



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 19<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
*House of Representatives*

Vol. 3

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

No. 28

## CALL TO ORDER

*At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Roberto V. Puno called the session to order.*

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

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). All please rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

## PRAYER

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

*Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.*

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

## ROLL CALL

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

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

*The Secretary General called the Roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 28, dated November 7, 2023.\**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 211 Members responded to the Call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). With 211 Members responding to the Call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum. Majority Leader.

REP. TEVES. Mr. Speaker, considering the copies of *Journal No. 23*, dated September 19 to 22, 2023; *Journal No. 24*, dated September 25, 2023; and *Journal No. 25*, dated September 26, 2023 were already distributed to the Members, I move to dispense with the reading of the said Journals.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a motion to dispense with the reading of the aforementioned 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 JOURNALS

REP. TEVES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve *Journal No. 23*, dated September 19 to 22, 2023; *Journal No. 24*, dated September 25, 2023; and *Journal No. 25*, dated September 26, 2023.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a motion to approve the said Journals. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; *Journal No. 23*, dated September

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

19 to 22, 2023; *Journal No. 24*, dated September 25, 2023; and *Journal No. 25*, dated September 26, 2023 are hereby approved.

Majority Leader.

REP. TEVES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we now proceed with the Reference of Business.

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

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

## REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

## BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 9326, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION SATELLITE OFFICE IN ROXAS CITY, CAPIZ

By Representative Castro (Jane)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 9327, entitled:

AN ACT ENHANCING THE RESILIENCY AND ADAPTABILITY OF FARMERS TO ADVERSE WEATHER AND CLIMATE EVENTS BY INSTITUTIONALIZING THE USE OF CROP CLIMATE CALENDARS, EQUIPPING FARMERS FOR CLIMATE-SENSITIVE DECISION-MAKING, AND PROVIDING ACCESS TO LOCALIZED WEATHER AND CLIMATE INFORMATION

By Representative Duterte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 9328, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING PENSION BENEFITS TO FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PENSION FUND FOR FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Duterte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 9329, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF YOUNG FARMERS

By Representative Duterte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 9330, entitled:

AN ACT MAKING THE APPOINTMENT OF A LEGAL OFFICER MANDATORY IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE AND 481 (A) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

By Representative Duterte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 9331, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FREE FOOD FOR CHILDREN IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND DAY CARE CENTERS FROM PRODUCTS OF FARMERS PURCHASED BY THE GOVERNMENT OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SCHOOL FEEDING PURCHASED FROM LOCAL FARMERS PROGRAM"

By Representative Duterte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 9333, entitled:

AN ACT UPGRADING AND CREATING ADDITIONAL POSITIONS IN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATE COUNSEL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE

ORDER NO. 878 DATED 4 MARCH 1983, AS AMENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 299 DATED 26 JULY 1987  
By Representative Garcia (Pablo John)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 9336, entitled:  
AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 1 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CARAMORAN, CATANDUANES TO CELEBRATE THE "CARAMORAN FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY"  
By Representative Rodriguez (Eulogio)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 9337, entitled:  
AN ACT DECLARING APRIL 15 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE BATO, CATANDUANES TO CELEBRATE THE "FOUNDATION DAY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATO"  
By Representative Rodriguez (Eulogio)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 9338, entitled:  
AN ACT RECLASSIFYING AS AGRICULTURAL LAND OPEN TO DISPOSITION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE "PUBLIC LAND ACT", AS AMENDED, THE LAND EMBRACED IN PROCLAMATION NO. 602 DATED APRIL 12, 2004, DECLARING A SECO-TOURISM PARK AND CAMPSITE PURPOSES A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN SITUATED IN BARANGAYS LUBIGAN AND MORIONES, INCLUDING A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN BARANGAY IBA, ALL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE, PROVINCE OF TARLAC  
By Representative Yap (Christian Tell)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 9339, entitled:  
AN ACT GRANTING THE PAMPANGA RURAL ELECTRIC

SERVICE COOPERATIVE, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, OWN, MANAGE AND MAINTAIN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF ELECTRIC POWER TO THE END-USERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MEXICO, ARAYAT, STA. ANA, AND MAGALANG

By Representatives De Jesus and Dagooc  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 9340, entitled:  
AN ACT DEVELOPING THE COFFEE INDUSTRY OF THE PHILIPPINES AND CREATING THE COFFEE INDUSTRY ADVANCEMENT AND RESEARCH CENTER AND DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT AS THE COFFEE CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES  
By Representative Sakaluran  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 9341, entitled:  
AN ACT REORGANIZING THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPEALING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 230 SERIES OF 1987 AND AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292 SERIES OF 1987 APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES  
By Representative Flores  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 9342, entitled:  
AN ACT ENSURING THE WELFARE AND PROTECTION OF BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING (BPO) WORKERS IN THE PHILIPPINES  
By Representative Villar  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 9343, entitled:  
AN ACT CREATING A DENTAL UNIT  
IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT  
UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AS PART OF THE PRIMARY  
APPROACH IN THE DELIVERY  
OF HEALTH SERVICES AND  
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR  
By Representative Villar  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE AS  
THE "TINAPA CAPITAL OF THE  
PHILIPPINES"  
By Representatives Revilla (Ramon Jolo),  
Mercado-Revilla, Revilla (Bryan),  
Advincula, Barzaga, Loyola, Ferrer  
(Antonio), Remulla and Tolentino  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES  
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 9344, entitled:  
AN ACT TO PRESCRIBE NUTRITION  
LABELING FOR FOOD PRODUCTS,  
PROVIDING FRAMEWORK FOR  
ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES  
By Representative Villar  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 9351, entitled:  
AN ACT EXPANDING THE  
PRIMARY JURISDICTION OF  
THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF  
INVESTIGATION, AMENDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 10867, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
REORGANIZATION AND  
MODERNIZATION ACT"

By Representative Magsino  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 9345, entitled:  
AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE FREIGHT  
SERVICES IN THE TRANSPORTATION  
OF RELIEF GOODS TO CALAMITY-  
STRICKEN AREAS  
By Representative Villar  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER  
RESILIENCE

House Bill No. 9352, entitled:  
AN ACT CREATING THE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS  
AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING,  
DEFINING ITS FUNCTIONS  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

By Representatives Balindong and Adiong  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
REORGANIZATION AND THE  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC  
AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 9346, entitled:  
AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE  
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS BY  
INCREASING THE MANPOWER  
COMPLEMENT IN ITS FIELD OFFICES,  
PROVIDING OFFICE SPACES  
SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT  
FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS,  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR AMENDING FOR THE  
PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG.  
881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
"OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE  
PHILIPPINES", AS AMENDED  
By Representative Abalos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE  
AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 9353, entitled:  
AN ACT MANDATING THE  
ESTABLISHMENT, MANAGEMENT,  
MAINTENANCE, AND REGULATION  
OF A RAINWATER HARVESTING  
FACILITY IN ALL NEW INSTITUTIONAL,  
COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND  
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT  
PROJECTS IN METRO MANILA

By Representatives Tulfo (Ralph Wendel),  
Tulfo (Jocelyn) and Tulfo (Erwin)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 9348, entitled:  
AN ACT DECLARING THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF ROSARIO IN

House Bill No. 9354, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE  
MATERNAL HEALTHCARE  
INCLUDING IMMUNIZATION FOR  
PREGNANT WOMEN

By Representative Gato  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 9355, entitled:

AN ACT GRANTING A FRANCHISE  
TO THE PAMPANGA RURAL  
ELECTRIC SERVICE COOPERATIVE,  
INC. (PRESCO) TO CONSTRUCT,  
INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE,  
OWN, MANAGE AND MAINTAIN  
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS FOR  
THE CONVEYANCE OF ELECTRIC  
POWER TO THE END-USERS  
IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF  
MEXICO, ARAYAT, STA. ANA  
AND MAGALANG, PROVINCE OF  
PAMPANGA

By Representative Gonzales (Aurelio)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE  
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 9356, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL  
POLICE CLEARANCE SYSTEM,  
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Zubiri  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 9357, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING A PENAL CLAUSE  
FOR THE ACTS DEFINED UNDER  
SECTIONS 4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,16  
AND 17 AND AUTHORIZING  
THE DISPOSAL OF UNCLAIMED  
RECOVERED AND IMPOUNDED  
CARNAPPED MOTOR VEHICLES  
AMENDING THE PURPOSE  
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10883  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
AMENDING THE NEW ANTI-  
CARNAPPING ACT OF 2016

By Representative Zubiri  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF  
LAWS

House Bill No. 9358, entitled:

AN ACT TO PROTECT EMPLOYEES OF  
TRAVELING SALES CREWS

By Representative Villafuerte (Luis  
Raymund)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND  
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 9359, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE  
TO RECOMMEND A UNIFORM  
STRATEGY TO PROTECT WOMEN  
AGAINST VIOLENT CRIMES

By Representative Villafuerte (Luis  
Raymund)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND  
GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 9360, entitled:

AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN  
LAND ADMINISTRATION

By Representative Villafuerte (Luis  
Raymund)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
REORGANIZATION AND THE  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 9361, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A  
NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

By Representative Villafuerte (Luis  
Raymund)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND  
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 9362, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR  
A NATIONAL HOUSING  
DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION,  
AND FINANCING PROGRAM,  
REGULARIZING ITS  
APPROPRIATION FOR ITS  
IMPLEMENTATION

By Representative Villafuerte (Luis  
Raymund)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING  
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 9363, entitled:  
AN ACT INSTITUTING A  
COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING  
PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL  
TEACHERS, PROVIDING FUNDS  
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES  
By Representative Villafuerte (Luis Raymund)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING  
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 9364, entitled:  
AN ACT SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE  
PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE  
ASSISTANCE TO PARENTS  
WHO WANT TO HELP  
THEIR CHILDREN BECOME  
SUCCESSFUL READERS  
By Representative Villafuerte (Luis Raymund)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC  
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 9365, entitled:  
AN ACT TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM  
EXPOSURE TO ENVIRONMENTAL  
TOBACCO SMOKE IN THE  
PROVISION OF CHILDREN'S  
SERVICES  
By Representative Villafuerte (Luis Raymund)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF  
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 9366, entitled:  
AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL  
COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK ON  
RESILIENT HOUSING AND HUMAN  
SETTLEMENTS, APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES  
By Representative Villafuerte (Luis Raymund)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING  
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 9367, entitled:  
AN ACT ESTABLISHING JOB  
PLACEMENT OFFICES IN PUBLIC  
HIGH SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE  
CAREER SERVICES TO THE YOUTH  
By Representative Villafuerte (Luis Raymund)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND  
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 9368, entitled:  
AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING  
THE SYSTEM OF BIRTH  
REGISTRATION OF CHILDREN IN  
NEED OF SPECIAL PROTECTION  
(CNSP) IN THE PHILIPPINES  
By Representative Villafuerte (Luis Raymund)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF  
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 9369, entitled:  
AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PENSION AND  
HEALTH BENEFITS TO COMFORT  
WOMEN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES  
By Representative Villafuerte (Luis Raymund)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND  
GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 9370, entitled:  
AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE  
COMMISSION ON THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN  
SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND  
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT  
By Representative Villafuerte (Luis Raymund)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND  
GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 9371, entitled:  
AN ACT TO PROHIBIT EMPLOYMENT  
DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS  
OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION  
By Representative Villafuerte (Luis Raymund)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND  
GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 9372, entitled:  
AN ACT PROVIDING CHILDREN  
PROTECTION AGAINST  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTANTS  
By Representative Villafuerte (Luis Raymund)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF  
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 9373, entitled:  
AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FOREIGN  
SERVICE RETIREMENT PROGRAM  
UNDER THE GOVERNMENT  
SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM

(GSIS), IMPLEMENTING SECTION 62 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7157 ALSO KNOWN AS THE "FOREIGN SERVICE ACT OF 1991"

By Representative Villafuerte (Luis Raymund)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 9374, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE WASTE COLLECTION WORKERS' HEALTH AND WELFARE PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 9375, entitled:

AN ACT DEFINING AND PENALIZING ACTS OF ROAD RAGE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 9376, entitled:

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT (CDD) APPROACH AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE CDD KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCE INSTITUTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representatives Tulfo (Ralph Wendel), Tulfo (Jocelyn) and Tulfo (Erwin)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 9377, entitled:

AN ACT DECLARING OCTOBER 5 OF EVERY YEAR AS "ARAW NG DEL GALLEGO", A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DEL GALLEGO, CAMARINES SUR

By Representative Horibata  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 9378, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A 50-BED DISTRICT HOSPITAL UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CORDOVA, PROVINCE OF CEBU AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representatives Lagon (Daphne) and Lagon (Sonny)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 9379, entitled:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE CORDOVA COASTAL ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CORDOVA, PROVINCE OF CEBU INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representatives Lagon (Daphne) and Lagon (Sonny)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 9380, entitled:

AN ACT RECLASSIFYING A PARCEL OF LAND OF PUBLIC DOMAIN LOCATED IN BARRIO COMBIS, MUNICIPALITY OF ABUYOG, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, FROM TIMBERLAND TO ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LAND AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Cari  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 9381, 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 Dionisio  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 9382, entitled:  
AN ACT DECLARING GAWAHON  
ECO-PARK LOCATED IN THE CITY  
OF VICTORIAS, PROVINCE OF  
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL A TOURIST  
DESTINATION, PROVIDING  
FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR  
By Representative Benitez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 9383, entitled:  
AN ACT DECLARING MOUNT  
KANLANDOG LOCATED IN  
BARANGAY CANLANDOG,  
MUNICIPALITY OF MURCIA,  
PROVINCE OF NEGROS  
OCCIDENTAL, AN ECOTOURISM  
ZONE, PROVIDING FOR  
ITS DEVELOPMENT AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR  
By Representative Benitez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 9384, entitled:  
AN ACT DECLARING SITIO  
PULAK-PULAKAN, BARANGAY  
SAN FERNANDO, CITY OF  
TALISAY, PROVINCE OF  
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AN  
ECOTOURISM ZONE, PROVIDING  
FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR  
By Representative Benitez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 9385, entitled:  
AN ACT UPGRADING AND CREATING  
ADDITIONAL POSITIONS IN THE OFFICE  
OF THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATE  
COUNSEL (OGCC), AMENDING FOR  
THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER  
NO. 878 DATED MARCH 4, 1983, AS  
AMENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.  
299 DATED JULY 26, 1987  
By Representative Barba  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 9386, entitled:  
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A  
NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE

DEVELOPMENT, UTILIZATION,  
AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF  
ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES  
By Representative Benitez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 9387, entitled:  
AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A STANDARD  
NUMERICAL DATE NOTATION  
IN ALL OFFICIAL AND LEGAL  
DOCUMENTS IN THE COUNTRY  
By Representative Delos Santos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 9388, entitled:  
AN ACT EXPANDING THE PURPOSES  
FOR THE UTILIZATION OF THE  
EMERGENCY REPATRIATION FUND  
UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, AS  
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS THE "MIGRANT WORKERS AND  
OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT"  
By Representative Magsino  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS  
WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 9389, entitled:  
AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE  
BREAST CANCER SCREENING  
AND AFFORDABLE TREATMENT  
OF BREAST CANCER FOR FILIPINO  
WOMEN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR  
By Representative Tolentino  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 9390, entitled:  
AN ACT GRANTING BENEFITS AND  
INCENTIVES TO ACCREDITED  
BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLARS  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES  
By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 9391, entitled:  
AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 10175 ENTITLED "AN  
ACT DEFINING CYBERCRIME,  
PROVIDING FOR THE PREVENTION,

INVESTIGATION, SUPPRESSION AND THE IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" BY PROVIDING FOR PRESCRIPTION PERIOD FOR THE OFFENSES PUNISHABLE BY SAID LAW, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 9392, entitled:

AN ACT MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF PHILIPPINE HISTORY AS A SUBJECT IN THE HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 9393, entitled:

AN ACT LOWERING THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND MEDICINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 109 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 9394, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SEED LIBRARIES THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 9395, entitled:

AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO FR. JOB CALLARACKAL OOMMEN, MS

By Representative Malapitan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 9397, entitled:

AN ACT ENCOURAGING THE PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNITIES IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF THE FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES BY GRANTING BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES TO ACCREDITED BANTAY DAGAT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Tan (Keith Micah)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 9398, entitled:

AN ACT DECLARING THE QUEZON CONVENTION CENTER LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LUCENA, PROVINCE OF QUEZON, A SPORTS TOURISM DESTINATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Tan (Keith Micah)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 9399, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MODERNIZATION FUND FOR THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (CAAP), TO ENSURE UPGRADES TO ITS STANDARDS, SYSTEMS, AND PROCEDURES PRESCRIBED FOR CIVIL AVIATION PRACTICES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 9400, entitled:

AN ACT CREATING THE BARANGAY AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, ESTABLISHING THE BARANGAY DEVELOPMENT FUND, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

By Representative Marcoleta  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 9401, entitled:  
AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE  
CITIZENSHIP TO DR. SOOYEON  
HWANG  
By Representative Marcoleta  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 9402, entitled:  
AN ACT GRANTING A LEGISLATIVE  
FRANCHISE TO BENGUET ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC. (BENECO) TO  
CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH,  
OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A  
GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION  
SYSTEM FOR THE CONVEYANCE  
OF ELECTRIC POWER TO THE END  
USERS IN ALL THE MUNICIPALITIES  
OF THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET  
AND BAGUIO CITY.  
By Representative Yap (Eric)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE  
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 9403, entitled:  
AN ACT PROVIDING FOR BABY  
CHANGING FACILITIES IN  
RESTROOMS OF ALL PUBLIC  
ESTABLISHMENTS AND  
GOVERNMENT OFFICES  
By Representatives Mercado-Revilla,  
Revilla (Bryan) and Revilla (Ramon  
Jolo)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF  
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 9404, entitled:  
AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE  
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING  
INDUSTRY BY UPGRADING AND  
DESIGNATING THE DR3AM  
CENTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN  
THE BATAAN PENINSULA STATE  
UNIVERSITY AS THE CENTER FOR  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
ON ADVANCED MANUFACTURING  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR  
By Representative Garcia (Albert)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1340, entitled:  
A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE  
APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN  
AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE  
APPARENT AND REGULAR TRAFFIC  
CONGESTION IN THE NORTH  
LUZON EXPRESSWAY AND IN  
THE SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY  
WHICH IMPEDE THE TRAVEL  
OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS  
OF FILIPINO MOTORISTS AND  
PASSENGERS  
By Representatives Duterte and Yap (Eric)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1341, entitled:  
A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE  
DEEP CONDOLENCES OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
ON THE PASSING OF MR. ROBERT  
FRANCISCO YLAGAN  
By Representatives de Venecia, Co  
(Angelica Natasha), Legarda, Garcia  
(Maria Angela), Veloso-Tuazon,  
Del Mar, Barba, Benitez, Nograles  
(Margarita), Maceda, Bolilia, Velasco,  
Khonghun, Garcia (Jose Arturo),  
Aumentado, Robes, Vergara, Mercado-  
Revilla, Zamora (Amparo Maria), Go  
(Mark), Atayde, Alonte, Rodriguez  
(Rufus), Villarica, Fernandez, Gomez,  
Singson-Meehan, Bautista-Lim, Cua,  
Revilla (Bryan), Quimbo, Revilla  
(Ramon Jolo), Horibata, Salceda and  
Arenas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1342, entitled:  
A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND  
OTHER APPROPRIATE HOUSE  
COMMITTEES IN COORDINATION  
WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH (DOH) TO CONDUCT AN  
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND  
UTILIZATION OF THE MEDICAL  
ASSISTANCE TO INDIGENT

PATIENTS (MAIP) PROGRAM OF THE DOH IN THE COUNTRY'S COVERED HEALTH INSTITUTIONS AND HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

