenth Congress, I move that we elect all the Deputy Speakers of the House to the said joint committee.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; all the Deputy Speakers of the House are hereby elected to the committee to notify the President of the Republic of the Philippines of the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the Nineteenth Congress.

Majority Leader.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1064

REP. DALIPE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1064.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read the title and text of the Resolution.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the consideration of House Resolution No. 1064 is now in order.

The Secretary General is instructed to read the title and text of the Resolution.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1064, entitled: RESOLUTION DECLARING THE JOURNAL OF THE SESSION DATED MAY 31, 2023 AS HAVING BEEN READ AND APPROVED.

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That the Speaker be authorized to review and approve the Journal of the Session dated May 31, 2023, and that the approval by the Speaker of such Journal shall be valid and effective for all purposes as if it was approved directly by the House of Representatives.

THE SPEAKER. Majority Leader.

#### ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1064

REP. DALIPE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1064.

THE SPEAKER. There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 1064. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 1064 is adopted.

Majority Leader.

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DALIPE. Mr. Speaker, I move for the suspension of the session to enable the Secretariat to transmit the messages to the Senate on the resolutions we have adopted.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

*It was 8:19 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 8:20 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.  
The honorable Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DALIPE. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of a Message from the Senate. I move for the consideration of the same.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* Hearing none, the consideration of the Message from the Senate is now in order.  
The Secretary General is instructed to read the Message from the Senate.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of a Message from the Senate, dated May 31, 2023, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate, on even date, adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11.

THE SPEAKER. To the Archives.  
Majority Leader.

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DALIPE. Mr. Speaker, earlier, we have adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 12, providing for the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the Nineteenth Congress, as well as the creation of a Joint Notification Committee.

In order to give the members of the Joint Notification Committee time to perform their assigned task and until the House counterpart is ready to report back their accomplishments

to this House, I move for the suspension of the session.

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

*It was 8:21 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 8:22 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.  
The honorable Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DALIPE. Mr. Speaker, we have received a report from the Joint Notification Committee that the President has been informed that the First Regular Session of the Nineteenth Congress will adjourn tonight.

THE SPEAKER. The remarks of the Majority Leader are duly noted.  
Majority Leader.

REP. DALIPE. Mr. Speaker, the House will now consider a resolution affecting the honorable Speaker of the House. Pursuant to parliamentary tradition, the Minority Leader is requested to proceed to the rostrum and preside over the session.

THE SPEAKER. The Minority Leader, Marcelino C. Libanan, is requested to proceed to the rostrum to preside over the session.

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

*It was 8:23 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 8:24 p.m., the session was resumed with Minority Leader Marcelino C. Libanan presiding.*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Libanan). The session is hereby resumed.

## ADDRESS OF REP. LIBANAN

REP. LIBANAN. My dear colleagues, as the Minority Leader and Presiding Officer, this Representation would like to address this august Chamber.

Honorable Speaker, Deputy Speakers, Majority Leader, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. It is a great privilege to stand before you today and take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to all of you, honorable men and women of this august Body. I must say that we finished the First Regular Session of the Nineteenth Congress with remarkable achievements.

As the Minority Leader, I am honored and humbled to have worked alongside with the honorable Representatives here, who, despite our differences in opinions and beliefs, we have found creative solutions to address the issues at hand. I am proud that we are able to work successfully together and achieved noteworthy results.

I would like to commend my fellow members of the Minority for their active participation in all the deliberations and for upholding the interests of their constituents. You are, indeed, the true and loyal Representatives of your districts and sectors.

Secondly, I would also like to commend Majority Leader Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe for working towards a unified House, in cadence with the call of the honorable Speaker, to share the colossal task of leading the House as we serve the nation and the people. Equal commendation is also hereby extended to all the members of the Majority.

Lastly, I sincerely commend the honorable Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez who has proven himself to be a true servant-leader, who has led the House of Representatives on its quest for trailblazing legislative measures, with a vision of a more prosperous Philippines attuned to the cutting-edge demands of the times and responsive to the needs of our people.

Through his competent stewardship and democratic leadership, we were able to express and raise the issues and concerns of the underprivileged, marginalized, and neglected sectors of our society, and translate

our discussions into meaningful policies and concrete actions.

The honorable Speaker efficiently shepherded fiscal policies that pushed for high growth, economic transformation, and technological reforms.

We have done all these and more while cultivating a dynamic and fruitful partnership between the Executive and the Legislative branches of government which helped in achieving our common development goals with much efficiency and effectiveness.

My dear colleagues, let us show our great appreciation, full support, and recognition to our honorable Speaker for successfully leading us in the House of Representatives in creating a responsive and socially conscious legislature, as we look forward with alacrity to an even more vigorous House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, we salute and thank you for your exemplary leadership in serving our country and our people. Mabuhay po tayong lahat. (*Applause*)

Majority Leader.

## CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1055

REP. DALIPE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1055, and request that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the Resolution.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Libanan). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1055, entitled: RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE HON. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL, REFORMATIVE, AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE NINETEENTH CONGRESS.

REP. DALIPE. Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Libanan). Majority Leader.

REP. DALIPE. Mr. Speaker, this Representation will deliver the sponsorship speech on House Resolution No. 1055.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Libanan). Please proceed.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH  
OF REP. DALIPE

REP. DALIPE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The honorable Speaker, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, with utmost pride and honor, I support Resolution No. 1055, COMMENDING THE HONORABLE FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL, REFORMATIVE, AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE NINETEENTH CONGRESS.

This Body has seen more than its fair share of challenges, especially that we were given the imperative duty to implement several key measures which His Excellency President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. identified as mandatory for the country to fully recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to maintain the upward growth of its economy.

Rising to the challenge, we remained steadfast in the face of the immense responsibility of rebuilding this nation. Throughout the First Regular Session of the Nineteenth Congress, the honorable Speaker unceasingly and proficiently willed us to be united and resolute in approving measures that maintain the elevated growth of our economy, and increase job and income opportunities for all Filipinos.

Under the exemplary leadership of Speaker Romualdez, the House of Representatives has already approved on Third Reading 447 legislative measures pending action by the Senate, of which 123 were national bills, and the House has also approved 33 out of the 42 measures identified by the Legislative

Development Advisory Council as priority measures of Pres. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Speaker Romualdez initiated the creation of “eCongress” which promotes collaboration between the two Houses of Congress through e-governance by digitizing legislative support processes, services and records, provides a platform of exchange of information between the two Chambers, and encourages citizens’ participation in law-making.

Aside from the passage of milestone legislation and innovations in the House of Representatives, Speaker Romualdez is also at the forefront of other non-legislative but equally impactful initiatives. The Speaker called for the immediate relief operations for affected Filipinos during the Mindoro oil spill, tropical storm Paeng, and the Turkiye earthquake. These calls were swiftly answered by our fellow Members in this House, officials and our staff, and also from the other national government agencies and even volunteers from the House Secretariat.

Speaker Romualdez is undoubtedly an exemplary, vigorous, and unwavering leader with a true calling for public service.

I, therefore, call upon my esteemed colleagues to support the adoption of House Resolution No. 1055, and to show the honorable Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez our sincerest appreciation, acknowledgement, and gratitude for his unprecedented efficiency, selflessness, and inclusive leadership through which this august Body was able to give more than what it could offer to the country.

Maraming salamat po, at patuloy po nating suportahan si Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1055

REP. DALIPE. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 1055.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Libanan). There is a motion for the adoption of House Resolution No. 1055. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 1055 is hereby adopted. (*Applause*)

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Libanan). The Chair requests all Deputy Speakers to escort Speaker Martin Romualdez to the Session Hall to address the Body.

The session is hereby suspended.

*It was 8:36 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 8:39 p.m., the session was resumed with Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez presiding.*

THE SPEAKER. (*Applause*) The session is resumed.

The Chair will now address the Body.

## ADDRESS OF THE SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. Deputy Speakers, Majority Leader, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen:

As we end the First Regular Session of the Nineteenth Congress, let us take a look at our accomplishments and the results of our untiring collective efforts.

Each and every Member of this august Body truly deserves commendation for a job well done. Congratulations to all of us!

When I assumed the post as your Speaker, I invited each and every one of you to support and join me in fulfilling the aspirations of the Filipino people. For readily heeding this call, I express my sincerest gratitude to everyone. Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat sa sipag na ipinakita ninyo at sa malasakit sa ating mamamayan.

I also take this opportunity to thank the members of our Minority bloc, led by our Minority Leader, the Hon. Marcelino “Nonoy” C. Libanan. (*Applause*) Your close scrutiny of every piece of legislation has allowed us to bring depth, richness, and nuance in the performance of our legislative duties. Sa pagbusisi ninyo sa bawat panukalang batas na ipinapasa natin, nakikita ng lahat na buhay ang demokrasya sa Kongreso.

We also thank all the Deputy Speakers, the Majority Leader, Hon. Manuel Jose

“Mannix” M. Dalipe, together with all the Deputy Speakers, Assistant Majority Leaders, and Chairpersons of the standing and special Committees.

With your incessant support, the House of Representatives has approved on Third and final Reading, 33 out of the 42 priority measures listed in our common legislative agenda. (*Applause*) Of the 33 measures approved on Third Reading, three have been signed into law. Kayong lahat ang naging susi kaya mabilis nating naipasa ang lahat ng batas na kailangan ng bayan, at nabigyan ng aksiyon ang mga problema ng mamamayan.