By Representatives Yap (Eric) and Yap (Edvic)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1343, entitled:

A RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE RECRUITMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF FILIPINO SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA UNDER A "LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU TO LGU)" ARRANGEMENT, AND TO DETERMINE IF THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE DEPLOYED WORKERS ARE SUFFICIENTLY PROTECTED AND GUARANTEED

By Representative Magsino

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1344, entitled:

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING PHILIPPINE ARMY COLONEL JOSEPH JEREMIAS CIRILO C. DATOR, RECIPIENT OF THE 2023 METROBANK FOUNDATION OUTSTANDING FILIPINO AWARD FOR SOLDIERS

By Representative Celeste

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1345, entitled:

RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO INCREASE THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM TO SUPPORT THE STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023-2028

By Representative Matugas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Resolution No. 1346, entitled:

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE 3.6 BILLION PESO WORTH OF SHABU SEIZED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MEXICO, AND 1.3 BILLION PESO WORTH OF SHABU DISCOVERED IN THE CITY OF MABALACAT, IN THE PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA

By Representatives Gonzales (Aurelio) and Barbers

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1347, entitled:

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE OF CONGRESSMAN EDWARD S. HAGEDORN

By Representative Pleyto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1348, entitled:

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCE OF THE HOUSE ON THE DEATH OF 3<sup>rd</sup> DISTRICT - PALAWAN REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD S. HAGEDORN

By Representative Villanueva

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1349, entitled:

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHIES AND SINCEREST CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD S. HAGEDORN OF THE THIRD DISTRICT OF PALAWAN, COMMEMORATING HIS LIFE AND HONORING HIS LEGACY

By Representatives Yap (Eric), Yap (Edvic), Tulfo (Jocelyn), Tulfo (Erwin) and Tulfo (Ralph Wendel)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1350, entitled:  
RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MEDUSA RANSOMWARE CYBER ATTACK ON PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORP. (PHILHEALTH) AND ON THE LEAK OF PERSONAL RECORDS OF PHILHEALTH EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS

By Representatives Brosas, Castro (France) and Manuel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1351, entitled:  
A RESOLUTION TO CALL ON A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE P3.8B WORTH OF SHABU INTERCEPTED AT THE PORT OF SUBIC BAY, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE

By Representative Khonghun  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1352, entitled:  
RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED QUESTIONABLE EXPENSES OF THE NATIONAL GRID CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (NGCP) THAT ARE BEING PASSED ON TO THE CONSUMERS THROUGH ITS TRANSMISSION CHARGE AND ENSURE TRANSPARENCY THEREOF

By Representatives Castro (France), Brosas and Manuel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1353, entitled:  
RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT A JOINT INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF

LEGISLATION, ON THE ECONOMIC AND NATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OVER THE 40% CHINESE CAPITAL OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF THE NATIONAL GRID CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

By Representatives Castro (France), Brosas and Manuel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1354, entitled:  
A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE GILAS PILIPINAS MEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL IN MEN'S BASKETBALL IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED 19TH ASIAN GAMES HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2023 TO 08 OCTOBER 2023 IN HANGZHOU, CHINA.

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1355, entitled:  
A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE PHILIPPINE ATHLETES WHO PARTICIPATED AND WON IN THE 19TH ASIAN GAMES HELD IN HANGZHOU, CHINA FROM SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 8, 2023

By Representative Tolentino  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1356, entitled:  
A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING, COMMENDING AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO THE PLAYERS, COACHES, AND MANAGEMENT OF GILAS PILIPINAS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR THEIR VICTORY IN THE 19th ASIAN GAMES HELD IN HANGZHOU, CHINA

By Representative Pleyto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1357, entitled:  
A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING, COMMENDING AND PROVIDING

INCENTIVES TO OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALIST AND BOXER EUMIR FELIX DELOS SANTOS MARCIAL FOR WINNING A SILVER MEDAL IN THE 19<sup>th</sup> ASIAN GAMES IN HANGZHOU, CHINA

By Representative Pleyto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1358, entitled:

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING, COMMENDING AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO THE PHILIPPINE JIU-JITSU MARTIAL ARTS TEAM FOR WINNING TWO (2) GOLDS AND ONE (1) BRONZE MEDALS IN THE 19<sup>th</sup> ASIAN GAMES IN HANGZHOU, CHINA

By Representative Pleyto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1359, entitled:

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING, COMMENDING AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO THE PLAYERS, COACHES, AND MANAGEMENT OF TEAM PHILIPPINES FOR WINNING FOUR (4) GOLD, TWO (2) SILVER AND TWELVE (12) BRONZE MEDALS IN THE 19<sup>th</sup> ASIAN GAMES HELD IN HANGZHOU, CHINA FROM SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 8, 2023

By Representative Pleyto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1360, entitled:

RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE KILLING OF LABOR ORGANIZER JUDE THADDEUS FERNANDEZ BY ELEMENTS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE-CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND DETECTION GROUP (PNP-CIDG) AND ON THE PATTERN OF TRADE UNIONIST KILLINGS UNDER THE MARCOS JR. ADMINISTRATION

By Representatives Brosas, Castro (France) and Manuel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1361, entitled:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS, AND THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, TO CONDUCT A JOINT INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VERY HUGE CONFIDENTIAL FUNDS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF DAVAO CITY FROM 2017 UP TO THE PRESENT

By Representatives Castro (France), Brosas and Manuel  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1362, entitled:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11592 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE LPG INDUSTRY REGULATION ACT" AND THE COMPLIANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IN ENFORCING THE LAW

By Representative Ty  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1363, entitled:

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE OF THE THE FILIPINO ATHLETES IN THE 19<sup>th</sup> ASIAN GAMES HELD IN HANGZHOU, CHINA FROM SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 8, 2023

By Representative Golez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1364, entitled:

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE 19<sup>th</sup> ASIAN GAMES CONTINGENT, THE COACHES, SUPPORT PERSONNEL, OFFICIALS, AND ESPECIALLY THE ATHLETES WHO WON GOLD, SILVER, AND BRONZE MEDALS AT THE ASIAN GAMES,

THE ATHLETES WHO QUALIFIED FOR THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPICS AS A RESULT OF THEIR MEDALS EARNED AT THE ASIAN GAMES, THE ATHLETES WHO SET NEW RECORDS, INCLUDING NEW PERSONAL BEST, NEW NATIONAL RECORDS, AND NEW ASIAN GAMES RECORDS HELD IN CHINA FROM SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 8, 2023, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

By Representative Herrera  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1365, entitled:

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE GILAS PILIPINAS MEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE MEN'S BASKETBALL 5X5 EVENT IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED 2023 SEA GAMES HELD ON MAY 5-17, 2023 IN PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

By Representative Villanueva  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1366, entitled:

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING FILIPINO POLE VAULTER ERNEST JOHN "EJ" UY OBIENA FOR WINNING THE FIRST GOLD MEDAL OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE 19<sup>th</sup> ASIAN GAMES HELD IN HANGZHOU, CHINA ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

By Representatives Romualdez (Ferdinand Martin), Gonzales (Aurelio), Dalipe, Libanan, Marcos, Romualdez (Yedda Marie) and Acidre  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1367, entitled:

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE GILAS PILIPINAS MEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> ASIAN GAMES

By Representative Bustos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1368, entitled:

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF HONORABLE EDWARD SOLON HAGEDORN, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE THIRD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF PALAWAN, AND FORMER MAYOR OF PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PALAWAN

By Representatives Romualdez (Ferdinand Martin), Gonzales (Aurelio), Dalipe, Libanan, Marcos, Romualdez (Yedda Marie) and Acidre  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1369, entitled:

A RESOLUTION URGING THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT TO IMMEDIATELY CREATE A CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE TASK FORCE FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF OFWS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS IN ISRAEL AND GAZA

By Representative Salo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Resolution No. 1370, entitled:

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF HONORABLE EDWARD SOLON HAGEDORN, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE 3<sup>rd</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN DURING THE NINETEENTH CONGRESS

By Representative Acharon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1371, entitled:

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS FOR ADOPTING RESOLUTION 10946 CREATING A COMMITTEE ON KONTRABIGAY AND KONTRABIGAY COMPLAINT CENTER IN TIME FOR THE 2023 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Resolution No. 1372, entitled:

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE OF REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD SOLON HAGEDORN

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL IN MEN'S 5x5 BASKETBALL IN THE 19TH ASIAN GAMES HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 8, 2023 IN HANGZOU, CHINA

By Representative Puno  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1373, entitled:

A RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AGENCY MEDICAL REPATRIATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (IMRAP) AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEDICATED WARDS FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

By Representative Magsino  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1377, entitled:

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE MOST PROFOUND CONDOLENCES AND DEEPEST SYMPATHIES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE VICTIMS OF THE ON-GOING CONFLICT IN ISRAEL AND THE GAZA STRIP, AND CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF VIOLENCE IN THE REGION

By Representative Arenas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1374, entitled:

RESOLUTION INVESTIGATING THE SHIPMENT OF MEAT JERKY CONCEALING 323 KILOS OF SUSPECTED CRYSTAL METH OR "SHABU" AT THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT (MICP)

By Representative Barzaga  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1378, entitled:

RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE COMMITTEE ON METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MMDA), DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DoTr), LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD-NCR (LTFRB-NCR), AND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) TO ADDRESS THE WORSENING AIR POLLUTION SITUATION IN METRO MANILA CAUSED PRIMARILY BY METRO MANILA'S WORSENING TRAFFIC SITUATION.

By Representative Adiong  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1375, entitled:

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING EUMIR FELIX D. MARCIAL FOR HIS EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED 19TH ASIAN GAMES HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 8, 2023 IN HANGZOU, CHINA

By Representative Puno  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1376, entitled:

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE GILAS PILIPINAS MEN'S NATIONAL

House Resolution No. 1379, entitled:

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING GILAS

PILIPINAS FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE 19TH ASIAN GAMES HELD IN HANGZHOU, CHINA FROM SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 8, 2023

By Representatives Mercado-Revilla, Revilla (Bryan) and Revilla (Ramon Jolo)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1380, entitled:  
RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MARGARITA "MEGGIE" P. OCHOA AND ANNIE RAMIREZ FOR WINNING GOLD MEDALS IN THE WOMEN'S JIU-JITSU COMPETITIONS IN THE 19TH ASIAN GAMES HELD IN HANGZHOU, CHINA FROM SEPTEMBER 23 TO OCTOBER 8, 2023

By Representatives Romualdez (Ferdinand Martin), Gonzales (Aurelio), Dalipe, Libanan, Marcos, Romualdez (Yedda Marie) and Acidre  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1381, entitled:  
A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO ALLEGATIONS OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD'S (LTFRB) MALFEASANCE, MISFEASANCE AND NONFEASANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALLEGED CORRUPTION OF PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM (PUVMP) AND TO SUSPEND ITS IMPLEMENTATION PENDING INVESTIGATION.

By Representative Abante  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1382, entitled:  
RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE HEROISM, BRAVERY, AND DEDICATION OF

ANGELYN PERALTA AGUIRRE AND THREE OTHER FILIPINOS WHO DIED IN THE HAMAS-ISRAEL WAR, AND EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES

By Representatives Romualdez (Ferdinand Martin), Gonzales (Aurelio), Dalipe, Marcos, Romualdez (Yedda Marie), Acidre and Libanan  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1383, entitled:  
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PEACE IN THE GAZA STRIP  
By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Resolution No. 1384, entitled:  
A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE PHILIPPINE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM, GILAS PILIPINAS, FOR THEIR HISTORIC VICTORY AGAINST JORDAN, SECURING THE GOLD MEDAL AT THE ASIAN GAMES 2023  
By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1385, entitled:  
RESOLUTION CALLING ON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE VICTIMS OF ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT  
By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Resolution No. 1386, entitled:  
RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF EDWARD S. HAGEDORN  
By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1387, entitled:  
RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

TECHNOLOGY (DICT) TO CONDUCT A GOVERNMENT-WIDE CYBERSECURITY AUDIT, IN LIGHT OF THE CONTINUOUS PROLIFERATION AND ALARMING TREND OF CYBERATTACKS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE FIRMS IN THE COUNTRY AND DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO SUMMON THE DICT TO SUBMIT THE REPORT OF THIS AUDIT TO CONGRESS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING THE REMEDIAL LEGISLATION NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN OUR EXISTING CYBERSECURITY POLICIES AND LAWS

By Representative Lee  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1389, entitled:

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE DATA BREACH OF PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORP. (PHILHEALTH) IN VIOLATION OF RA 10173 ALSO KNOWN AS DATA PRIVACY LAW, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10175 ALSO KNOWN AS THE CYBERCRIME PREVENTION ACT, AND OTHER LAWS

By Representative Abante  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1390, entitled:

RESOLUTION CREATING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TASKED TO CONDUCT AND STUDY THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BUILDING AND THE RELOCATION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THERETO

By Representatives Villafuerte (Luis Raymund), Gonzales (Aurelio) and Suarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1391, entitled:

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION FOR THEIR RESILIENCE AND EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE DURING THE 19TH ASIAN GAMES HELD IN HANGZHOU CITY, ZHEJIANG PROVINCE, CHINA

By Representatives Romualdez (Ferdinand Martin), Gonzales (Aurelio), Dalipe, Libanan, Marcos, Romualdez (Yedda Marie) and Acidre

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Joint Resolution No. 20, entitled:

JOINT RESOLUTION INCREASING THE 2024 BUDGET OF THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) BY NINETY-TWO BILLION AND TWO HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P92.2 BILLION), FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF AT LEAST TWENTY PERCENT (20%) OF LOCAL PALAY HARVEST TO AID RICE FARMERS, AND TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF CHEAPER RICE IN LOCAL MARKETS

By Representatives Brosas, Castro (France) and Manuel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated March 23, 2023, informing the House of Representatives that on March 22, 2023, the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1849 and House Bill No. 6517, 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.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated September 26, 2023, informing the House of Representatives that on September 25, 2023, the Senate designated Senators Mark A. Villar, Win Gatchalian, Joel Villanueva, Raffy T. Tulfo and Risa Hontiveros as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1846, entitled: AN ACT PROTECTING ONLINE CONSUMERS AND MERCHANTS ENGAGED IN INTERNET TRANSACTIONS, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE ELECTRONIC COMMERCE BUREAU, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES and House Bill No. 4, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION TO CONSUMERS AND MERCHANTS ENGAGED IN INTERNET TRANSACTIONS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE ELECTRONIC COMMERCE BUREAU, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated September 26, 2023, informing the House of Representatives that on September 25, 2023, the Senate designated Senators Joseph Victor "JV" G. Ejercito, Mark A. Villar, Sonny Angara, Francis G. Escudero and Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2233, entitled:

AN ACT STRENGTHENING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES and House Bill No. 6527, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT TO FOSTER THE GROWTH OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated September 26, 2023, informing the House of Representatives that on September 25, 2023, the Senate designated Senators Win Gatchalian, Sonny Angara, Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino, Mark A. Villar and Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2224, entitled:

AN ACT INTRODUCING ADMINISTRATIVE TAX REFORMS, AMENDING SECTIONS 22, 34, 51, 56, 58, 76, 77, 81, 90, 91, 103, 106, 108, 109, 110, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 128, 200, 204, 236, 237, 238, 241, 242, 243, 245, 248, AND 269 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES and House Bill No. 4125, entitled:

AN ACT INTRODUCING ADMINISTRATIVE TAX REFORMS, AMENDING SECTIONS 21, 22, 51, 56, 57, 58, 77, 81, 90, 91, 103, 106, 108, 109, 110, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 128, 200, 235, 236, 237, 245, AND 248, AND ADDING SECTIONS 312, 313 AND 314 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997", AS AMENDED.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated September 26, 2023, informing the House of Representatives that on September 25, 2023, the Senate designated Senators Imee R. Marcos, Ramon "Bong" Revilla, Jr., Win Gatchalian, Mark A. Villar and Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2028, entitled:

AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE OCTOGENARIANS, NONAGENARIANS, AND CENTENARIANS and House Bill No. 7535, entitled:

AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO FILIPINO CENTENARIANS, RECOGNIZING OCTOGENARIANS AND

NONAGENARIANS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CENTENARIANS ACT OF 2016".

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated September 26, 2023, informing the House of Representatives that on September 25, 2023, the Senate designated Senators Imee R. Marcos, Loren Legarda, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino and Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2001, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NEW PASSPORT LAW, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996", AS AMENDED, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

and House Bill No. 6510, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NEW PASSPORT LAW, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996".

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated September 28, 2023, informing the House of Representatives that on September 27, 2023, the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2224 and House Bill No. 4125, entitled:

AN ACT INTRODUCING ADMINISTRATIVE TAX REFORMS, AMENDING SECTIONS 21, 22, 51, 56, 57, 58, 76, 77, 81, 90, 91, 103, 106, 108, 109, 110, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 128, 200, 204, 229, 235, 236, 237, 238, 241, 242, 243, 245, 248, AND 269; AND REPEALING SECTION 34(K) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated September 28, 2023, informing the House of Representatives that on September 27, 2023, the Senate approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2233 and House Bill No. 6527, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated September 28, 2023, informing the House of Representatives that on September 27, 2023, the Senate passed Senate Bill No. 2221, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated September 21, 2023 of Donaldo B. Robles, Acting Bank Officer VI, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, transmitting to the House of Representatives a duly certified copy of Circular Letter No. CL-2023-048 dated 15 September 2023.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letters dated September 27, 2023 and October 2, 2023 of Christian Oliver R. Valdeavilla, Acting Bank Officer VI, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), transmitting to the House of Representatives duly certified copies of the following BSP issuances:

1. Circular Letter No. CL-2023-049 dated 14 September 2023;
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2023-050 dated 21 September 2023;
3. Circular Letter No. CL-2023-051 dated 22 September 2023;

- 4. Memorandum No. M-2023-027 dated 22 September 2023; and
- 5. Memorandum No. M-2023-028 dated 28 September 2023.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Report dated September 26, 2023 of Honorable Reginald S. Velasco, Secretary General, House of Representatives, on enrolled copies of the consolidated version of House Bill No. 7006 and Senate Bill No. 2165, entitled:

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE AUTOMATIC INCOME CLASSIFICATION OF PROVINCES, CITIES, AND MUNICIPALITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

which were transmitted to the Office of the President, for His Excellency's consideration and signature, pursuant to Section 18(h), Rule VI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Report dated October 24, 2023 of Honorable Reginald S. Velasco, Secretary General, House of Representatives, on enrolled copies of the consolidated version of Senate Bill No. 2019 and House Bill No. 227, entitled:

AN ACT INSTITUTING POLICIES FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF CAREGIVERS IN THE PRACTICE OF THEIR OCCUPATION

which were returned to the Senate and to be transmitted to the Office of the President, for His Excellency's consideration and signature, pursuant to Section 18(h), Rule VI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Letter dated September 28, 2023 of Lucas P. Bersamin, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting two (2) original copies of Republic Act No. 11962, entitled:

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

which was signed by President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos, Jr.  
TO THE ARCHIVES

Letter dated October 12, 2023 of Lucas P. Bersamin, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting two (2) original copies of Republic Act No. 11963, which lapsed into law, entitled:

AN ACT RENAMING THE AGHAM ROAD AND THE BIR ROAD, STRETCHING FROM NORTH AVENUE, TRAVERSING THROUGH QUEZON AVENUE, UP TO EAST AVENUE, ALL LOCATED IN QUEZON CITY, AS SENATOR MIRIAM P. DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO AVENUE  
TO THE ARCHIVES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Report No. 805, submitted by the Committee on Youth and Sports Development and the Committee on Appropriations, on H.B. No. 9347, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 590, 1639, 4065, 5201, 6303, 6441, 6788, 7382 and 8428

Sponsors: Representatives Dy (Faustino Michael Carlos), Yap (Christian Tell), Primicias-Agabas, Atayde, Rodriguez (Rufus) and Tan (Keith Micah)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 806, submitted by the Committee on Population and Family Relations on H.B. No. 9349, entitled:

AN ACT REINSTITUTING ABSOLUTE DIVORCE AS AN ALTERNATIVE MODE FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 78, 2593, 3843, 3885, 4957 and 4998

Sponsors: Representatives Dy (Ian Paul), Lagman, Ferrer (Juliet Marie), Singson (Ronald), Brosas, Castro (France), Manuel, Yap (Edvic), Tulfo (Jocelyn), Soriano, Maniquiz, Alvarez (Pantaleon) and Garcia (Pablo John)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 807, submitted by the Committee on Population and Family Relations on H.B. No. 9350, entitled:

AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE CIVIL EFFECTS OF CANONICAL OR CHURCH DISSOLUTION, OR DECLARATION OF NULLITY OF MARRIAGE

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1021 and 1593, and as a companion measure to the Absolute Divorce Act

Sponsors: Representatives Dy (Ian Paul), Garcia (Pablo John), Romualdez (Yedda Marie), Acidre, Lagman, Ferrer (Juliet Marie), Mastura and Revilla (Ramon Jolo)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 808, submitted by the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations on H.B. No. 9396, entitled:

AN ACT DECLARING THE WATERS SURROUNDING PANAON ISLAND, IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LILOAN, PINTUYAN, SAN FRANCISCO, AND SAN RICARDO, IN THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, A PROTECTED AREA, WITH THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED SEASCAPE UNDER THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM, TO BE REFERRED TO AS THE PANAON ISLAND PROTECTED SEASCAPE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 3743, 4095 and 6677

Sponsors: Representatives Barzaga, Co (Elizaldy), Mercado and Yap (Christopherson)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 809, submitted by the Special Committee on Creative Industries on H.R. No. 1388, entitled:

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING BILLY

CRAWFORD FOR BEING ADJUDGED GRAND CHAMPION IN SEASON TWELVE OF DANSE AVEC LES STARS

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 604

Sponsors: Representatives de Venecia, Benitez, Atayde, Aumentado and Gomez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee Report No. 810, submitted by the Committee on Tourism on H.B. No. 9421, entitled:

AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAPALONGA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE, A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1116

Sponsors: Representatives Madrona and Tallado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the guests of yours truly, Hon. Alfred Delos Santos from ANG PROBINSYANO Party-List, and Hon. Fernando "Didi" Cabredo of the Third District of Albay from the Bicol University in Albay, namely, Ms. Eda Adornado, Ms. Rosemarie Frias, Ms. Noemi Ibo, Ms. Kay Losabia, and Ms. Cynthia Mendoza. With them are 110 students from the Bicol University in Albay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The guests of the Hon. Alfred Delos Santos and Hon. Fernando Cabredo are welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)* Thank you for your visit. Maraming salamat po. Mabuhay po kayo.

Majority Leader.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the guests of Hon. Arnan Panaligan of the First District of Oriental Mindoro. They are Edgardo Basilan, Roderick Logdat, Carina Corro, Ardie Dolor,

Marlyn Calderon, Suzainne Tesorero, Anne Marie Maliwanag, Cathyrene Vista, Jackielyn Dilodilo, Criseldo Nuestro. They are the local government accountants of Oriental Mindoro.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The guests of the Hon. Arnan Panaligan are welcome to the House of Representatives. Thank you for your visit. Mabuhay po kayo. *(Applause)*

Majority Leader.

REP. DELOS SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the guest of Deputy Majority Leader Bong Teves Jr., the World Boxing Council flyweight division champion, Vince Paras.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The guest of the Hon. Bong Teves is welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)* Thank you for your visit. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

Majority Leader.

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Bienvenido Abante of the Sixth District of Manila to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Gentleman from the Sixth District of Manila, the Hon. Bienvenido Abante, is recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ABANTE

REP. ABANTE. Thank you, Majority Leader, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today, I stand before you, Mr. Speaker, my friends and colleagues, and I would like

to talk about the Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators or POGOs. May I call it, "POGOs: the Road to Perdition."

Mr. Speaker, friends and colleagues, magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat.

Today, I rise before you not just as a legislator or your colleague, but as a senior citizen who is concerned about the moral and ethical fabric of our nation — as a grandfather fearful of the kind of society we will bequeath our children and our grandchildren, if we fail to reject vice and weed out the immoral elements in our society.

I also speak out today as a concerned Filipino who believes in the virtues of a nation built on solid moral foundations. Today, Mr. Speaker, I am compelled to address this august Body and speak passionately about an issue that has been plaguing our country today: the Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators or POGOs. As we gather here today to resume our sessions, it is imperative that we reflect upon the consequences of allowing such enterprises to persist in our nation and take a stand on the need to shut the door to POGOs for good.

Proverbs 1:10-15 of the Bible warns us in a translation today, which says, and I quote, "My son, if sinful men entice you, do not give in to them. If they say, 'Come along with us; let's lie in wait for innocent blood, let's ambush some harmless soul; let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit,' we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; cast lots with us; we will all share the loot," end of quote, Mr. Speaker. This passage serves as a stark reminder that seemingly harmless vices, when left unchecked, can lead to heinous crimes and rampant corruption that threaten the moral fabric of our society.

My friends, Mr. Speaker, the POGO industry has often touted the benefits of regulation, but history and experience have shown us that these regulations are insufficient in preventing legal operations from becoming illegal dens of vice and criminality.

Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, please view the most recent news videos that I have put together concerning the POGOs, Mr. Speaker.

May I ask, please, to view this video right now.

*(Audiovisual presentation)*

Just imagine, Mr. Speaker, noong ni-raid po ang POGO hub doon sa Pasay ay nakakita pa po ng torture chamber. Just imagine, torture chamber, Mr. Speaker. Hindi lamang iyan, nakita po ninyo noong November 4, pagkatapos i-raid, naglagay na ng CCTV doon sa building para malaman agad na may nagre-raid at nakita po rito, Mr. Speaker, na meron pa ring mga Chinese na nakatira doon.

May I also add, Mr. Speaker, a POGO-related case. Last October 30, nine people—six of them were Chinese nationals—were abducted in Muntinlupa City's Ayala Alabang Hills; however, three of them, who were Filipinos, were subsequently set free in Calauan, Laguna.

Mr. Speaker, ito pong recent episodes na ito remind us that the pursuit of financial gains through supposedly legal means like gambling is a perilous path that our society should not tread — a road to perdition for the Filipino people.

Mr. Speaker, Apostle Paul cautioned us in 1 Corinthians 10:23, and I quote, in a modern translation, "Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible, but not everything is edifying." We must recognize that legality does not always equate to what is beneficial or edifying for our society. It is my belief that it is not enough for us to be merely content with regulation, especially when dealing with unscrupulous entities that are quick to exploit any regulatory gaps or loopholes.

For example, this Representation has received reports, Mr. Speaker, of Chinese citizens who have been able to secure official documents like birth certificates and driver's licenses. In the statement of Immigration Comm. Norman Tansingco, he mentioned that there were at least 10 recent cases of authentic passports used by illegal aliens. And perhaps, Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, as I stand before you today in this august Chamber, that there are still unreported cases of illegal aliens who were able to illegally acquire Philippine passports,

birth certificates, driver's licenses, and postal identification cards.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, this Representation is completely baffled and perplexed. How do these Chinese individuals manage to get passports from the Philippines? How do they obtain driver's licenses and birth certificates? These are the documents needed for a valid passport.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, I have here a copy of the memorandum issued by the Bureau of Immigration last January 10, 2023, Memorandum No. 2023-004, where 40,000 foreign nationals have been recommended by the Bureau of Immigration Legal Division to lift their names from the BI Alert List. Where is the list containing the names of these 40,000 foreign nationals, Mr. Speaker, and how was the lifting procedure carried out? I demand an answer to these from the Bureau of Immigration.

Mr. Speaker and my fellow colleagues, this is now a national security concern. In various congressional hearings, we have unearthed numerous instances wherein these POGOs have been unable and unwilling to comply with our rules and standards.

These incidents are the bases for recommendations to phase out POGO operations in the country — recommendations I fully support because these POGOs have shown that they cannot be trusted to follow the laws in our land.

In fact, we must commend law enforcement authorities: the Secretary of the Department of Justice, Sec. Jesus Crispin "Boying" Remulla; and the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government, Sec. Benjamin "Benhur" C. Abalos Jr., who were at a time our colleagues in this House, Mr. Speaker, for their relentless pursuit of justice in cracking down on these illegal and immoral enterprises. I commend them for their unwavering commitment to shine alike—as light on the true nature of these operations, revealing the darkness that lurks behind the facade of quick financial gains.

However, I would like to ask the question to our law enforcement agencies kung bakit itong mga Chinese na nakikita ko ay maraming mga escort at mga bodyguard na nanggagaling sa Armed Forces of the

Philippines at sa Philippine National Police, Mr. Speaker? They have shown us that clearly, the price we pay for POGOs is much too high and it is not worth it, Mr. Speaker.

My esteemed colleagues, we have repeatedly been presented with clear evidence that the social costs of POGO operations far outweigh the revenues it generate. Nakita na po natin, POGOs have brought a myriad of problems in our country. It has become a breeding ground for corruption, immorality, illicit activities, prostitution, drugs, and modern-day slavery.

These remind us of the wisdom found in Proverbs 10:2, and I quote, "Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value, but righteousness delivers from death." It is evident that the revenues accrued from POGOs come at the cost of our nation's soul and the well-being of our people. The treasures they bring are ill-gotten and we must not allow it to bring us down the path that leads to perdition.

Batid ko po na kailangan ng gobyerno ng pondo. Pondo, hindi POGO. I contend that our government must seek alternative revenue streams that do not rely on so-called "harmless vices" that ultimately lead to corrupt and unlawful activities.

The question we must grapple with is, do we wish to sustain a source of revenue that is tainted with the suffering of our people, the erosion of our values, and the degradation of our society? Or, should we heed the biblical guidance found in Proverbs 28:6, "Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways." Our path should be clear. It is better to be a nation of integrity. It is better to walk the right path. It is better to reject sin, vice, and corruption.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, it is our moral duty to seek alternative sources of revenue that do not involve vices that inevitably lead to corrupt and immoral activities. We must redirect our focus towards industries and uplift the life of our citizens, strengthen morality, and ensure a brighter future for the next generation.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote in the Book of 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 as a reminder to all, Mr. Speaker, and I quote, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of

the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." Taken from a modern translation of the Bible, Mr. Speaker. We must treat our country as we treat our own bodies. Why? It is a Holy Temple, a blessing from God. To us, He has given us a land blessed with abundance of beauty and resources, many of which remain untapped. Rather than looking to exploit and earn from the darkness that resides in the souls of men and women, should we not find ways to maximize the talents and skills of our people, to employ them in industries that contribute positively to our nation's body and soul?

Mga kaibigan, mga kasama, Mr. Speaker, the time has come to finally shut the door to POGOs and ensure the safety and moral standing of our nation. Let us heed the lessons of the Holy Scriptures which remind us of the importance of righteousness and integrity. It is our solemn duty to put the welfare and moral values of our people above the allure of ill-gotten riches. I implore each one of you to consider the future we are creating for our children, to reject POGOs and the road to perdition, and to stand on the side of righteousness — to stand on the right side of history.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Abante to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the privilege speech of the Hon. Benny Abante is referred to the Committee on Rules.  
Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Dan Fernandez of the Lone District of Santa Rosa City for his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Hon. Dan Fernandez of the Lone District of

Santa Rosa City is recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH  
OF REP. FERNANDEZ

REP. FERNANDEZ. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. Majority Floor Leader, maraming, marami pong salamat. To our colleagues, thank you so much.

I stand here today as I stood here a year ago, same place, same spot, and most likely, I will be delivering the same kind of issues but with more substantial and more enhanced subject that this Representation would like to explore regarding Meralco's monopolistic and monopsonic state of mind.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, siguro you will be wondering bakit yata parang adverse iyong monopoly at monopsony na characteristics ng Meralco. Mr. Speaker, allow me to explain a little bit about iyong tinatawag nating monopoly at monopsony. Kung titingnan po natin ang atin pong Webster dictionary at titingnan po natin iyong Google, makikita po natin iyong "monopolistic" diyan, ang ibig pong sabihin ng monopolistic ay iyong seller ay controlled nito iyong buyer.

In this case, ang Meralco po, hindi lamang po ito distribution utility, Mr. Speaker, ito rin po ay buyer ng mga kuryente, na kino-consider din po natin na nagmamay-ari rin ng ating mga power generators.

As a matter of fact this is being allowed in Section 45 of Republic Act No. 9136, iyong ating tinatawag na EPIRA, iyon pong cross section; we allowed it. Ang tanong, paano naging control ng mga seller o nagbebenta ng kuryente gaya ng Meralco bilang buyer din po ng kuryente? Because we allow the affiliation, we allow na kung saan po ay nakakapagbigay ito ng equity sa mga nagbebenta ng kuryente, thereby constituting a monopolistic attitude.

Alam ninyo, Mr. Speaker, sa lahat po ng ating mga nagbebenta ng kuryente ay sasabihin po ng Meralco, "aba, kami iyong dumadaan sa competitive selection process, meron kaming tinatawag na power supply agreement." But we all know that there is a connivance between the Energy Regulatory Commission and Meralco, and later on, Mr.

Speaker, I will prove that there is a connivance between the Energy Regulatory Commission and Meralco. In the meantime, allow me to speak about what is "monopsony."

Kung sa monopoly ang buyer ay nagko-kontrol ng seller, sa monopsony naman po, ang buyer nako-kontrol niya ang mga seller. "Sandali, Congressman, parang hindi yata nagtutugma iyan, hindi ba? Parang, bakit naman nagko-kontrol ng Meralco ang mga seller?" Dahil ang Meralco po ang nagko-contribute ng ating distribution, ng ating electricity output, 70 percent po ng buong Luzon.

They control the whole of Metro Manila, NCR. They control the whole of the CALABARZON including my province Laguna. They control Pampanga at Bulacan. They are so huge and enormous that they have subdivided the whole franchise. They subdivided it into the central, southern, and northern sector. Dahil napakalaki na po ng prangkisa ng Meralco, they cannot even operate and configuratively operate the Bohol franchise.

Ang iniwasan po nila ay magkaroon ng disturbances ang area at magkaroon ng blackout sa buong Luzon. Remember, Mr. Speaker, 60 percent of our GDP lies in NCR. Dito sa Luzon, 60 percent ang ating GDP. Controlled ng Meralco ang ating economic growth. Isang Board of Director ang nagko-kontrol.

Now, Mr. Speaker, sila po ay monopolistic, sila po ay monosopnic, and I heard that the Metro Pacific Investment Corporation is in the process of acquiring the biggest, the largest natural gas power plant in Ilijan, Batangas, at 2,500 megawatts combined cycle natural gas. Kapag binili na po ng Meralco, which is being owned by MPIC, ang asset ng Meralco at ang Ilijan Power Plant, pag pinagsama mo ang dalawang ito, they will be creating a vertical integration system wherein they will be controlling the fuel supply, the imported fuel facilities, the power supply, and distribution under one Board of Directors.

This concerns our national security because they are so huge and enormous. Ang laki-laki na po nila they are even now expanding and it entails our national security, Mr. Speaker.

Alam ninyo, nakakalungkot na isipin, Mr. Speaker, that we created a monster out of it.

Mr. Speaker, ang Kongresong ito ay naging parte po ng pagbuo ng super franchise. In accordance with Republic Act No. 9513, we created a super franchise for them and the power of this Congress is to amend, to revoke, to suspend, and even subdivide their franchise.

May I remind that Meralco and Metro Pacific Investment Corporation, before they plan to acquire the Ilijan Power Plant--\$700 million po ang Ilijan Power Plant--bilyon-bilyong piso po ang halaga para bilhin ang Ilijan Power Plant. Bago nila bilhin ang Ilijan Power Plant, Mr. Speaker, ibalik po muna nila ang perang siningil nila ng sobra sa 7.6 million subscribers dito sa Luzon, sapagkat hindi po nila na-compute ang kanilang weighted average cost of capital.

Noong isang taon tumayo ako dito, the same place, the same spot, where I interjected that they have not computed that – never. Mula 2015 hanggang sa pagkakataong ito, hindi nila kino-compute ang kanilang weighted cost of capital na kung saan 14.97 percent ang kino-compute nila. Iyon ang percentage ng kanilang profit na pinag-babasehan na kino-compute nila noong 2010 pa.

In accordance to the Rules of Wheeling Rates of Distribution Utility ng ERC, and sabi ng ERC, kada apat na taon iko-compute natin ang pinagkakakitaan ng Meralco sapagkat noong panahon na kino-compute po nila ang weighted average cost of capital noong 2010, all the parameters, the indicators, the risk rate ng bansa, ang interest net rate ng bangko, ang regulatory asset base ng kanilang depreciation, lahat po iyan ay matataas because we have an Asian crisis during that time, and thereby constituting a higher weighted average cost of capital. Dumating po ang 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, hanggang 2015 na lang po iyan. Sabi ng rules ng ERC, Meralco with the connivance of the ERC, they never computed again. Mula noong 2015 hanggang ngayon, hindi pa rin po nagko-compute ang ERC, and in relation with the Asian crisis noong 2010, noong 2014 hanggang 2015, noong wala na po tayong financial crisis, the interest rate, ang risk rate ng bansa, the financial requirements and

other indicators are telling that the weighted average cost of capital is so low.

Ano ang ginawa ng ERC at ng Meralco? They connived dahil pag nag-compute sila noong mga panahon ng 2014, bababa ang weighted average cost of capital. As a matter of fact, I challenge every one of you, tingnan po natin ang WAC ng Meralco today. Dahil sila po ay publicly listed company, they are being externally audited. Nakalabas po diyan kung magkano ang profit nila at lalabas diyan, tingnan po natin ang WAC ng Meralco today, sa Google, 9.23 percent ang kanilang WAC. Ngayon, 9.62 percent ang kanilang WAC at sinisingil nila tayo sa 14.97 percent mula noong 2015 hanggang ngayon. Hindi makatarungan iyan sa atin pong 7.6 million Filipinos na siningil nila ng sobra-sobra mula noong 2015 hanggang ngayon.

Noong unang taon na hindi po nila kino-compute ang WAC noong 2015, that is acceptable. Ikalawang taon na hindi sila nag-compute, that is questionable. Ikatlong taon na hindi sila nag-compute, that is highly debatable. Pero ikaapat, ikalima, ikaanim, ikapito, ikawalo, ikasiyam, ngayon mga sampung taon na, hindi pa rin nila kino-compute, that is incredible.

Iyong mga nandiyan sa ERC mula 2014 hanggang ngayon, we need to invite them, all the commissioners, all the chairpersons must be invited here to be investigated because they had to be held responsible. Why? They never computed, Mr. Speaker. They never computed and we are giving them thousands of pesos of money monthly dahil sila po ay pensioners, hanggang ngayon pensyonado sila. Binabayaran natin sila dahil hindi sila nag-compute ng tamang profit, ng kita ng Meralco. At anong sabi ng Meralco, anong sabi nila? "Meralco cares." Hindi ba anong sabi ni Manong Joe saka ni Ate Maita, "O, bumababa na po ang ating per kilowatt. O, bababa na po tayo ng 50 cents per kilowatt."

Kung kaya if they really care, Mr. Speaker, alam na alam po nila ang WAC, 9.26 percent lang ang profit dapat nila. Kung meron talaga silang moral decency, moral purity and rectitude, they should have told ERC, "Oy, ERC, nakakahiya na sa taong-bayan. Sampung taon na tayong hindi nagko-compute. Hindi

ba, nakita naman natin ang WAC, we were being externally audited, ha." Figures do not lie. Hindi mapasusubalian that they are being externally audited, and we need, Mr. Speaker, ibalik ang sobrang pera sa bayan sa pamamagitan ng cash. Ibalik natin sa 7.6 million Filipinos including you, including me, magbalik sila ng pera sa atin. It is high time, Mr. Speaker, it is high time that this Congress, in accordance with Section 17 or Republic Act No. 9209, creating the franchise of Meralco, be invoked because the power this Congress has given to them, the franchise, is not exclusive.