In a bid to protect the Filipino consumers against text, online fraudulent scams, we have enacted Republic Act No. 11934, otherwise known as the “Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) Registration Act.” As the first law signed by the President, the SIM Registration Act is a concrete manifestation of the government’s continued crackdown against cyber criminals.

After extensive consultations with our armed forces, R.A. No. 11939, entitled: AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING PROFESSIONALISM AND PROMOTING THE CONTINUITY OF POLICIES AND MODERNIZATION INITIATIVES IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11709, was passed in recognition of the peculiar organizational structure of the armed forces, and allowing additional room for professional advancement in the military.

Mindful of the financial woes of farmers, we have also approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 6336 or the “New Agrarian Reform Emancipation Act,” which aims to write off all unpaid amortizations and interests of loans of agrarian reform beneficiaries. The Bicameral Report of this Bill has now been ratified by both Houses of Congress.

Just a while ago, we ratified the Conference Committee Report relative to establishing specialty centers and hospitals under the direct supervision and control of the Department of Health. Worthy to note is both Houses have earlier agreed on a version of the Maharlika Fund, the country’s first-ever sovereign investment fund. This is designed to promote

economic development by making strategic and profitable investments in key sectors including public roads, tollways, green energy, water, agri-industrial ventures, and telecommunications.

Along with the rest of the world, the pandemic and the ongoing conflict in some parts of the globe reversed our economic gains and brought unprecedented disruption in financial systems, as more aggressive approach to expanding our revenue sources and supporting our business sectors and industries is necessary.

Consistent with the present administration's push for high growth and economic transformation, pieces of legislation covering tax administration, economic and technological reforms were approved on Third Reading, including House Bill No. 4125 or the "Ease of Paying Taxes Act," House Bill No. 4339 or the "Passive Income and Financial Intermediaries Taxation Act (PIFITA)", House Bill No. 6558 or the "Real Property Valuation and Assessment Reform Act," and House Bill No. 1 or the "Government Financial Institutions (GFIS) Unified Initiatives to Distressed Enterprises for Economic Recovery (GUIDE) Act."

In light of increased economic interdependence and global integration, we need to ensure that the Philippines can keep up and properly adjust with the changing times. Thus, we have approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 7352 or the "Constitutional Convention Act," the accompanying Bill of the adopted Resolution of Both Houses No. 6, Calling for a Constitutional Convention to Propose Amendments to, or Revisions of, the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.

Ginawa natin ang lahat para buksan pang lalo ang ekonomiya ng bansa sa dayuhang kapital at negosyo. Kailangan natin ito para dumami ang nagtatayo ng kompanya na nagbibigay ng trabaho. Kailangan nating pasiglahin ang negosyo para mabigyan ng dagdag na kabuhayan ang bawat Pilipino.

A strong economy needs to strike the balance between infrastructure development and environmental planning, and for this reason, we have approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 8078 or the "30-Year National

Infrastructure Program Act," House Bill No. 6527 or the "Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Act," and House Bill No. 8162 or the "National Land Use Act."

Of course, national income growth metrics are meaningless without adequate labor and social protection measures. For this purpose, we have approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 6772, amending the Universal Health Care Act and granting the President the power to suspend the increase of the premium rates of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation; House Bill No. 7325 or the "Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers;" and House Bill No. 6523 or the "Revised National Apprenticeship Program Act."

We also approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 7909 or the "Tax Amnesty Act," expanding the coverage and extending the period of estate tax amnesty until June 14, 2025 to encourage payment of taxes, alleviate the financial burden of taxpayers, and to boost government revenue.

Maliban sa pagpasa ng mga batas, naging aktibo rin tayo sa paggagamit ng ating oversight functions para bigyan ng solusyon ang problema ng ordinaryong mamamayan.

Earlier this year, the House Committee on Agriculture conducted a *motu proprio* inquiry in aid of legislation to determine the root cause of the surge in the price of onions and other agricultural products. In doing so, we tried to ascertain the appropriate government intervention to keep basic commodities affordable and accessible to everyone.

We are also equally determined to recommend the prosecution of cartels and their cohorts, including all other profiteers who continue to manipulate the supply and price of onions in the country.

Dahil sa sipag ng ating Committee on Agriculture, nabuwag natin ang pinakamalaking kartel sa sibuyas at naibalik natin sa dating presyo ang bilihan nito.

In support of e-governance efforts in the bureaucracy, the House of Representatives and the Senate launched the eCongress, a digital platform intended to facilitate knowledge and information exchange between the two Houses.

This also aimed to digitize our legislative support processes, services and records, and encourage citizen participation by providing updates on the status of bills and resolutions of both Houses.