If public interest so requires, Section 17 will apply. In accordance with Section 14, they never submitted even a single document in this Congress yearly for us to find out the real profit na dapat ay kino-compute po ng ERC. But they never computed in the last nine years. Magsasampung taon na po, mag-iisang dekada na ang sobrang pang-aapi sa ating mga kababayan ay hindi natin mapapayagan.

Ano ang isa sa pinakamabigat na ginawa po ng Meralco? They are economic saboteurs. Sinasabotahe po nila ang ating ekonomiya. Why? In accordance with Republic Act 9513 or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, the government is mandated to encourage our consumers to be a part of the economic growth through energy development.

Ang sabi ng batas, ang puso ng batas, ine-encourage natin ang ating mamamayan na ma-involve sa ekonomiya sa pamamagitan ng paglalagay ng energy development, ng renewable energy facility sa bawat tahanan ng mamamayang Pilipino. Bakit? Kung magkakaroon po tayo ng mga pasilidad na hango sa mga renewable energy like araw, hangin, tubig, basura, at biomass na kung saan magke-create tayo ng koryente and create net metering.

Mr. Speaker, magsi-zero po ang ating Meralco bill. Nadiyan po, tingnan natin ang aking mga kaibigan na nagne-net-metering, zero ang binabayaran nila. Ito ang ikinatatakot ng Meralco, na ang lahat ng ating mga mamamayang Pilipino ay magkaroon ng net metering, thereby constituting no electricity bill sa kanila. Mr. Speaker, zero.

Iyong aking mga kaibigan nagtatanong: How does it work? Paano ba nagwo-work

iyong net metering considering this is not being properly explained to all of us. Ang net metering po, Mr. Speaker, iyong araw na kukunan mo, maglalagay ka ng solar panel sa iyong bahay, makakakuha ka ng koryente, maiipon mo, at dadaan sa iyong metro. Sa net metering, imi-meter, ine-neto nito kung ano iyong nagastos mo na koryente. Kung ano iyong kukunin mo sa Meralco, iyon ang babayaran mo. Kapag nakapag-impok ka ng koryente, io-offset mo lamang iyong ginamit mo at iyong sosobra ie-export mo sa Meralco, may utang pa sa iyo ang Meralco. Mr. Speaker, nagawa ng iba, even iyon atin pong tinatawag na Imperial Subdivision doon po sa San Vicente, Santo Tomas, Batangas, they are solar-powered middle houses, na kung saan wala silang binabayaran kahit singko, may credit pa sa kanila ang Meralco. Tingnan po natin ang Tatag Imperial Homes, na kung saan ito po iyong first solar-powered community na created ng Barangay San Vicente, Santo Tomas, zero po ang binabayaran nila.

And if only, if only the 7.6 million subscribers of Meralco ay makakabit po natin ng tinatawag po nating "renewable energy facility," iyan man po ay solar, iyan man po ay wind, iyan man po ay tubig, iyan man po ay basura, Mr. Speaker, that will help a lot in our economic growth.

A 1.5-kilowatt peak na mapo-produce sa tatlong solar panel, that will create a seven-kilowatt hour of koryente at makaka-develop tayo ng 11.4 gigawatt hour, na in relation sa target ng DOE na magkaroon tayo ng 19 gigawatt by 2014, that will be realized by this country. We do not need to rely on fossil fuel anymore. We do not need to rely on coal because bibigyan natin ng libreng koryente ang ating mamamayan, at dito, Mr. Speaker, if ever, sa pangunguna ng atin pong Speaker Martin Romuladez.

Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker, for allowing us to have this moment to speak to the people, to Meralco, and to all stakeholders of the energy sector. We need to change the game right now, Mr. Speaker, dahil pag hindi po natin binago, Mr. Speaker, wala po tayong patutunguhan.

Maraming, maraming salamat, Speaker Martin Romualdez for giving us a chance.

This is our moment. Huwag nating hayaan na hindi maibalik sa taong-bayan iyong atin pong sobrang ibinayad sa Meralco. Pinahihirapan po ng Meralco ang pagkuha ng mga voluminous permits sa atin pong mga building official through the different LGUs. They conduct their different trainings, having so many requirements. Dati po, ang pagkuha ng requirements sa net metering tatlong linggo. Ngayon, isang taon, hindi pa lumalabas ang iyong mga permit. We have to relax all of these requirements in able for the consumers to be a part of the economic growth and energy development. This is the only way para makalayo tayo sa coal. This is the only way para matulungan po natin ang ating gobyerno.

Tandaan po natin, this is the mandate that was given to us by the Speaker. The Speaker have told us to uplift the life of all our citizens and this is the only way, Mr. Speaker, that we will be going to give back sa ating mga mamamayan. Iyon pong ibabalik na pera ng Meralco, ilagay natin sa mga mahihirap nating mamamayan, mga solar panel, mga net metering.

After 2008 when Republic Act No. 9513 was approved, alam ninyo po ba kung ilan, out of the 7.6 million nagne-net-metering sa buong Pilipinas, sa buong Luzon, only 6,000 individuals had it because of the hardship of getting the requirements being perpetrated by Meralco.

Mr. Speaker, maraming marami pong salamat sa ibinigay ninyong pagkakataon and with this, Mr. Speaker, I hope that this Congress will act on it. I hope that this will be referred on Committee on Legislative Franchises and the Committee on Public Order for us to find out the culpability of those people who have been liable for this irresponsibility, action that they perpetrated to our Filipino people. Sa inyo pong lahat, maraming, maraming salamat and I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno).  
Majority leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Ann Matibag of the First District of Laguna for her manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno).  
The Honorable Matibag is recognized for her manifestation.

#### MANIFESTATION OF REP. MATIBAG

REP. MATIBAG. Mr. Speaker, this Representation stands in support of the statements and proposed resolution of the Representative from the Lone District of Santa Rosa, Laguna, honorable Cong. Dan Fernandez.

The people of San Pedro, Laguna share the same problem and concerns with the people of Santa Rosa, both in the coverage or franchise area of Manila Electric Company.

We are all aware that our country has very high electricity rates and in fact, one of the highest electricity rates not only in Asia, but in the whole world.

We are also aware that our country could not effectively attract foreign investors despite efforts of the government, even by the President himself to encourage investors from other countries to come and put their businesses here. The fact is, investors are not responding well because of frequent power outages and high power rates.

Meralco is, by law, a monopoly distribution utility in the franchise areas enumerated by honorable Rep. Dan Fernandez. But because the Electric Power Industry Reform Act or EPIRA assigned to monopoly DUs the obligation to contract with power generation companies and buy the electricity supply for captive electricity customers, which I served as one of the youngest department heads for corporate services.

Meralco is also a monopsony in the Philippine electricity market being the biggest distribution utility in the country, having an electricity demand that is more than half of the demand of the entire country.

As a monopsony, Meralco could have been instrumental in reducing power rates of the country, the very reason why the electric power industry was reformed by Congress in 2001.

Fast forward to 2023, after 22 long years, the power rates of the Philippines surged instead of reducing to an affordable and

competitive level. From P3 per kilowatt-hour in 2000, we now have P12 per kilowatt-hour.

Why have our power rates increased instead of reduced? Because Meralco has chosen not to use its market power as a monopsony to reduce power rates. Instead, it has chosen to profit as a supplier of electricity. The luxurious profit guaranteed by the Energy Regulatory Commission or ERC as a distributor of electricity is not enough for the Meralco shareholders. Meralco is therefore tempted to choose between reducing power rates for captive customers and increasing its profit as a supplier.

Mr. Speaker, we can help Meralco help our country reduce power rates to save our country. Let us remove the temptation for Meralco that prevents it from reducing power rates in power contracting the generators. We can either divide Meralco, as Congressman Fernandez proposed, or Meralco must give up entirely its interest in the supply of electricity.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support the proposed resolution of our dear Cong. Dan Fernandez. It is high time that we put the interests of the Filipino people first and foremost.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, at mabuhay ang mas matibay, mas pinatataag, at mas pinalakas na Bagong Pilipinas para sa ating magandang bukas.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, may I respond.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Hon. Dan Fernandez may respond.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. I remember that Congresswoman Matibag was from IEMOP before, and most likely the reason why she stood is she can relate on the problem. If I can remember it right, during the time of – mabuti tumayo po kayo – Attorney Matibag when he was the TransCo president, he submitted a weighted average cost of capital noong 2019, but it was set aside by the ERC. They never applied it. Why? Alam na po natin iyon. Hindi naman tayo tanga para hindi natin malaman kung ano iyon.

Anyway, ma-share ko lang sa inyo, may nag-text na po mula sa bahay at ang sabi, “Boss, wala na po tayong koryente.”

Maraming salamat po. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). We thank you Hon. Dan Fernandez and we thank the Lady from the First District of Laguna, the Honorable Matibag, for her manifestation.

Majority Leader.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Hon. France Castro of the Party-List ACT TEACHERS is recognized for her interpellation on the privilege speech of Rep. Dan Fernandez.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Would the Gentleman yield, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. I was amazed, Mr. Speaker, by the privilege speech by our colleague, Rep. Dan Fernandez. Ngayon lang ako nakakita – sabi ko nga nilapitan ko kanina – a very spontaneous speech.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Oo nga po.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Feel na feel, damang-dama niya talaga iyong kanyang speech at nakita ko iyong ating mga congressional staff, Mr. Speaker, ay kinig na kinig. Sabi nila appektado sila.

Pag usapin talaga, Mr. Speaker, ng sikmura, usapin ng utilities, o pangangailangan natin sa bahay ay talagang patok na patok iyan sa ating mga Pilipino.

Agree ako sa speech ni Cong. Dan Fernandez, Mr. Speaker, especially now na talagang nararamdaman natin iyong spike ng pagtaas ng koryente sa ating mga kabahayan. Sabi nga ng isang staff natin dito, nag-iisa lang siya sa bahay, more than P1,000

ang binabayaran, maghapon siya dito, 10 hours. Kaya ganon, Mr. Speaker, kamahal iyong ating koryente. Hindi rin naman natin binabalewala iyong ilang mga provider din ng koryente na napakamahal.

At tama iyong sinabi na tayo na iyong may pinakamahal na koryente siguro sa buong Asia.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Iyan din iyong nagiging dahilan siguro noong ilang mga investment and even the local investors dito ay talagang hirap na hirap.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, that is correct.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Mr. Speaker, ang tanong ko lang sa ating colleague, si Hon. Dan Fernandez, iyong 15 watts from 2015 up to now, iyong nabanggit po ninyong computation, iyong overpricing ng koryente, mayroon na ba tayong estimate noon, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Ang ginawa po kasi nila, Mr. Speaker, according sa Rules ng Distribution Wheeling Rates ng ERC, every four years kailangang binabago mo iyong computation ng pagkakakitaan ng Meralco, at iyon ay nag-expire noong 2015.

Supposedly, noong 2014, magko-compute na sila ng panibagong weighted average cost of capital, na kung saan po ang pinagbabasehan pala nila ay iyong 2010 pa. Kasi four years--2011 to 2015--ang pagbabasehan nila iyong 14.97 percent. Pero nakita nila na noong 2014 bumaba na lahat ng indicators gaya ng risk rates, interest rates kaya ang sabi nila, "Naku, kapag kinompyut natin ito, sigurado ito bababa iyong weighted average cost of capital." Kaya nga puwede ko pong ipakita sa inyo dahil noong 2017, ang weighted average cost of capital natin is 7.7 percent lang.

So, kung mababa ang weighted average cost of capital nila, bababa iyong magiging profit nila. What they did was to have a conversation with the ERC. That is the reason why we will be inviting them to be a part of the investigation because ang ginawa po nila, nagpalit po sila ng tinatawag na interim

maximum allowable revenue. Imbes na mag-compute, ang ginawa po nila, "Bigyan natin sila ng temporary maximum allowable revenue." Iyon ang kikitain nila without computation, without any parameters, without any indicators. It is all projection na itong ibibigay natin sa kanila, iyon ang ginawa ng ERC. Hindi sa loob ng isang taon, hindi sa dalawa, hindi sa tatlong taon, sa loob ng siyam na taon.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes. Okay. Na-gets po natin iyon, naintindihan natin. Marami namang mga corporation, mga kompanya, sinasabi nila nalulugi sila. Pero actually, Mr. Speaker, kung mag-a-agree din sa atin ang ating colleague, si Dan Fernandez, sinasabi nilang nalulugi sila but in fact, pagbaba, bumaba lang siguro iyong kanilang kita pero hindi sila nalulugi. Ganyan iyong nangyayari. Supposedly, iyong ERC ang magre-regulate at magko-control niyan in favor of the consumers, not in favor of Meralco.

Tama po ba, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes. Correct po iyan. At kung ang talagang contention po ng Meralco is that nalulugi sila, it is high time that we renew, i-renew na po natin iyong prangkisa nila at nang sa ganon po, iyong malaking prangkisa na ibinigay po natin sa kanila, hatiin na po natin sa tatlo. Kasi naka-sectorize naman na sila. Central iyong NCR; iyong sa South Luzon, iyong sa CALABARZON; pagdating naman sa north, iyong North Luzon. Hatiin na natin iyong prangkisa nila nang sa ganon, hindi na po sila mahirapan at nalulugi naman pala po pala sila.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes. Ayun pong ibinigay natin na prangkisa sa Meralco, so covered po ba dito iyong, kasi ano na sila e supplier, generator or nagge-generate.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Nagta-transmit, Mr. Speaker. Iyon bang franchise nila dapat bang i-review kung kasama iyong lahat ng iyon doon sa prangkisa.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes. I got your point, Congresswoman Castro.

REP. CASTRO (F.). So, hindi ito parang sa place o sa mga lugar.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Okay. Kasi po iyong sa sinasabi ninyo tungkol sa pagbili po nila ng koryente. Kasi dito po sa Pilipinas, very unique po iyong ating ginawa. Actually, this was not the intent of this House of Representatives 25 years ago. Twenty-five years ago, hindi po iyon ang ating bill na isinumite sa Senado. Ang isinumite natin wala pong cross-ownership. Wala po iyong Section 45 na kung saan ang distribution utility makakabili ito ng koryente sa kanyang mga ka-affiliate. Come to think of it, common sense—common sense dictates, kung ikaw ang distribution utility at affiliated ka sa mga kompanyang ito, di siyempre bibili ka doon sa mga ka-affiliate mo, doon sa mga kasosyo mo. We allowed it, 50 percent under Section 45 ng EPIRA in-allow natin iyon, pero hindi tayo ang nag-allow. Ang nag-allow ay doon sa bicameral, sa Senado, 25 years ago, and that is the reason why we need to review it, we need to delete the cross ownership section para ang Meralco maging distribution utility na lang.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERNANDEZ. At kung pag distribution utility na lang sila, alam mo ba kung ano ang gagawin nila, Congresswoman Castro? Ang sasabihin nila, pababain na natin nang pababain ang koryente, kasi distribution rate lang sila.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes, tama, Mr. Speaker, nag-a-agree din ako doon sa cross ownership. Doon sila nagkakamal noong tinatawag nating “tubo.” Ang atin bang Representasyon from Laguna, Mr. Speaker, would file a House resolution to investigate iyong sinasabi? Ito ay para rin, Mr. Speaker, masingil ng mga consumer iyong excess na tubo or excess na siningil sa ating mga consumer. Iyon kasi ang concern ko.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Iyong masingil ng mga consumer iyong sobra-sobrang siningil mula sa kanila ng Meralco.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Kanina po na nasabi ko, I move for the referral sa Committee on Legislative Franchises and the Committee on Public Order and Safety, para nang sa ganoon po ay makita natin iyong culpability ng Meralco in terms noong sabotaging ng ating economic growth through energy development. Kasi naku-curtail iyong pagbuo natin ng energy development through renewable energy facility, kasi nga pinahihirapan nila iyong mga documentation.

Also, iyong atin pong mga building official in different LGUs, they must be held responsible as well. You know why? They are not undergoing the ARTA, iyong Anti-Red Tape Authority na kung saan, wala na pong face-to-face dapat iyong pagkuha ng permit noong atin pong mga consumer because this is something that will be helpful to our society. Pero ano ang ginagawa nila? Nagkakaroon ng communication.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERNANDEZ. That is the reason why iyong atin pong numbers na nagne-net metering, out of 7.6 million, can you imagine, 6,000 lang ang nagne-net metering? Ni hindi nga nila ina-advertise, hindi ba? I hope that maging klaro po sa ating mga kababayan that we have to fight for this because mayroon tayong pera ngayon na kailangan nating singilin sa Meralco.

REP. CASTRO (F.). Okay. Iyon po, Mr. Speaker, malinaw po na talagang may pangangailangan na ma-review iyong franchise. May pangangailangan na i-hold din natin accountable itong ERC dahil nagpabaya for how many years, tama po? Kaya ako po ay sumusuporta doon man sa resolusyon na ipapasa po ng ating colleague na si Hon. Dan Fernandez.

Thank you po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERNANDEZ. Thank you po.

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

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Dan Fernandez, the interpellation of the Hon. France Castro, and the manifestation of the Hon. Ann Matibag to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the privilege speech of the Hon. Dan Fernandez, along with the manifestation of the Honorable Matibag and the interpellation of the Honorable Castro, are referred to the Committee on Rules.

Majority Leader.

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Brian Yamsuan of the Party-List BICOL SARO to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Gentleman from the Party-List BICOL SARO, the Hon. Brian Raymund S. Yamsuan, is recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. YAMSUAN

REP. YAMSUAN. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, transportation infrastructure is an essential ingredient for economic growth. Railways, in particular, play an important role in sustaining development, both in the rural and urban areas.

Of significant relevance, esteemed colleagues, is the PNR South Long Haul System or commonly known as the Bicol Express. It served as a lifeline, not just for Bicolanos but for the families and communities residing in the vast embrace of South Luzon. Sino nga ba ang hindi nakakikilala sa Bicol Express?

However, despite its historical and cultural significance, and its boundless potential for economic growth, the railway's infrastructure had been neglected for far too

long, leading to the permanent cessation of its operation.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, karaniwan pong oragon ang tawag sa mga Bicolano. They have rightfully earned this appellation owing to their fighting spirit, their resilience, and their determination to succeed.

But being an oragon is not enough to empower them. The government should provide opportunities that would elevate the quality of life of every Bicolano. Rehabilitating and reopening the Bicol Express is a single, most impactful project that I believe would achieve this goal.

First, a modern Bicol Express is expected to shorten the travel time from point-to-point, from the usual 12 hours to only about four hours. Its passenger trains can even run at a speed of 160 kilometers per hour as envisioned by the Department of Transportation.

Kapag po kami nagla-land travel mula Maynila hanggang Bicol, matutulog akong nasa Quezon. Paggising ko po ay nasa Quezon pa rin kami dahil sa haba ng biyahe. This is the challenge faced by our commuters from Bicol to Manila and vice versa, and these include university students, industry and service workers, and businessmen and women.

The revamped Bicol Express will offer our people a safe, affordable, convenient, and comfortable mode of transport going to and from Bicolandia. Complemented by an international airport, I am certain that the Bicol Express will help transform the region into Luzon's gateway to the Visayas and Mindanao.

Ang pangalawa po, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, ay trabaho. When the government was still considering China to fund the project, Chinese Ambassador Huang Xilian said that the Bicol Express trains will serve up to 14.6 million passengers per year upon its operation. It is also expected to create over 5,000 direct jobs during its construction and thousands more in related areas upon its completion.

May commitment din po ang Kagawaran ng Transportasyon na bigyang prayoridad sa trabaho ang mga naninirahan sa lugar na dadaanan ng Bicol Express. Tiyak na maraming Bicolano ang mabibigyan ng

trabaho dahil ang plano ng DOTr ay labing-isang istasyon po ng Phase One ng Bicol Express project ang dadaan sa mga probinsiya ng Camarines Sur at Albay.

Noong 2022, tumaas ang ekonomiya ng Bicol sa 8.1 percent mula sa 4.3 percent noong 2021. Ito po ang ikalima sa pinakamataas na growth increase sa buong bansa. Ayon sa Philippine Statistics Authority, transportasyon ang isa sa growing industries sa rehiyon. Imagine if the Bicol Express were back in operation—the businesses it will generate, the industries it will revitalize, and the jobs it will create could turn Bicol into an economic powerhouse in Southern Luzon. When the Bicol Express chugs back to life, every station it passes along its lines from Laguna, Batangas, and Quezon will be a busy hub for economic activity.

The accessibility of trains to Bicol's key areas will also bolster the tourism industry in the region. Riding the Bicol Express itself would be a unique experience for tourists as it would provide its passengers scenic views of Bicol's countryside and the breathtaking sight of the majestic Mayon Volcano when the trains reach Albay.

In the grandest scheme of things, the rehabilitation of the Bicol Express Line will enable our government to uphold our global commitment to environmental preservation. According to the International Energy Agency or the IEA, rail accounts for 8 percent of the world's motorized passenger movement and 7 percent of freight transport, yet, it uses 2 percent of the world's transport energy demand.

A senior railway specialist at the World Bank Group even said that railways—whether diesel or electric-powered, are more efficient and generate lower emissions per passenger per ton of goods than almost all movement by road. While not necessarily optimal, using diesel fuel for rail freight generates only a quarter to a third of the greenhouse gas emissions produced by trucks.

Therefore, even if the Bicol Express were to run on diesel again, it would still have lesser impact on our carbon footprint than gasoline-powered car and trucks traversing the same route.

We recognize the efforts of the previous administration to begin the rehabilitation of the rail system with the construction of the 380-kilometer Bicol Express Line to be funded under the contract for the P142 billion PNR South Long-Haul Project. Meanwhile, President Marcos has identified the development of the system as among the priority projects of his administration.

While the Department of Transportation has recently confirmed that the Philippines would not proceed with the P142-billion funding loan from China, we remain optimistic that the current administration will see the project through to fruition. A testament to this is the recent move by the DOTr to proceed with the construction of housing units for residents in Laguna and Quezon who will be directly affected by the project.

Moreover, the DOTr's decision to explore alternative financing options for the rehabilitation of the Bicol Express Line presents an opportunity for the government to access more cost-effective means of modernizing the Bicol Express. This strategic move could potentially yield lower implementation costs, making the project even more feasible and impactful.

Ang akin naman pong mungkahi ay idaan po natin sa PPP o Public-Private Partnership kung nararapat upang mabigyan ng karampatang pondo ang proyekto. Ang kailangan po natin ay express na solusyon at express din na aksiyon. Panahon na po upang ibalik sa mapa ang Bicol sa pamamagitan ng pagbuhay ng Bicol Express.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, revitalizing the Bicol Express Line is not merely a matter of infrastructure. It is a testament to our commitment to progress and development. It is about ensuring that all Filipinos, regardless of their location, have access to the opportunities and resources they deserve.

The renaissance of the Bicol Express Line will serve not only as an economic driver but as a powerful engine that would bridge communities and realize dreams while safeguarding the heritage of the Bicolanos. I trust that we will be united behind this cause as we build the future where our railways

bind our nation's provinces to the heart of Metro Manila, propelling us towards greater inclusivity and prosperity.

Marhay na hapon and Dios mabalos sa indo gabos!

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

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Honorable Bordado for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno).  
The Honorable Bordado is recognized to interpellate the Honorable Yamsuan.

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am just a bit intrigued but at the same time elated by the privilege speech of Representative Yamsuan, virtually declaring the renaissance of the so-called "Bicol Express."

Mr. Speaker, as early as 2018, the so-called "renaissance" was already being brooded about, prompting many Bicolanos, including me, of course, to hope for the best, yet it is now 2023 and everything seems to be in a state of limbo. Just before the start of our budget hearing, the Department of Transportation categorically accepted the difficulty of implementing the Bicol Express Project because its principal financier, a Chinese banking institution, backed out.

I just hope, Mr. Speaker, that the so-called "renaissance of the Bicol Express" will be truly achieved this time. I am just wondering, Mr. Speaker, how this will be financed.

REP. YAMSUAN. Mr. Speaker, thank you, distinguished colleague, from the province of Camarines Sur.

Yesterday, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation held a press conference during a forum that was hosted by the economic journalist where he also expressed that the countries like India, Japan, and South Korea have already given their intention to fund railway projects in the Philippines, and one that they are looking for, is the Bicol Express Project. I am optimistic, Mr. Speaker,

that with the recent withdrawal of our loan agreement with China, I am sure that with the countries mentioned by our Secretary, I think it is a very optimistic day for us because we just had our Japanese Prime Minister visit these halls of Congress. I think with the funding from JICA, ADB, and other financial institutions, our dream of realizing a Bicol Express Line in our lifetime will be realizable.

Ang kailangan lang po natin, Mr. Speaker, ay talagang pagtuunan ng pansin at laging paalalahanan ang ating pamahalaan na huwag tayong kakalimutan sa mga proyektong kanilang binabalangkas pagdating ng panahon.

REP. BORDADO. In other words, Mr. Speaker, you are telling us that the Department of Transportation is looking for another financier for this project.

REP. YAMSUAN. Yes, because the Secretary of Transportation said that the withdrawal of the ODA Agreement with China was necessary because, as you said, as early as 2018, this was discussed. But unfortunately, because of the lack of progress that happened during the negotiation, we really had to withdraw and find other solutions to really realize our dream of having a Bicol Express Project.

REP. BORDADO. Mr. Speaker, Representative Yamsuan was telling us about the possibility of negotiating with the government of Japan.

REP. YAMSUAN. Japan, India, and South Korea, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BORDADO. Japan and South Korea.

REP. YAMSUAN. And India. They have given their intentions of funding railway projects all over the Philippines, and one that was mentioned was the South Long Haul Project or commonly known as the Bicol Express.

REP. BORDADO. Mr. Speaker, I really do hope that everything will be achieved, and as stated by my colleague here, the Bicol Express

has been playing a critical role in the lives of many Bicolanos.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Representative Yamsuan.

REP. YAMSUAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished colleague from Camarines Sur.

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

REP. ACHARON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of the Honorable Yamsuan and the interpellation of the Honorable Bordado be referred to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. The privilege speech of the Honorable Yamsuan, along with the interpellation of the Honorable Bordado, are hereby referred to the Committee on Rules. Majority Leader.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, considering that there are still a number of colleagues who wish to avail of the Privilege Hour, may I move for the extension of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Privilege Hour is hereby extended. Majority Leader.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong of the First District of Lanao del Sur to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Gentleman from the First District of Lanao del Sur, the Honorable Adiong is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH  
OF REP. ADIONG

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

In the name of God, the most gracious, the most merciful.

All praises due to Allah, the sovereign Creator of the universe, the God of no equal.

Peace and blessings be upon the progeny of the Prophet, Prophet Muhammad, *Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam*, and to His fortunate companions.

Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, magandang hapon po sa ating lahat.

*Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu.*

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address this honorable Chamber and to speak about terror.

Mr. Speaker, the terror of uncertainty, of an unending siege, of the shadow of endless conflict, to live not knowing whether there will be food, water, or even clean air in the next hour, to live not knowing where to escape or to turn to, to live not knowing whether you would be alive in the next few minutes, and to live in a life consistently under siege — that life has been the reality of the citizens of Gaza for decades and has become ever grimmer since October 7th of this year.

Mr. Speaker, let us paint a haunting and tragic portrait of the humanitarian nightmare happening now in Gaza. Imagine a sprawling enclave of 2.2 million Palestinians where nearly half of the population are innocent children. Their lives are ensnared within the suffocating grip of the Israeli Defense Force or the IDF, an iron-fisted regime that has imposed a ruthless stranglehold on every facet of their existence.

Mr. Speaker, Gaza, a place where the sky, the land, and the sea all bear the heavy chains of an unrelenting blockade. This prison without walls, this dystopian reality is marked by a terrifying landscape of endless checkpoints manned by the Israeli Defense Force. At these checkpoints, the people of Gaza are compelled to beg for permission, to plead for their meager freedom, their passports clutched in trembling hands. To move from one village to another, from one corner from their home to the next, they must grovel for approval from the IDF, like prisoners in their own land.

The torment, Mr. Speaker, does not stop there. Under the shadow of what Amnesty International chillingly dubs “The Occupation of Water,” the Israeli authorities exercise total control over the water resources,

infrastructure, and pricing in Gaza. In this desolate realm, the average Palestinian is forced to survive on a paltry of 20 to 70 liters of water each day, a pitiful ration that falls far below the United Nations' recommended minimum of 100 liters daily. Meanwhile, just beside their parched homes, the average Israeli settler in Gaza revels in a staggering 300 liters of water daily, a stark contrast that serves as a bitter reminder of the stark disparities in this tale of two worlds.

In the eyes of international humanitarian rights organizations, be they from Israel, Palestine, or the United Nations, this brutal reality is unequivocally labeled an Apartheid Regime. The suffering, the injustice, the heart-wrenching disparity of life in Gaza paints a portrait of anguish, a symphony of despair, and a glaring testament to the enduring human spirit in the face of insurmountable adversity.

Mr. Speaker, on October 7, 2023, this living nightmare reached a ghastly peak. Hamas militants were able to breach into Israel's blockade barriers which resulted to abduction and death of residents therein. In retaliation, the Gaza strip has been bombarded and assaulted, day in and day out, for more than a month and up to this very day.

The targeting of innocent civilians is terror, full stop. It is terror for concert goers to die in a hail of bullets. It is terror for innocent children to die in a bombing campaign. It is terror for civilians to be taken hostage. It is terror for civilians to be forcibly taken from their homes and imprisoned without trial. It is terror to shoot rockets indiscriminately onto civilian homes and infrastructure. It is terror to drop bombs indiscriminately onto the same. Let us not mince words, Mr. Speaker, whether by a hand of an insurgent or a militants, or by the orders of a state's military, terror is terror, and this terror must stop.

Mr. Speaker, what is happening in Gaza has been dubbed a "textbook case of genocide." That is the expert opinion of not this Representation but an Israeli scholar, Raz Segal, associate professor of Holocaust and genocide studies at Stockton University, and I quote, "Under international law, the 'crime of genocide' is defined by 'the intent to destroy,

in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such...' In its murderous attack on Gaza, Israel has loudly proclaimed this intent. Israel Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant declared it in no uncertain terms on October 9th of this year that they are imposing a complete siege on Gaza. No electricity, no food, no water, no fuel. Everything is closed. We are fighting human animals, and we will act accordingly." This dehumanizing language is clearly calculated to justify the wide scale destruction of Palestinian lives.

Mr. Speaker, the UN Genocide Convention lists five acts that fall under its definition. Israel is currently perpetrating three of these in Gaza:

1. Killing members of the group;
2. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; and
3. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.

The Israeli Force face its own account, has so far dropped more than 6,000 bombs on Gaza, which is one of the most densely populated areas in the world. This demonstrates clearly what Gallant means by "act accordingly," not targeting individual Hamas militants, as Israel claims, but unleashing deadly violence against Palestinians in Gaza "as such," in the language of the UN Genocide Convention.

"Human animals," Mr. Speaker – mga hayop na nagkatawang tao. In another speech Gallant said, and I quote, "Gaza will not return to what it was once before, we will eliminate everything." Uubusin natin silang lahat, kung tayo ay ide-define o ita-translate sa ating sariling wika.

Mr. Speaker, as pointed out by Professor Segal, the intent demonstrated by these and many other statements from Israeli officials, coupled with their actions of killing, causing severe harm, and imposing conditions of life intended to result in physical destruction amounts to genocide. He is not alone in this assessment. UN Special Rapporteurs have warned that time is running out to prevent a genocide in Gaza. The escalating horrors have reached a critical juncture, leading to the resignation of Craig Mokhiber, Director of the New York Office of the UN High

Commissioner for Human Rights. In his resignation letter, he declared that like the tragedies of the Tutsis, the Bosnian Muslims, Yazidis, and Rohingya, we are failing to prevent a genocide of Palestine.

Mr. Speaker, in the month since October 7, we have borne witness to countless horrors visited upon the people of Gaza. As of November 2, 2023, a heart-wrenching tally emerges — 3,600 innocent children, their lives mercilessly snuffed out in Gaza. UNICEF, their cries echoing through history, has denounced it as "a collective stain on our humanity." More than 45 families, entire legacies, were obliterated from the census, their existence erased permanently.

In the relentless crucible of conflict, the number become a haunting refrain: a staggering 9,000 souls have perished during these hostilities. Among them, a nightmarish account unfolds, over 1,400 souls lost during the gruesome acts of terror on October 7 and a further 5,000 souls vanishing into the abyss during the ceaseless, brutal siege that chokes the life of Gaza. The devastation knows no bounds, and the weight of these numbers is a harrowing testament to the depths of human suffering.

Mr. Speaker, parents in Gaza have begun to write on the forearms of their children so that if a bomb or the resulting debris would mangle their child's corpse, they would be able to identify them. We must recognize that with the death of innocents in Gaza, in Israel, in the West Bank, we too are victims. It is our shared humanity which has helped us endure so much, that it mangled alongside the bodies of children.

Mr. Speaker, Gaza remains under siege. Gaza is continuously bombarded. Each new air strike followed quickly with the refrain, "There was a Hamas terrorist there." In bakeries and fishing boats, in hospitals and ambulances, in churches and in mosques, in universities and schools, there seems to be a Hamas terrorist everywhere. Fire rains down from the skyline like an unforgiving storm. In the downpour, it has leveled the entire residential blocks. A flood of dust and debris carrying away a people's culture, a people's heritage, their very soul. It is a typhoon of death that takes away life and hope.

If you view these atrocities as religious or ideological, I urge you, ladies and gentlemen, to disassociate yourself from that thought. Jews, Muslims and Christians, Arabs, and non-Arabs shelter side by side in those hospitals and churches. Yes, Mr. Speaker, there are Christian Palestinians. Their bodies mangled together by the IDF bombs; they are buried side by side in the rubble. Their crime? Being a Palestinian.

International law vehemently condemns such heinous acts. The very essence of its principles underscores that those not actively involved in hostilities must be shielded from the horrors of violence, degradation, and inhumanity. Yet, in a macabre twist, combatants and innocent bystanders are bound together seemingly awaiting their collective demise in an unfathomable form of punishment.

Mr. Speaker, the sinister question to relocate under the ominous shadow of violence and death, morphs into a nightmarish tableau of forced displacement. These grave offenses are not mere transgressions; they are brazen affronts to the very core of international law. The deliberate targeting of hospitals, ambulances, schools, churches, aid workers and the press evokes a chilling symphony of illegality that reverberates across the global stage, a dark drama of lawlessness and inhumanity.

To this day, Mr. Speaker, 134 Filipinos remained in Gaza; however, only 43 of them have indicated their intent to be repatriated. The rest are unable to leave. I emphasize that they cannot leave as doing so would mean being forcibly being separated from their Palestinian spouses and potentially even from their children.

As a husband and a father, I cannot fathom leaving my wife and children, my family in the midst of a siege. Every explosion reported in the news would ignite the darkest fears in the heart. The sheer uncertainty of their well-being would be an unbearable burden to carry.

Article XV, Section 1 of our Constitution explicitly states in part, and I quote, "... recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation." As such, the State is tasked to "...strengthen its solidarity..." This principle,

Mr. Speaker, is deeply embedded in our laws and in our official actions, reiterated time and again through our laws and judicial decisions that "The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a fundamental self-governing social institution."

Mr. Speaker, we acknowledge the efforts of the Department of Foreign Affairs in assisting our citizens and their families in Gaza. We commend their courage and their resilience. We want to impress upon them that our citizens are entitled to the protection of our Constitution, which holds the unity of their families as sacrosanct. Therefore, we urgently implore the DFA and all foreign embassies, their partners involved in this, Mr. Speaker, to allow our citizens and their families to return home to the Philippines.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we align ourselves with the prevailing sentiment of the international community and demand an immediate cessation of hostilities. Gaza is in dire need of essential humanitarian aid, and it is our moral duty to ensure its uninterrupted flow to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, our responsibilities extend beyond humanitarian assistance. We must resolutely advocate for a return to the negotiating table, a renewed commitment to upholding agreements that pave the way for a just and enduring peace. This means, Mr. Speaker, breaking the chains of the blockade, dismantling the structures of apartheid and heralding the birth of a fully recognized Palestinian State under the two-State solution.

It is our collective duty, Mr. Speaker, to stand for these principles, championing the costs of lasting peace in a region ravaged by conflict for far too long.

For all those who have perished, ceasefire now.

For all those who remain, ceasefire now.

For all that is good in humanity, ceasefire now.

Peace, mercy and blessings upon the people of Palestine. *Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.*

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). What is the pleasure of the Hon. Rufus Rodriguez?

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). I wish to interpellate the Gentleman from Lanao del Sur if he will accept my intervention.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Will the Honorable Adiong respond?

REP. ADIONG. I will be glad to exchange views with the Gentleman from Cagayan de Oro City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Hon. Rufus Rodriguez may proceed.

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Gentleman from Lanao del Sur.

This conflict in Israel and the Palestinian people, when did it really start, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, the topic of this particular privilege speech of mine is about the October 7<sup>th</sup> and what resulted after that. But the conflict, if the Gentleman from Cagayan de Oro wishes this humble Representation to respond to the conflict, in general, between Palestine and Israel, it started during the 1940s on the Balfour Declaration, meaning seizing the lands of the Palestinians in order to allow the establishment of a Zionist regime in Israel.

The Arabs called this "Nakba." More than 750,000 innocent Palestinians were forcibly displaced and this is the start, Mr. Speaker, of the conflict that we are seeing now. For 75 years, the conflict has been going on, since 1948, if I am not mistaken.

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). In 1948, that is correct, when the United Nations allowed Ben Gurion and the other leaders of Israel to occupy Palestinian lands. Going now to the recent conflict which has a very dangerous prospects of a wider regional conflict, what is the stand of the Gentleman as to the two-State solution, Israel as a State and the recognition of Palestine as another State?

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, that is the most viable solution in order to address the 75-year conflict between Palestine and Israel. In fact, it has already been agreed upon in 1993. If I am not mistaken, the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel and his counterpart then, the Chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, the late Yasser Arafat, whom if I may mention was a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Mr. Speaker — this was brokered by the United States in 1994 — agreed that there will be two independent separate States: one is for Palestine and one for the State of Israel. This has been agreed upon between the leaders of these two countries.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, after the signing of what they call the “Camp David Accord,” the Israeli government fails, up to now, to honor the signature in recognizing a Palestinian State.

The Israeli government has control, a total control over the water resources, over the in and out local trades, in and out of Gaza. A common resident of Gaza, a Palestinian, needs to secure permit from the IDF in order to visit another village. There is an ongoing blockade, they call it the “sea blockade,” and the land that is also been controlled, the transportation, logistics are also being controlled by the Israeli government. No State can survive in that kind of situation, which is a blatant violation of the two-State solution.

If we are to really be serious about giving rights and freedom to the Palestinian people so that this conflict will be resolved once and for all, then Israel must recognize the existence of a Palestinian State. Meaning, they need to revoke, move away from the remaining Palestinian lands declared under the Oslo Accord, which is basically the essence of a two-State solution, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Precisely, Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin were given the Nobel Prize. Would you know what happened to Prime Minister Rabin?