As the Representatives of the people, we must conduct ourselves with dignity at all times to be worthy of the trust and confidence bestowed upon us by our people.

The House Committee on Ethics and Privileges conducted an investigation regarding the call for disciplinary action against Rep. Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr. Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, a Member shall act at all times in a manner that reflects creditably on the House and shall adhere to the spirit and the letter of the Rules of the House and the Rules Committee.

I would like to reiterate that as Members of this House, we must be accountable to the people at all times, and to perform our legislative mandates with utmost competence, efficiency, effectiveness, integrity, and fidelity to the people’s welfare, nothing less. Let this be a reminder to all of us.

Hindi natin papayagan na sirain ninuman ang integridad ng Kongreso. Walang personalan dito. Ginagawa lang natin ang sinumpaang nating tungkulin at pangako sa sambayanan.

Needless to say, our First Regular Session has been both eventful and most productive. In total, this Chamber filed 9,600 measures, consisting of 8,490 House bills, 1,109 resolutions, and one petition. A total of 577 of these measures have now been approved by the House of Representatives. On the average, we were able to process 30 legislative measures per session day, 10 percent more than our output in the previous Congress during the same period.

Let us continuously improve and optimize the conduct of our work for the benefit of the Filipino people.

Again, congratulations to everyone for this most impressive performance. You did not take your jobs lightly. You conducted yourselves with a sense of pride, professionalism, and responsibility. You have carried out your individual roles with zest, making sure that you served effectively the voices of your respective constituents.

As with any democratic system, differences in political opinions and perspectives abound;

but like a well-oiled machine, these tensions have only propelled us forward.

Let me also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Secretariat, and the Congressional staff for their hard work. *(Applause)*

Indeed, you have worked very hard and provided unconditional support, which made our accomplishments possible. For that, we sincerely thank you.

Sa lahat ng empleado ng House of Representatives, hindi namin magagawa ang lahat ng ito kung hindi dahil sa tulong at sa mga sakripisyo ninyo. Maraming salamat po. *(Applause)*

May I add that our duty is not confined in the four corners of this noble institution.

As such, in our individual and collective efforts, we have reached out and donated funds to the victims of the Türkiye earthquake, and provided assistance to the victims of the Mindoro oil spill, and severe tropical storm Paeng.

We also engaged, along with several House Members, key congressional leaders of the United States of America to lay the groundwork for the official visit of His Excellency, President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr.

While the conduct of foreign relations is largely the domain of the Executive, such engagements deepened the level of appreciation and understanding on issues of mutual concerns, and thus promote even closer cooperation and partnership between our countries. This initiative also helped generate billions of dollars in investment pledges which are expected to create thousands of jobs for our fellow kababayans.

Sa pakikipag-usap natin sa kanila, mas higit nating naintindihan kung ano ang mga batas at polisiya na kailangang ipasa para makapasok ang dayuhang kapital sa bansa at mapaunlad pang lalo ang kabuhayan ng ating mga kababayan.

I must also emphasize the importance of unity and cooperation among all our political parties.

Pursuant to our shared vision of a strong republic, leaders of major political parties in these august Halls have expressed their unwavering commitment to work together

for the passage of the pro-people legislative agenda of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

The unity that we have shown in the performance of duty, and our relentless action in keeping the legislative mill grinding to full efficiency are now reaping the fruits of our beloved institution.

Public opinion on the performance and approval rating of the House of Representatives is fast reaching an all-time high. Kinikilala ng ating mga kababayan ang pagkakaisa na ating ipinakikita. Naniniwala sila na malaking bahagi ito kaya nagagampanan natin ang ating tungkulin.

As we close the First Regular Session, I wish that you will remain steadfast in your duty. Let us take this time to reenergize, reflect, and reintegrate our passion for public service. Our nation deserves no less than our synergy and hard work. We have a lot of work ahead of us. By working together, we can help address these challenges and build a better future for our fellow Filipinos.

May pangako tayong binitawan sa ating mamamayan. Hindi tayo titigil hanggang hindi natin natutupad ang mga pangakong ito.

Thank you very much. Mabuhay tayong lahat. (*Applause*)

You may take your seats.

Before I call on the Majority Leader, we have a video message from the President, Pres. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (*Applause*)

(*Audiovisual presentation by Pres. Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr.*)

EVERYBODY. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER. Majority Leader.

ADJOURNMENT *SINE DIE*

REP. DALIPE. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn *sine die* the First Regular Session of the Nineteenth Congress of the Republic of the Philippines. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the First Regular Session of the Nineteenth Congress of the Republic of the Philippines is hereby adjourned *sine die*. (*Applause*)

*It was 8:59 p.m.*