REP. ADIONG. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, when he went back—I do not know if that incident happened in Israel or Tel Aviv, he was assassinated, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, I have read reports that the culprit that was apprehended, the gunman was apprehended, and the reason that he assassinated Yitzhak Rabin is that because of agreeing to that two-State solution — meaning giving lands to the Palestine as an independent State.

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. If you go to Israel now, the site where he was assassinated is now called the “Rabin Square.” Precisely, there were fundamentalist Israelis who did not agree and Rabin was assassinated. His death does not mean that the two-State solution will not be enforced.

I agree with the Gentleman from Lanao del Sur who has a full grasp of the situation in the Middle East, especially in the areas of Israel and Palestine, that the only way forward to stop the war is a two-State solution. Mr. Speaker, do you agree with the Philippine government in abstaining from the United Nations resolution?

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, while I understand the reasoning of our representative to the UN that the resolution did not mention anything about the Hamas being a terrorist organization, the killing there which resulted when they were able to breach the blockade, the Israeli IDF headquarters, that resulted to the killings, murder and death of one OFW. I completely understand where he is coming from. But it would have been better because the resolution calls for secession of hostilities to allow a peace corridor for humanitarian aid — international humanitarian aid to come into Gaza.

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, though I understand the position of our representative to the UN, my take on that is it would have been better to express our stand for peace and security in the Middle East had we voted in favor of allowing the humanitarian aid to enter into Gaza. Mr. Speaker, this is also in line

with the official statement of Malacañang that the President himself, Pres. Bongbong Marcos said that “I join the international call for de-escalation in the conflict area,” Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). I agree, Mr. Speaker, and I disagree with our government. I disagree with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Ambassador for casting an abstention vote in this particular case, because it was a resolution for a ceasefire and the only way to stop the killings in the Hamas area, the Gaza Strip is really to have a ceasefire.

The Israelis already secured their pound of flesh. More than 10,000 have been killed already. You cannot compare the numbers like 1,000 for the Israelis and 10,000 for the Palestinians. This particular conflict, Mr. Speaker, will never end and it might result in a wider conflagration if no ceasefire should have been done.

We urge those who have the power like the United States because with the United Nations there can be vetos during the executive council by the United States; there can be a resolution which may not be able to have the teeth to stop the war. But I believe that for humanity, to be able to proceed with a peaceful co-existence between Israel and Palestinian, the time has come when the Philippine government should be able to insist and to be able to promote a two-State solution — Palestine State and Israel already an existing State.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Gentleman from Lanao del Sur if there is a Palestinian State, what will be the configuration of the Palestinian State?

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, in the current geographical location of the Palestinian State, it appears, Mr. Speaker, that there are two separate areas considered to be a Palestinian land.

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). That is right, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ADIONG. One is the Gaza where the current conflict is happening, and there is West Bank, where Jerusalem is located, Mr. Speaker. When in the West Bank, the

popular political outcry and supported by the populace in the West Bank, is the Fatah advocacy. Fatah, meaning the Palestinian Liberation Organization advocacy of pushing for a two-State solution.

In Gaza, Mr. Speaker, in the 2006 elections where the Palestinian local elections were held, Hamas won in that election. Meaning, that Gaza is where the Hamas group is operating or has a predominant influence in Gaza, and that is where the conflict is now happening.

Mr. Speaker, if we look at the map of Palestine, it has absurdity because you need to pass through the Israeli territory before you can get into the West Bank. But let me just point out, Mr. Speaker, that in the West Bank, there is no or there is a minimal support for Hamas advocacy, Mr. Speaker. But they are continuously suffering displacement because the Israeli government is very active in their said resettlement program in areas, seizing away the remaining lands for the Palestinians, Mr. Speaker.

This conflict, Mr. Speaker, speaks of two things: one is the current conflict in Gaza, and the other one is the ongoing and continuous program and policy of the Israeli government to seize the remaining lands of Palestinians. If we are really to support and push for a two-State solution, we must also recognize at the same time, that Israel needs to stop their blockade on Gaza and stop seizing the lands, remaining lands, of the Palestinian people, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. In fact, we have the Gaza Strip along the Mediterranean Coast and the West Bank which was part of Jordan. Now, how about Hebron? How about the areas not in the West Bank but part of Israel, where the Palestinian Authority is present in Hebron? Are you not going to include it in the Palestinian States?

REP. ADIONG. I just mentioned, Mr. Speaker, the two areas in the map that are considered to be a part or have already been declared as part of the Palestinian lands. Hebron, if I am not mistaken, Mr. Speaker is still continuously being pushed as part of the Palestinian land, but this is a contested area,

Mr. Speaker. I believe some parts of the Golan Heights and some areas in the northern part, Mr. Speaker, are still also being deliberated and being declared a part of the Israeli government in Israeli territory. The uniqueness, Mr. Speaker, of this situation is that the only country that is expanding, Mr. Speaker, is Israel. It is expanding its territory outside and within the areas of Palestine. But if that is the part of the expansion or part of declaring or recognizing a really, truly a Palestinian State, then I think there has to be first, go back to the basics and declare these two areas, Gaza and the West Bank as part of the Palestinian lands. Other areas, Mr. Speaker, may also be included.

May I also reechoe the statement of the Gentleman from Cagayan de Oro that the Philippines has to join the international pressure for the Israeli government and the Palestinian authorities – Palestinian government to sit down and go back to the basics, to go back to the agreed negotiation; but a prerequisite to that, maybe, Mr. Speaker, is for the Israeli government to recognize that the people in the Gaza Strip has the right to exist. Stop the blockade first, and stop this war.

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). I agree, Mr. Speaker. But the reason why the West Bank, the Golan Heights of Syria, including Jerusalem, was taken by the Israelis because of the 1967 war.

REP. ADIONG. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). In that war, Israel was surrounded by Egypt, by Jordan, and by Syria.

REP. ADIONG. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). The problem was, in that war, they were surrounding Israel but they lost in seven days. All of these countries lost to Israel. Nakabawi lang sa Yom Kippur War, when Egypt had a good plan to attack, but then there was a ceasefire.

Mr. Speaker, our distinguished colleague was saying that if we have a Palestinian State, it should consist of the Gaza Strip, and also the West Bank.

Now, would the Hamas leave Hebron and go to the West Bank to be able – just to give, for example, to already give the Israelis their land which is what they are occupying now? Then, we have to agree that Jerusalem – East and West Jerusalem – are already in the hands or in the Israel State. Mr. Speaker, would our distinguished colleague agree since Jerusalem, where we have the Jews, we have the Christians, and we have the Muslims together, would the Palestinian authority agree that Jerusalem would now really be the territory of Israel? That is one of the issues, Mr. Speaker. What does the Gentleman say about that?

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak for the PLO and for the Palestinian Movement.

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). What do you think, Mr. Speaker? In full grasp of it, what do you think about this?

REP. ADIONG. Mr. Speaker, if we go back to the two-State solution, Jerusalem was included, was part, declared as part of the West Bank and, therefore, a capital of the West Bank. This is also caused in by the international community – in the United Nations. The Gentleman from Cagayan de Oro mentioned that the Abrahamic faith resides, alongside, and side by side among the Christians, Jews, and the Muslims. There have been calls by the international community to consider Jerusalem as part of an international so-called “neutral area.”

But if I were to be asked, Mr. Speaker, my take on this is that it should be part of the Palestinian State as a capital. If we go back in history, Mr. Speaker, all the people there that inhabited these lands in Jerusalem, Mr. Speaker, all considered to be Palestinian lands, Mr. Speaker.

REP. RODRIGUEZ (R.). Mr. Speaker, that is a very good opinion, but the situation is, there can be no two-State solution if Jerusalem will be given to the West Bank. That has already been for many years somehow, about more than 50 years that they are already there.

So, these are things, Mr. Speaker, that have to be, really be threshed out. These are problems of the two-State solution, but I believe that it has to be done; otherwise, the killings will continue, and innocent civilians and children are dying now in the Gaza Strip. I always look at it and I ask, "How can this still happen in this age?"

That is why I am fully agreeable with the statement of the Gentleman from Lanao del Sur that it is about time that the Philippines would, first, strongly call for a ceasefire. The further incursion of the Israeli army into the West Bank territory is really, war against the Palestinians, including its civilians. There should be a ceasefire and the Philippines should have voted in favor of the Resolution asking for a ceasefire, allowing the crossing in the Rafah border, the crossing of innocent civilians and foreign nationals, including our Filipinos who are now in the Gaza area.

Mr. Speaker, they should allow humanitarian aid to come in. It is not enough. There should be more humanitarian convoys of trucks to be able to help our hapless Palestinians who are there or in South Gaza but many are still left in Northern Gaza.

Third, Mr. Speaker, we should strongly insist already that our foreign policy should be towards the two-State solution. That is a matter of now since the Camp David Accord, which has been quite some time, that can now be followed and also secure boundaries that are now being held.

What I see that if there is no two-State solution, Mr. Speaker, the war would continue. It may stop for a while, just like when it stopped after 1967, the Yom Kippur War, but it will again erupt because the Palestinians have no State and it is about time that we, the Philippines, should look at all of these, and the way towards peace is, our Lanao del Sur Representative is correct, is to be able to have a two-State solution.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate our distinguished colleague from Lanao del Sur who has a very, very comprehensive grasp of the situation of Israel vis-à-vis the Palestinians in the Middle East. I congratulate and join him in his call for an immediate ceasefire; the entry of aid, humanitarian aid

to Gaza; the lifting of controls in Rafah to allow foreigners and others to get out; and very importantly, the way to go forward, Mr. Speaker, is to have a two-State solution-- Israel as a State, Palestine as the other State.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much, distinguished colleague.

REP. ADIONG. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much to the Gentleman from Cagayan de Oro for joining the call for a ceasefire. Daghang salamat, Manong Rufus.

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

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Zia Adiong, as well as the interpellation of the Honorable Rodriguez to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The privilege speech of the Honorable Zia Adiong, as well as the very interesting discussion that ensued as a result of the interpellation with the Hon. Rufus Rodriguez, are all referred to the Committee on Rules.

Majority Leader.

REP. PALMA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Raoul Danniell Manuel of the Party-List KABATAAN for his privilege speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Gentleman from the Party-List KABATAAN, the Hon. Raoul Danniell A. Manuel, is recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. MANUEL

REP. MANUEL. Mapagpalayang araw, Mr. Speaker.

Naunang magsalita ang ating kapuwa mambabatas hinggil sa nangyayari sa Gaza. Bilang Kinatawan ng KABATAAN Party-List, nais ko rin pong ipahayag ang aming tindig sa isyu na ito.

Sisimulan ko ang talumpating ito sa kuwento ng kapuwa ko kabataan, si

Mohammed Amir, 20 years old, isang Filipino-Palestinian. Noong October 31, bumiyah siya ng limang oras mula sa probinsiya niya sa Pampanga para makiisa sa kilos-protesta sa harap ng Israel Embassy para ipanawagan ang pagpapatigil ng pambobomba sa Gaza at brutal na pamamaslang sa mga Palestino.

Para kay Mohammed, buhay at kamatayan ang kanyang itinataya sa pagsali sa naging protesta. Ang kaniyang pamilya ay bahagi ng halos dalawang milyong taong naninirahan sa Gaza Strip ngayon, kabilang dito ang kanyang tatay, lolo, at pito pang kapatid. Balak na sana nilang lumikas sa gitna ng kaguluhan ngunit sa panibagong bugso ng mas malulupit na atake ng Israeli forces sa Gaza sa nakaraang mga linggo, hindi na po sila nakaalis.

Mula noong sumali siya sa protesta, halos apat na araw na ring walang ugnay si Mohammed sa kanyang pamilya. Halimbawa lamang ito ng araw-araw na danas ng mamamayang Palestino at iba pang kapuwa Pilipino na naapektuhan ng mga atake sa Gaza.

Sa pinakahuling tala ng mga awtoridad sa Gaza, malapit na sa sampung libo ang pinatay na Palestino, kasama ang 6,400 na mga bata at kababaihan, at 26,000 na ang sugatan. Winasak na rin ang tatlong unibersidad, tatlong simbahan, 16 na ospital, 55 na moske, at 48,500 na mga bahay at housing units.

Nanganganib ang nalalabi pang populasyon sa Gaza, kung saan 47 percent nito o halos isang milyon ay mga menor de edad. Sila ay matagal nang tila mga preso sa 360 na kilometrong kahabaan ng Gaza Strip. Ngayon, pinutulan pa sila ng Israeli forces ng linya ng pagkain, tubig, komunikasyon, at langis mula sa labas. Bawat araw, patuloy na tumataas ang bilang ng nasasawi at naapektuhan ng pinsala.

Mr. Speaker, nasa 18,000 na toneladang bomba na ang pinaulan ng pamahalaan ng Israel sa Gaza sa nakaraang tatlong linggo. Ito ay higit pa sa 15,000 na toneladang bomba atomika na ibinagsak ng US sa Hiroshima noong World War II.

Hindi man naranasan ng mga kabataan ang lagim ng World War II at ang pasistang pamamaslang ng Nazi Germany, ni Hitler, sa milyon-milyong Hudyo, pero malinaw

pa sa sikat ng araw ang nangyayari. Hindi ito simpleng giyera. Saan ba naman tayo makakakita ng giyera na mga sibilyan ang ipinapahamak nang walang kalaban-laban.

Hindi noong October 7 nagsimula ang mga kaganapan sa Palestine. Batay sa datos ng UN, mula 2008 hanggang August 2023 o bago pa man ang October 7, nasa 6,400 na mamamayang Palestino ang namatay at mahigit 150,000 ang sugatan, habang nasa 300 naman ang nasawi at mahigit 6,000 ang sugatan sa panig ng Israel. Sa unang tingin, mukhang alitan ng relihiyon lamang ang nangyari sa Palestine. Kaya mainam na balikan natin ang ugat ng usaping ito.

Dati, bahagi ng Ottoman Empire ang Palestine. Ngunit bago matapos ang World War I at bago tuluyang bumagsak ang Ottoman Empire, sinamantala ng imperyalistang Britanya ang pagkakataon. Sa pamamagitan ng nabanggit kanina na 1917 Balfour Declaration, ipinangako ng Britanya sa mayamang bangkerong Briton at lider-Zionista na si Lord Rothschild ang pagtatag ng Estado ng Israel, na mangangahulugan ng okupasyon ng Palestine sa pamamagitan ng pambobomba at pagpapalayas sa mga Palestino sa ngalan ng mga Hudyo.

Isa itong anyo ng diskriminasyon batay sa lahi, na laganap na kaisipan sa mga imperyalistang gobyerno at nagbibigay-katwiran sa pang-aalipin at pangongolonya. Dagdag pa ryan, ang pangako ng imperyalistang Britanya na ipagkaloob ang mga lupain ng Palestine sa grupo nina Lord Rothschild nang walang konsiderasyon sa mga Palestino ay hindi nalalayo sa 1898 Treaty of Paris, kung saan ipinasa ng Espanya ang Pilipinas sa kasunod na mananakop, ang Estados Unidos.

Upang maisakatuparan ang pangako kay Lord Rothschild, pormal na idineklara ng imperyalistang Britanya at US ang pagtatag sa Israel noong 1948. Para magawa ito, 15,000 na mga Palestino ang pinatay mula 1947 hanggang 1949 at ang masaker na ito ay tinatawag na "Nakba" o delubyo sa wikang Arabo. Gamit ang serye ng mga digma at sapilitang pagpapalayas, pinalawak nang pinalawak ng umookupang Israel ang control nito sa lupain ng Palestine, at ang natitirang

lupain para sa 5.5 million na mga Palestino ay ang Gaza Strip at ang West Bank, kabilang ang East Jerusalem. Dahil dito, umusbong ang iba-ibang anyo ng pakikibaka ng mamamayang Palestino para sa kanilang pagpapalaya.

Kaya muli, ang nasasaksihan po natin ay hindi simpleng giyera. Isa itong krimen, krimen laban sa sangkatauhan. Mga kababayan, this is genocide, pag-ubos ng lahi. Para sa mga Palestino, ang kanilang lupang ninuno, kabilang ang Gaza, ay nagsisilbing kanilang kulungan at libingan. Ang kahihinatnan ng mga atake ng Israel ay ang pagpuksa sa mga Palestino.

Seventy-five years nang okupado ang Palestine. Hanggang ngayon, nagiging posible pa rin ang ganitong okupasyon dahil sa pagsuporta ng gobyerno ng Estados Unidos sa gobyerno ng Israel.

Hinaharangan o di kaya ay pinalalabnaw ng Estados Unidos ang mga resolusyon ng UN na kumokondena sa mga abuso at paglabag sa karapatan ng mga mamamayang Palestino. Ngayon, gobyerno ng Israel ang siyang pinakamalaking tumatanggap ng dayuhang tulong pinansiyal mula sa Estados Unidos, at kaugnay iyan ng papel ng Israel bilang ipinuwestong kanang-kamay sa Middle East upang tiyakin ang interes ng US sa rehiyon, lalo na sa langis.

Why did the Filipino youths strongly feel about this issue? It is because we are no stranger to colonial rule and oppression in our own country. We have studied history and we learned that our oppression is linked to oppression in other parts of the world.

Like Palestine, the Philippines has been a victim of occupation by foreign powers who want to take advantage of our rich natural and human resources. We had our own societies before the 333 years of Spanish occupation that was interrupted by the two-year British occupation of Manila.

We had our own cultures before the 44 years of American occupation; four years of Japanese occupation; and almost eight decades under the era of modern, indirect colonial domination.

In past invasions, foreign troops killed millions of Filipinos, including civilians and liberation fighters who offered their lives to

defend our land and seas. In recent years in the Philippines, branded as terrorists are indigenous people and ethnolinguistic groups who are struggling for self-determination, for justice, and against imperialist plunder of their ancestral domain.

Philippine State forces, guided by the US counter insurgency doctrine, have subjected farmers communities in rural areas to indiscriminate firing, shelling, and aerial bombings, driving the farmers away from their agricultural lands which serve as their homes and sources of livelihood.

We do not want similar horrors to happen or continue anywhere across the globe. Also, if we allow foreign powers and their allies to speak about human rights, rule of law, respect for the sovereignty of other countries, and assistance in protecting territories but do not let their actions speak more than their words, then we will be at risk of being complicit with their war crimes or crimes against humanity.

We are also at risk of maintaining or entering in lopsided relations with those foreign powers, and whatever assistance they grant to countries in need will have strings attached and will serve their greater ulterior motives.

The Philippines stands as the third largest arms buyer from Israel with contracts worth P15 billion or nearly US\$270 million from 2018 to 2022. These weapons have been used to kill innocent Filipinos under the bloody and sham war on drugs and to attack civilians as part of brutal counter insurgency operations.

In securing such contracts with the Philippine government, the Israeli government is proud to have tested its military technology on no other than Palestine which has been its laboratory for drones and surveillance technology. On top of that, these Philippine contributions to Israeli profits form part of the Israeli government's war chest against the Palestinian population.

Therefore, the weapons that the Israeli government is proud to have tested through its genocide on Palestinians are the same weapons that are sources of profits to fund Israel's brutalities and the same weapons that can further be used by our own State forces against the Filipino people.

Here, we are witnesses to how the global military-industrial complex, run by monopoly capitalists, not only produces the arsenal to undertake a worldwide campaign of repression against anti-colonial and anti-imperialist movements, but also amasses super profits from the proliferation of State-sponsored atrocities and rights violations.

It is also gravely disappointing, to say the least, that the Marcos Jr. administration abstained from voting on the United Nations resolution calling to protect civilians and to uphold legal and humanitarian obligations amid the ongoing crisis. This makes the Philippines the only Southeast Asian country to not vote “yes” to the resolution.

In this light, Mr. Speaker, I stand in this Chamber, as Representative of the youth in the Philippine Congress, to express utmost condemnation of the ongoing genocide and war crimes by the Israeli government against the people of Palestine. We, the Filipino youth, believe that genocidal actions by the Israeli government do not represent the aspirations of Jewish communities.

The Filipino youth also slam the spreading of fake news and lies by the Israeli government to justify the killings of thousands of Palestinians and the wholesale terror-tagging of dead victims, including children and youth.

We are one with calls to stop the Israeli government’s bombings on Gaza and to stop all attacks on civilians.

We support the opening of borders that will allow the swift and immediate entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza, to provide food, medicines, and other essential supplies, especially for the victims.

We decry the political and financial support extended to the Israeli government by the US and its allies. We cannot stand by and watch, as Palestinians, fellow human beings who only want to live in peace and with dignity in their homelands, are mercilessly killed with the backing of entities that claim to uphold human rights and the rule of law.

We condemn the abstention of the Marcos Jr. administration in voting for the UN resolution regarding the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. We strongly urge our fellow public officials in the Philippines to be one with the struggle of the Palestinians for just peace and

freedom. We appeal for solidarity with the Filipino youth, Palestinian youth and millions in the whole world who are calling for an end to the genocide, and for accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law.

Before I end, Mr. Speaker, gusto rin nating sabihin na suportado natin ang mga hakbang para tiyaking ligtas ang mga Pilipino at kanilang mga pamilya na nasa Palestine, mga lupaing okupado ng Israel, at mga kalapit na bansa.

Higit sa lahat, dapat wakasan ang anumang porma ng panghihimasok o okupasyon ng mga makapangyarihang bansa at ng kanilang mga kasapakat papunta sa mga bansang nagnanais na umunlad nang nakabatay sa sariling pagpapasiya at hindi nakaasa o nakatali sa mga di pantay na kasunduan. Hangad natin ang tunay na kalayaan at ang kapayapaang nakabatay sa hustisya, sa Pilipinas man iyan o sa Palestine.

Iyon lamang, Mr. Speaker, maraming salamat.

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

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Raoul Manuel to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.  
Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The privilege speech of the Honorable Manuel is referred to the Committee on Rules.  
Majority Leader.

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. France Castro for her privilege speech.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Hon. France Castro of the Party-List ACT TEACHERS is recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH  
OF REP. CASTRO (F.)

REP. CASTRO (F.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Magandang araw, G. Speaker, sa mga kapwa ko Kinatawan at sa ating mga kababayan.

Katatapos lamang ng 2023 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections kaya marapat na kilalanin at pagpugayan natin ang lahat ng mga nagsilbi sa election lalo na, karamihan sa mga ito ay mga pampublikong guro at mga education support personnel.

Ginampanan nila ang napakahalagang tungkulin at responsibilidad sa eleksiyong ito sa kabila ng panganib at iba't ibang aberya at problema. Bagama't generally, sinasabi ng COMELEC na peaceful and successful ang eleksiyon, naitala ng election hotline ng Alliance of Concerned Teachers ang iba't ibang mga problema mula rito sa NCR at sa iba't ibang mga probinsiya. Hindi na bago ang mga problemang ito pero sa bawat eleksiyon ay ito pa rin ang kadalasang nangyayari. Hindi pa nga nagsisimula ang mismong eleksiyon ay puyat na ang inabot ng mga guro sa isang Distrito ng Quezon City dahil sa kulang-kulang na bilang ng mga balota. Gutom at puyat din ang inabot ng mga guro sa pagbabalik ng ballot boxes at election paraphernalia. Dahil sa tagal ng sasakyan, umaabot ng isa hanggang tatlong oras ang pag-aantay papunta sa canvassing site at pagdating doon ay mahaba pa rin ang pila, dagdag sa pag-aantay muli.

May mga report din na walang sasakyan na idineploy ang COMELEC para maibalik ang ballot boxes. Lalo na sa mga malalayong polling sites sa probinsiya, nahirapan ang mga guro na mag-commute dahil walang available na mga public transportation, lalo sa madaling araw.

May naitala ring election-related violence sa Lanao del Sur kung saan may nangyaring barilan sa pagitan ng dalawang kandidato, kaya napilitan ang mga guro na umalis sa kanilang polling place at pinalitan sila ng mga military personnel bilang mga electoral board. Idagdag pa ang kaguluhan sa BARMM kung saan maraming mga guro ang umatras bilang poll workers dahil sa banta sa seguridad at muntik pa silang makasuhan ng COMELEC.

Dahil sa mga sakripisyo at kabayanihang ito ng mga guro at iba pang poll workers, pinananawagan muli ng Representasyong ito ang kanilang mga kagyat at rasonableng mga kahilingan. Bilang Kinatawan nila, inuulit kong muli rito ang panawagan ng mga guro simula pa ng mga nakaraang Kongreso.

Dapat nang tanggalin ang income tax o tax sa kompensasyon sa election service dahil sila pa nga ang abonado sa kanilang transportation at pagkain. Alalahanin natin na kung hindi dahil sa boluntaryong serbisyo ng mga guro at iba pang mga poll worker ay walang eleksiyon na magaganap. Samakatuwid, hindi sumasabak ang mga guro sa mga hirap at peligro ng pagiging miyembro ng BEI or EB para magkaroon ng kita or income. Dahil sa pagpataw ng buwis sa kanilang kompensasyon, nabalewala po ang adhikain ng Election Service Reform Act of 2016.

Napakalaking bagay ang ikakaltas na P1,800 hanggang P2,000 dahil sa 20 percent na buwis. Dapat sana ay mapakikinabangan ang halagang ito ng karamihan sa mga guro na nagtatrabaho nang lagpas 24 oras. May ilang mga guro ang nagre-report sa atin na alas-otso na ng umaga kinabukasan ang pagtatapos ng kanilang election service.

Bago pa lamang ang eleksiyon, Mr. Speaker, mayroon ng trainings na halos limang oras at refresher session na five hours ulit. Bukod rito, kahit sa paghahanda ng mga presinto bago ang araw ng eleksiyon at pagsundo sa ballot boxes at election paraphernalia ay naglaan na ng oras ang mga guro. Labis-labis na oras ang iginugugol ng mga guro mula paghahanda bago pa man ang araw ng eleksiyon hanggang sa pagsusumite ng election returns, pagbabalik ng ballot boxes, at election paraphernalia.

Itinaas nga ang compensation ngunit kulang pa rin ito at papatawan pa ng 20 percent tax na higit na mas malaki sa ipinataw noong 2019 National Election na 5 percent tax. Isa pa, sa nagdaang eleksiyon, wala kahit ni singko ang siningil na buwis sa kompensasyon ng BEIs at iba pang mga poll worker.

Nararapat ding mabigyan ng additional compensation ang mga poll worker na nagsilbi lagpas ng 24 na oras. Imagine, Mr. Speaker, 24 na oras na walang pahinga at walang tulog tulad sa nangyari sa San Jose del Monte, Bulacan na isinabay ang plebisito bilang Highly Urbanized City at BSKE at iba pang mga presinto na malalaki ang bilang ng botante. Hindi mga robot at makina ang mga guro at poll workers natin na kayang kumayod nang dire-diretso nang hindi natutulog o hindi nagpapahinga.

Kaya patuloy ang aming panawagan, ng Kinatawang ito, ng mas mataas at tax-free na kompensasyon sa eleksyon, additional compensation sa mga nag-extend ng poll work hours, seguridad at safety measures ng mga poll worker habang nasa serbisyo. Agaran na rin po nating ipasa ang House Bill na naglalaan ng exemption sa mga tax kagaya po ng nai-file ni Rep. Harris Christopher Ongchuan at Representative Cua na naglalayong gawing tax-exempt ang mga benepisyong ibinibigay sa mga person rendering election service bilang pagkilala sa pagsasakripisyo ng mga guro bilang mga poll worker sa mapanganib at nakakapagod na eleksyon.

Magandang hapon, Mr. Speaker, sa kapwa ko Kinatawan, at maraming salamat po.

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

REP. REVILLA (B). Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. France Castro to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The speech of the Lady from the ACT TEACHERS Party List, the Hon. France Castro, is referred to the Committee on Rules.

Majority Leader.

REP. REVILLA (B). Mr. Speaker, I move that the Privilege Hour be extended for another 30 minutes to allow two more honorable Members of the House to deliver their privilege speeches.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Privilege Hour is hereby extended.

Majority Leader.

REP. REVILLA (B). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from GABRIELA Party-List, the honorable Cong. Arlene Brosas, to deliver her privilege speech.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Lady from the Party-List GABRIELA, the Hon. Arlene D. Brosas, is recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

## PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BROSAS

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this Representation would like to register our strong opposition to the proposed Philippines-Japan military Reciprocal Access Agreement, which may have potential implications for women victims of World War II abuses.

We maintain our unwavering stance against the Reciprocal Access Agreement being proposed, recognizing the deep concerns and historical significance it holds for Filipino women, particularly those who were comfort women during the war.

Just this March of 2023, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women or CEDAW found that the Philippines violated the rights of victims of sexual slavery perpetrated by the Imperial Japanese Army during the Second World War by failing to provide reparation, social support, and recognition commensurate with the harm suffered. Since its response to the very first official complaint by Filipino comfort women in 1944 up until its latest decision in 2014, the Philippine government has consistently maintained that it is not in the position to claim compensation from Japan.

It is deeply troubling that the Japanese government, despite calls from victims and the international community, has failed to acknowledge and take full responsibility for the atrocities committed against Filipino comfort women during World War II. This situation speaks volumes about their stance on human rights and the suffering endured by women under their military occupation.

The planned Philippines-Japan military Reciprocal Access Agreement is also reminiscent of the Visiting Forces Agreement with the United States, which has led to numerous cases of violence against women in our country. We cannot afford to repeat history and subject our women to further violence.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that the Japanese government issue a formal apology for the abuses committed against comfort women during World War II. The brutality and suffering endured by these women is

enough for President Marcos Jr. to reconsider any military agreement with Japan.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Arlene Brosas to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The speech of the Honorable Brosas is referred to the Committee on Rules.

Majority Leader.

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Bonifacio Bosita of 1-RIDER Party-List to deliver his privilege speech.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The Gentleman from the 1-RIDER Party-List, the Hon. Bonifacio L. Bosita, is recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BOSITA

REP. BOSITA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Sa ating mga kasama, magandang gabi po sa ating lahat.

Mr. Speaker, napakahusay po ng mga mambabatas na bumalangkas ng Republic Act No. 4136, Land Transportation and Traffic Code, at ang mga gumawa ng Executive Order Nos. 202 at 266, dahil protektado sa pang-aabuso ang mga motorista at ang mga may-ari ng sasakyan.

Nakakalungkot lamang po, Mr. Speaker, na dahil sa maling pagpapatupad na ginagawa ng LTFRB, LTO, MMDA, I-ACT at lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila, Sta. Rosa City at Biñan City sa probinsiya ng Laguna, at Sto. Tomas City sa probinsiya ng Batangas, marami sa ating mga kababayan ang naaabuso at nabibiktima ng katiwalian.

Mr. Speaker, mahigit tatlong dekada na po, 36 years mula noong 1987 nang lumabas

ang Executive Order No. 202, libo-libong mga sasakyan ang na-impound at pinatawan ng LTFRB ng malalaking halaga ng multa. P1 million para sa mga bus, P200,000 para sa mga truck at van, P120,000 para sa mga kotse, at P50,000 naman para sa mga jeepney.

Sa kasalukuyan po, ang LTFRB ay may mga naka-impound na sasakyan sa iba't ibang lugar ng ating bansa na may kabuoang bilang na 1,729 motor vehicles. Ang mga ito po ay patuloy na nasisira habang nakabilad lamang sa sikat ng araw at mga pag-ulan dahil ang LTFRB ay walang maayos na impounding facility.

Mr. Speaker, isa po sa mga biktima ng maling pagpapatupad na ginagawa ng LTFRB si Mr. Julio Romualdo. Nahuli siya ng mga kawani ng LTFRB-Central Office noong November 19, 2019 dahil sa akusasyong paglabag na colorum o iligal na pamamasahero. Sinubukan po siyang kotongan ng halagang P50,000 pero wala siyang naibigay dahil siya ay walang hanapbuhay at may malubhang karamdaman. Tatlong beses siyang nagpapadialysis sa isang linggo at humihingi lamang ng pera sa mga kapamilya at mga kaibigan. Nakiusap siya noon pero ang sabi sa kanya ng isa sa mga humuli, "Okay lang sa akin, pero paano naman ang mga kasama ko."

Mr. Speaker, kapani-paniwala po ang kuwento ni Mr. Romualdo dahil ganyan ang madalas na lengguwahe ng mga abusado at mapagsamantala sa kapangyarihan.

Mr. Speaker, wala siyang naibigay na suhol. In-impound ng mga kawani ng LTFRB-Central Office ang minamaneho niyang Foton van na pag-aari ng kanyang ina, na may Plate Number na NBY 1899. Kasalukuyang naka-impound pa rin po ito sa LTFRB Pampanga. Iyan po ang sasakyan na kanyang ginagamit kapag pumupunta ng ospital at nagpapadialysis.

Dala po ni Mr. Romualdo ang kanyang medical records nang mahuli siya, at makikita sa physical niyang anyo na may malubha siyang karamdaman, pero dahil tiwali at manhid ang puso ng mga humuli sa kanya, hindi binigyan ng pansin ang kanyang kalagayan at pakiusap.

Base sa mga elementong batayan sa paglabag sa colorum, biktima siya ng maling

pagpapatupad na ginagawa ng mga kawani ng LTFRB, kaya tinulungan ko siya. Nag-file kami ng contest, pero makalipas ang maraming buwan, hindi ito pinaboran ng ahensiya, denied ang kanyang contest.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Mr. Romualdo, dumulog ako noon sa Chairman ng LTFRB, pero hindi niya ako binigyan ng panahong ipaalam sa kanya ang problema at sinabi lamang niya na "mag-contest na lamang uli kami." Hindi na namin ginawa ito, Mr. Speaker, dahil alam ko at alam ni Mr. Romualdo na hindi na magtatagal ang kanyang buhay.

Habang hirap na hirap sa paghinga at nanginginig ang katawan ni Mr. Romualdo mula sa 2nd Floor ng LTFRB-Central Office, nagtanong po siya sa akin, "Colonel, buhay pa kaya ako kapag na-release ang aming van?" Ang sagot ko lamang po sa kanya noon, "Huwag kang mag-alala, gagawin ko ang lahat para tulungan ka."

Nanawagan po kami noon sa ating mga kababayan gamit ang social media para sa financial support thru GCash. Dala ng kagipitan, nagagamit ni Mr. Romualdo sa pampagamot at pampa-dialysis ang mga natatanggap niyang pera mula sa ating mga kababayan. Mr. Speaker, hindi namin nabuo ang P200,000 na pangmulta sa LTFRB.

Mr. Speaker, patay na po si Mr. Romualdo dala ang sama ng loob at pasakit na ginawa sa kanya ng mga tiwali at mga abusado sa kapangyarihan na kawani ng LTFRB-Central Office.

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

Mr. Speaker, God is good. Sa tulong at suporta ng ating mga kababayan, nakarating po tayo rito sa Kongreso at naging Member ng Nineteenth Congress. Maliban sa ating mandato bilang mga mambabatas, tayo ay may kapangyarihan na tumugon sa iba't ibang mga issue na nagdudulot ng problema at pabigat sa buhay ng marami nating kapwa Pilipino.

Mr. Speaker, dumating na po ang tamang panahon. Matapos nating repasuhin at ikonsulta sa magagaling na abogado ang traffic laws, rules and regulations governing

land transportation at ang Executive Order No. 202 of 1987, napag-alaman po natin ilegal pala at walang kapangyarihan ang mga kawani ng LTFRB na manghuli at mag-impound ng mga sasakyan.

Base po sa Executive Order No. 202 na lumabas at nilagdaan ng dating Pang. Corazon C. Aquino noong 1987, limitado lamang po ang kapangyarihan ng LTFRB para sa pagregulate ng prangkisa ng mga sasakyan at iba pang administrative functions kaugnay nito, wala nang iba, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, hindi lamang po tayo ang nagsasabi na walang kapangyarihan at ilegal ang mga ginagawa ng kawani ng LTFRB na manghuli at mag-impound ng mga sasakyan, ganito rin po ang sinasabi ng Department of Justice (DOJ), sa inilabas nilang legal opinion na nilagdaan ni honorable Sec. Jesus Crispin C. Remulla.

Mr. Speaker, napag-alaman din po natin na ilegal at hindi alinsunod sa Republic Act No. 4136 ang Executive Order No. 266 of 1987, ang matagal nang ginagawa ng mga enforcer ng LTO at ng kanilang mga deputized enforcer na pag-i-impound ng mga sasakyan na sinasabing lumalabag o lumabag ang driver o rider sa traffic laws, rules, and regulations governing land transportation at mga sasakyan na sinasabi nilang colorum.

Ang mga enforcer po ng LTO at ang kanilang mga deputized enforcer ay maaari lamang mag-issue ng Temporary Operator's Permit (TOP) o ticket sa mga motorista na inaakusahan nila ng paglabag sa batas trapiko o colorum.

Mr. Speaker, maaaring nakita po ng mga nanunungkulan noon na kailangang mag-impound ang mga sasakyan sa ilang mga paglabag sa batas katulad ng unregistered vehicle o expired ang registration, colorum at iba pa, kaya nagsulong sila ng Executive Order at inaprubahan naman ito ng dating Pang. Corazon C. Aquino.

Noong 1987, Mr. Speaker, lumabas ang Executive Order No. 266 at sa Section 1 po nito ay ipinag-utos ang pagkakaroon ng dalawang service units sa LTO—ang Traffic Enforcement Service at ang Adjudication Service.

Sa Section 2, Paragraph (a) ng Executive Order No. 266 ay sinasabi na ipagpapatuloy

lamang ng Traffic Enforcement Service ang powers at functions nito sa pagpapatupad ng traffic laws, rules, and regulations governing land transportation. At sa Section 3, Paragraph (b) naman, ang Adjudication Service ay binigyan ng kapangyarihan to order the impounding of motor vehicles and confiscation of plates or the arrest of violators of laws, rules, and regulations governing land transportation.

*At this juncture, the Senior Deputy Speaker Gonzales relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Puno.*

Mr. Speaker, malinaw po na ang Traffic Enforcement Service at ang Adjudication Service ng LTO ay binigyan ng Executive Order No. 266 ng magkahiwalay na kapangyarihan para higit na maging maayos ang kanilang pagpapatupad ng traffic laws, rules, and regulations governing land transportation.

Tama at napakahusay ng mga gumawa ng Executive Order No. 266 at dapat itong ipatupad ng pamunuan ng LTO sapagkat sa kasalukuyan, Mr. Speaker, hindi ito naipatutupad, nagmimistulang sentensiyador ang kanilang mga enforcer at mga deputized enforcer. Duda pa lamang at wala pa silang sapat na batayan, ini-impound na nila ang sasakyan na kanilang hinuhuli at binabalewala lang nila ang powers and functions ng Adjudication Service.

Ilan sa kanilang mga biktima, Mr. Speaker, si Mrs. Hernandez na Bicolana, na kasalukuyang naninirahan sa Laguna. Nagpahatid at dumalaw sa kanyang anak na may malubhang karamdaman sa Bicol Region. Nahuli po sila ng mga kawani ng LTO, kinumpiska ang plaka ng sasakyan at ang lisensiya ng driver. Nag-contest po sila, Mr. Speaker, pero denied nang maraming beses. May nag-offer kay Mrs. Hernandez na dating Regional Director ng LTO at tumanggap ng P100,000 pero wala pang resulta, namatay na ang nasabing dating Regional Director. Humingi po ng tulong sa akin si Mrs. Hernandez pero ganoon pa rin, denied pa rin ang ipinataw sa kanyang contest ng LTO.

Mr. Speaker, ang kapamilya po ni Mrs. Hernandez na naging dahilan kung bakit sila pumunta sa Bicol Region ay patay na rin at

iyon pong isang kasama niya na sakay sa van na buntis, nagdadalang-tao, namatay din po ang anak niya dahil na-stress sa ginawang asal ng nasabing enforcer.

Mr. Speaker, hanggang ngayon po, nasa LTO pa rin ang van ni Mrs. Hernandez at ang kanya pong driver ay mahigit ng tatlong taon na walang hanapbuhay.

Maliban pa diyan, Mr. Speaker, may isang Bicolano taxi driver na may malubha ring karamdaman ang kanyang ina, nagpahatid sa Bicol.

Unfortunately, nahuli sila ng enforcers ng LTO-Region V at inakusahan din ng paglabag na colorum. In less than one week, Mr. Speaker, namatay rin ang ina ng taxi driver. Maliban pa diyan, Mr. Speaker, marami na po ang humingi ng tulong sa atin na mga driver ng van na nahuli at na-impound ang kanilang sasakyan, kinumpiska ang lisensiya ng driver at nawalan ng hanapbuhay. May nakaranas na rin po na dahil sa kagipitan, ang kanyang asawa ay napilitang mangibang-bansa at doon naghahanapbuhay. Nakakalungkot, Mr. Speaker, na dahil sa maling trabaho ng LTO, ang nasabing driver ay iniwan na ng kanyang asawa at sumama na sa iba.

Mr. Speaker, hindi na po mabilang ang mga kababayan nating drivers na nasira ang hanapbuhay dahil sa maling pagpapatupad ng batas na ginagawa ng LTO. Kabilang ang mga driver na inakusahan ng pagmamaneho ng colorum na sasakyan na kinumpiskahan ng lisensiya at mga driver na expired ang rehistro ng sasakyan na hindi nila pag-aari at dahil diyan po, kinumpiska ang kanilang lisensiya at hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay wala pa rin silang hanapbuhay dahil ang mga may-ari ng nasabing sasakyan ay hindi nag-settle ng multa sa LTO.

Mr. Speaker, noong 2014, may lumabas na Joint Administrative Order No. 2014-01. Ilan sa mga nilalaman nito ang pag-impound ng sasakyan sa ilang mga paglabag, kabilang ang mga hindi rehistradong motor vehicles at mga colorum na sasakyan. Tanging mga paglabag at mga kaukulang multa lamang ang mga nakasaad sa nasabing administrative order at hindi rin nabanggit dito na ang mga enforcer ng LTO at kanilang mga deputized enforcers ay may kapangyarihang mag-impound ng mga sasakyan.

Samakatuwid, Mr. Speaker, Executive Order No. 266 ang dapat sundin ng LTO, na walang kapangyarihan ang kanilang enforcers at mga deputized enforcers na mag-impound ng sasakyan maliban kung dumaan sa due process at may kautusan sa kanila ang Adjudication Service.

Mr. Speaker, kapareho ng LTFRB at ng LTO ang ipinatutupad ng MMDA, I-ACT at ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila, Sta. Rosa City, Biñan City, ng probinsya ng Laguna at Sto. Tomas City, ng probinsya ng Batangas, na pag-impound sa mga sasakyan na may paglabag sa batas trapiko, traffic code, o ordinansa ay labag sa batas. Base po ito sa Section 62, Article III ng Republic Act No. 4136, na nagsasabi po, "No provincial board, city or municipal board or council shall enact or enforce any ordinance or resolution in conflict with the provisions of this Act or prohibiting any deputy or agent of the Commission to enforce this Act within their respective territorial jurisdiction and the provisions of any charter to the contrary notwithstanding."

Mr. Speaker, no one is above the law. Walang sinuman, pribado o nanunungkulan, o ahensya ng pamahalaan ang may kapangyarihan na hihigit pa sa idinidikta ng batas. Alam nating lahat ito, Mr. Speaker. Ang problema lamang po, may ilang mga nanunungkulan ang nakakalimot dito at ginagaya na lamang ang ginagawa ng iba.

Mr. Speaker, may mga pamamaraan para panagutin ang mga motorista at mga may-ari ng sasakyan na lumalabag sa batas at mga ordinansa pero hindi po sa pamamaraan lumalabag rin sa batas ang mga tagapagpatupad, hindi rin sa pamamaraang inaabuso ang mga motorista at mga may-ari ng sasakyan, at hindi rin sa pamamaraang binibigyan pa nila ng armas ang ilang mga abusado at ilang mga tiwali nilang kawani sa pamamagitan ng maling pagpapatupad ng batas.

Mr. Speaker, dahil sa maling pagpapatupad na ginagawa ng mga nabanggit na ahensya at mga nabanggit na lokal na pamahalaan na pag-impound ng mga sasakyan, marami sa ating mga kababayan ang napilitang mag suhol o magbayad ng multa kahit na kuwestiyonable ang panghuhuli at pag-impound sa kanilang

sasakyan. Ang iba naman sa kanila ay isinasakripisyo na lamang at hinahayaang naka-impound ang kanilang sasakyan:

1. Wala silang pambayad na malaking halaga ng multa;
2. Mahirap para sa kanila ang bumalik sa kanilang tahanan na walang sasakyan, lalo na kung taga-malayong lugar;
3. Walang maayos na impounding facility ang LTFRB, LTO, MMDA, I-ACT at ang mga lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila, Sta. Rosa City at Biñan City ng Laguna, at Sto. Tomas City ng Batangas. Nag-aalala silang masira ang kanilang sasakyan na nakabilad lamang sa sikat ng araw at nauulanan;
4. Hindi madali ang mag-file ng contest o reklamo para sa kanila na walang sapat na kakayahan at walang pambayad sa abogado;
5. Mr. Speaker, malaki ang abala at gastos sa kanila, wala namang katiyakan na mananalo sila sa kanilang contest, tama at may katwiran man sila. Ito po ay base sa mga tunay na nangyayari; at
6. Mr. Speaker, hindi kayang mag-contest o magreklamo ng mga truck drivers na nagmula at babalik pa sa Mindanao, sa Visayas o malayong parte ng Luzon.

Mr. Speaker, kailangan na nating pigilan ang maling pagpapatupad ng batas, traffic code at ordinansa na ginagawa ng mga nabanggit na ahensya at mga nabanggit na lokal na pamahalaan:

1. Huwag po nating hayaan na na biktima ng pang-aabuso at maling pagpapatupad ng batas at mga ordinansa ang mga kaawa-awa nating kababayan na umaasa at nagtitiwala sa atin;
2. Bilang mga mambabatas, kailangan nating proteksiyonan ang dignidad ng Kongreso sa pamamagitan ng pagpigil sa mga nabanggit na ahensya at mga lokal na pamahalaan ng pagwawalang bahala ang pagsunod sa batas na binalangkas at pumasa rito sa Kongreso;
3. Mr. Speaker, walang ibang magtatanggol sa ating mga kababayan, lalo na sa mga mahihirap kundi tayo lamang na may kapangyarihan para

pigilan ang mga ahensya at mga lokal na pamahalaan na hindi tama ang ginagawa ng pagpapatupad ng batas; at

4. Mr. Speaker, kailangan nating pigilan ang maling pagpapatupad ng batas dahil mawawalan ng silbi ang Kongreso sa mata ng taong-bayan kung hahayaan lamang natin ang maling pagpapatupad ng batas na binalangkas at pumasa rito.

Mr. Speaker, sa ngalan po ng tamang pagpapatupad ng batas, tunay na serbisyo at paglilingkod, hinihiling at iminungkahi po natin sa Chairman ng LTFRB, Atty. Teofilo Guadiz III; sa Hepe ng LTO, Assistant Secretary, Atty. Vigor Mendoza II; sa Head ng I-ACT; sa Acting Chairman ng MMDA, Atty. Don-don Artes, at sa mga honorable mayors ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Maynila, Santa Rosa City, at Biñan City ng Laguna, at Santo Tomas City ng Batangas, ang mga sumusunod:

1. Repasuhin po nila ang Article III, Section 62 ng Republic Act No. 4136 at Executive Order Nos. 202 at 266, series of 1987, at Joint Administrative Order No. 2014-01, at ipatigil nila ang maling panghuhuli at pag-i-impound ng mga sasakyan na ginagawa ng kanilang mga kawani; at

2. Mr. Speaker, ipa-release nila ang mga sasakyan nasa kanilang kustodiya dahil mali ang kanilang ginawang trabaho at pagpapatupad ng batas. Maawa po sila sa mga kapwa natin Pilipino na nasisira ang sasakyan sa ilalim ng sikat ng araw at mga pag-ulan. Ipakita at iparamdam natin sa ating mga kababayan na tayo ay tunay na mga public servants.

Mr. Speaker, hindi po natin ipinagtatangol ang mga motorista at mga may-ari ng sasakyan na lumalabag sa batas, ordinansa, at iba pa. Ang hangad lamang po natin ay tamang pagpapatupad ng batas para sa kanila upang mapigilan ang mga pang-aabuso at mga perwisyo na dinaranas ng mga kapwa natin Filipino.

Mr. Speaker, magsusumite po tayo ng House resolution, in aid of legislation, para mabigyan na rin ng agarang aksiyon ang ating mga nabanggit na problema at nang maging mas maayos pa ang pagpapatupad ng traffic

laws, rules and regulations governing land transportation para sa minamahal nating mga kababayan.

Mr. Speaker, at sa ating mga kapwa public servants, maraming, maraming salamat po sa ibinigay ninyong oras sa akin.

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

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer to the speech of the Hon. Bonifacio Bosita to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The speech of the Honorable Bosita is referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. REVILLA (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Privilege Hour is terminated. Majority Leader.

ELECTION OF REP. ANTONIO  
"TONYPET" T. ALBANO  
AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we elect Rep. Antonio "Tonypet" Albano as Deputy Speaker vice Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a motion to elect the Hon. Antonio "Tonypet" Albano as Deputy Speaker vice the Hon. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

ELECTION OF REP. YASSER  
ALONTO BALINDONG  
AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we elect Rep. Yasser Alonto Balindong as Deputy Speaker vice Rep. Isidro Ungab.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). There is a motion to elect the Hon. Yasser Alonto Balindong as Deputy Speaker vice the Hon. Isidro Ungab.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Majority Leader.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 9155 ON THIRD READING

REP. FORTES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 9155, and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the Roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on October 11, 2023, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 9155, entitled: AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO PEC BROADCASTING CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8685, ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING TO PEC BROADCASTING CORPORATION, A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 28, dated November 7, 2023.*

#### RESULT OF VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). With 200 Members voting in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and four abstentions, House Bill

No. 9155 is hereby approved on Third Reading. Majority Leader.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NOS. 5731 AND 9300 ON THIRD READING

REP. FORTES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 5731 and House Bill No. 9300, and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measures, and call the Roll for nominal voting.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measures, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on October 11, 2023 pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the Rules of the House.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5731, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DOLORES, PROVINCE OF EASTERN SAMAR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and House Bill No. 9300, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NASIPIT, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measures is reflected in Journal No. 28, dated November 7, 2023.*

#### RESULT OF VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). With 207 Members voting in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and zero abstentions, House Bill Nos. 5731 and 9300 are hereby approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS  
ON THIRD READING

REP. FORTES. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill Nos. 9017, 9302, 9307, 9308 and 9309, and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measures, and call the Roll for nominal voting.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 9017, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PANIQUI, PROVINCE OF TARLAC AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 9302, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR CAMPUS OF THE EASTERN SAMAR STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALANGIGA, PROVINCE OF EASTERN SAMAR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 9307, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAVAL, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 9308, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MANKAYAN, KIBUNGAN, KABAYAN, ATOK, ITOGON, AND TUBA, PROVINCE OF BENGUET AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and

House Bill No. 9309, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BACARRA, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measures is reflected in Journal No. 28, dated November 7, 2023.*

RESULT OF VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). With 208 Members voting in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and zero abstentions, House Bill Nos. 9017, 9302, 9307, 9308, and 9309 are hereby approved on Third Reading. Majority Leader.

APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS  
ON THIRD READING

REP. DOMINGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill Nos. 8447, 8609, 8610, 8719, and 8940, and direct the Secretary General to read the titles of the measures, and call the Roll for nominal voting.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measures, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on October 11, 2023 pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the Rules of the House.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8447, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF LABO, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE, A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA;

House Bill No. 8609, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

PARACALE, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE, A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA;

House Bill No. 8610, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA ELENA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE, A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA;

House Bill No. 8719, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF JOSE PANGANIBAN, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE, A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA; and

House Bill No. 8940, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF COLUMBIO, PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT, A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measures is reflected in Journal No. 28, dated November 7, 2023.*

#### RESULT OF VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). With 208 Members voting in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and zero abstentions, House Bill Nos. 8447, 8609, 8610, 8719, and 8940 are hereby approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

#### APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS ON THIRD READING

REP. DOMINGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill Nos. 9064, 9065, 9075, and 9303 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measures, and call the Roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the titles of the measures, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on October 11, 2023, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the Rules of the House.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 9064, entitled: AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE CITY OF ILOILO, PROVINCE OF ILOILO, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE METRO ILOILO SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 9065, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE CITY OF BISLIG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE BISLIG SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 9075, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN A PORTION OF SALOMAGUE COVE AND IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SAN JUAN AND CABUGAO, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE ILOCOS SUR SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and

House Bill No. 9303, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANSALAY, PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE ORIENTAL MINDORO SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measures is reflected in Journal No. 28, dated November 7, 2023.*

#### RESULT OF VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). With 206 Members voting in the affirmative,

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

zero in the negative, and three abstentions, House Bill Nos. 9064, 9065, 9075, and 9303 are approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

#### APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILLS ON THIRD READING

REP. DOMINGO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill Nos. 9128, 9295, 9296, 9297, 9298, and 9299 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measures, and call the Roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measures, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on October 11, 2023, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the Rules of the House.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 9128, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE PAULINO DARI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - BALONGBALONG EXTENSION IN BARANGAY BALONGBALONG, MUNICIPALITY OF PITOGO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR FROM THE PAULINODARINATIONALHIGHSCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE BALONGBALONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 9295, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE BINAGASBASAN NATIONALHIGHSCHOOL-DENRICAHIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY DENRICA, MUNICIPALITY OF GARCHITORENA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR FROM THE BINAGASBASAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE DENRICA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 9296, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE BACUNGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - SIPAKONG EXTENSION IN BARANGAY SIPAKONG, MUNICIPALITY OF LEON B. POSTIGO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE FROM THE BACUNGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE SIPAKONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 9297, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE BACUNGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - MANGOP EXTENSION IN BARANGAY MANGOP, MUNICIPALITY OF LEON B. POSTIGO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE FROM THE BACUNGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE MANGOP NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 9298, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE SIOCON CENTRAL SCHOOL - J.P. BRILLANTES EXTENSION IN BARANGAY JOSE P. BRILLANTES, SR., MUNICIPALITY OF SIOCON, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE FROM THE SIOCON CENTRAL SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE JOSE P. BRILLANTES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and

House Bill No. 9299, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE BUCANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - HATIB ASAMUDDIN EXTENSION IN BARANGAY BUCANA, MUNICIPALITY OF SIOCON, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE FROM THE BUCANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE HATIB ASAMUDDIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measures is reflected in Journal No. 28, dated November 7, 2023.*

#### RESULT OF VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). With 210 Members voting in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and zero abstentions, House Bill Nos. 9128, 9295, 9296, 9297, 9298, and 9299 are hereby approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 9154 ON THIRD READING

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 9154 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the Roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 9154, entitled: AN ACT GRANTING A FRANCHISE TO THE ROMBLON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (ROMELCO) TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, OWN, MANAGE AND MAINTAIN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF ELECTRIC POWER TO THE END-USERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BANTON, CORCUERA AND CONCEPCION, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 28, dated November 7, 2023.*

#### RESULT OF VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). With 209 Members voting in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and zero abstentions, House Bill No. 9154 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 9191 ON THIRD READING

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 9191 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the Roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on October 11, 2023, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the Rules of the House.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 9191, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INLAND FRESHWATER FISH HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ARINGAY, PROVINCE OF LA UNION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 28, dated November 7, 2023.*

#### RESULT OF VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). With 210 Members voting on the affirmative, zero in the negative, and zero abstentions, House Bill No. 9191 is approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 9335  
ON THIRD READING

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Third Reading House Bill No. 9335 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the Roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on October 11, 2023, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the Rules of the House.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 9335, entitled: AN ACT UPGRADING THE BASILAN GENERAL HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF ISABELA, PROVINCE OF BASILAN, INTO A TERTIARY HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE BASILAN MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the Roll for nominal voting. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 28, dated November 7, 2023.*

RESULT OF VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). With 210 Members voting in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and zero abstentions, House Bill No. 9335 is approved on Third Reading.

Majority Leader.

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move for the immediate transmittal to the Senate copies of the Bills which were approved on Third Reading in today's session.

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

Majority Leader.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

*The Secretary General read the title of the following House Resolution on First Reading as filed, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding reference:*

RESOLUTION

House Resolution No. 1431, entitled:

RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO RECONSIDER ITS RESOLUTION FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE VACANCY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE THIRD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL GIVEN ALL THE EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES AND PRESENT PREDICAMENT AFFECTING THE PROVINCE

By Representative Sagarbarria  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1431

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, under the Calendar of Business for the Day, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1431.

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL.  
House Resolution No. 1431, entitled:  
RESOLUTION URGING THE  
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO  
RECONSIDER ITS RESOLUTION FOR  
THE CONDUCT OF THE SPECIAL  
ELECTION FOR THE VACANCY IN THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR  
THE THIRD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT  
OF THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS  
ORIENTAL GIVEN ALL THE EXISTING  
CIRCUMSTANCES AND PRESENT  
PREDICAMENT AFFECTING THE  
PROVINCE.

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

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 1431.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). As many as are in favor of House Resolution No. 1431, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). Those opposed, please say *Nay*. (*Silence*)

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1431

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno). The *ayes* have it; House Resolution 1431 is hereby adopted.

Majority Leader.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS  
TO THE CONF. CTTEE. ON  
H.B. NO. 7325 AND S.B. NO. 2221

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members to the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 7325 and Senate Bill No. 2221 on the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers:

Rep. Ron P. Salo;  
Rep. Sandro L. Gonzalez;  
Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas;  
Rep. Khymer Adan T. Olaso; and  
Rep. Marissa "Del Mar" P. Magsino

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

The Members nominated are so designated.

Majority Leader.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS  
TO THE CONF. CTTEE. ON  
H.B. NO. 6510 AND S.B. NO. 2001

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members to the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 6510 and Senate Bill No. 2001 on the New Passport Law:

Rep. Maria Rachel J. Arenas;  
Rep. Emigdio P. Tanjuatco III;  
Rep. Glona G. Labadlabad;  
Rep. Loreto B. Acharon;  
Rep. Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño;  
Rep. Atty. Gerville "Jinky Bitrics" R. Luistro;  
Rep. Sergio C. Dagooc; and  
Rep. Wilbert T. Lee

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

The Members nominated are so designated.

Majority Leader.

\*\* Copies of the measure were distributed to the Members earlier. Section 53, Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides that "[a] bill or joint resolution on Second Reading shall be read in full unless copies thereof have been distributed to the Members," and Section 67 of the same provides that "Resolutions shall be subject to the same procedure as bills x x x"

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS  
TO THE CONF. CTTEE. ON  
H.B. NO. 7535 AND S.B. NO. 2028

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members to the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 7535 and Senate Bill No. 2028 on Granting Additional Benefits to Filipino Centenarians:

- Rep. Rodolfo "Ompong" M. Ordanes;
- Rep. Loreto S. Amante;
- Rep. Salvador A. Pleyto;
- Rep. Eulogio R. Rodriguez; and
- Rep. Sergio C. Dagooc

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno).  
Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair

hears none; the motion is approved.

The Members nominated are so designated.

Majority Leader.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. NOLASCO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Puno).  
The session is adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

*It was 7:43 p.m.*