Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 102

Submitted by the Committee on Ethics and Privileges on **February 4, 2026**

RE: Committee Case No. PS-2026-12, entitled: In the Matter of the Order of the House through the Referral of the Privilege Speech of Rep. Rolando M. Valeriano and the Interpellations thereon in the House Plenary Session on 27 January 2026 relative to Rep. Francisco A. Barzaga's Conduct during the Period of his sixty (60)-day Suspension, on the Adopted Findings and Recommendations as Contained in Committee Report No. 28 dated 1 December 2025, on Committee Case No. SC-2025-03

Informing the House of the action taken by the Committee on Ethics and Privileges on the aforestated case, including the Committee's findings, conclusion and recommendations

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Sponsors: Representatives JC M. Abalos, Felimon M. Espares, Mauricio G. Domogan

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Mr. Speaker:

On 28 January 2026, the Committee on Ethics and Privileges received a copy of the 27 January 2026 privilege speech of Rep. Rolando M. Valeriano, regarding allegations of misconduct of Rep. Francisco A. Barzaga, which the latter committed during his sixty (60)-day suspension. The said speech was referred by the plenary to the Committee on Ethics on even date. In turn, the Committee docketed the matter as Committee Case No. PS-2026-12. In accordance with its Committee Rules of Procedure adopted on October 13, 2025, the Committee has now considered the same and has come up with its findings.

Respectfully submitted,

JC M. ABALOS
Chairperson

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
House of Representatives

I. STATEMENT OF FACTS

The Committee on Ethics and Privileges (the "Committee") Secretariat received, on 28 January 2026, a referral from the House plenary of the Privilege Speech delivered by Rep. Rolando M. Valeriano on 27 January 2026, together with the interpellations thereon, relative to Rep. Francisco A. Barzaga's conduct during the period of his sixty (60)-day suspension, subject of Committee Case No. SC-2025-03, entitled "Rep. Ronaldo V. Puno, et. al. v. Rep. Francisco A. Barzaga of the Fourth District of Cavite".[1] The referral, consisting of the transcript of the Privilege Speech and the transmittal from the Deputy Secretary General, Legislative Operations Department, consists of ten (10) pages. The matter was docketed as Committee Case No. PS-2026-12.

The Privilege Speech alleged that Rep. Barzaga flagrantly violated Section 141, Rule XX of the Rules of the House of Representatives when he continuously defied the stern warning issued by the House upon the imposition of the penalty of suspension on him on 1 December 2026. It alleged that during the period of suspension, he continued to post in his same verified social media accounts the following malicious content:

- "*NUP Congressmen received bribes from Enrique Razon in various gatherings in Solaire prior to the 2025 election in exchange for supporting Speaker Martin Romualdez*".
- "*Congressman Romeo Acop's death will not stop him from facing justice. He must be investigated for involvement in the flood control corruptions*."
- "*Corruption and plunder against the Filipino people is a sin against the Lord. Congressman Romeo Acop is now suffering through eternal damnation. He has left the comfort of his luxurious mansion in exchange for a pit of eternal hellfire. That is the fate of all corrupt politicians*."

[1] Copy of the **Privilege Speech of Rep. Rolando M. Valeriano delivered before the plenary on 27 January 2026** is attached as Annex "A".

During the interpellation of Rep. Emigdio P. Tanjuatco III, Rep. Valeriano stressed that Rep. Barzaga had been sternly warned that a repetition of similar misconduct would merit more severe sanctions from the House of Representatives. He therefore urged the Committee to investigate Rep. Barzaga's continuing violations of the House Rules and to impose further suspension from office. Rep. Leila M. De Lima, on the other hand, clarified whether Rep. Valeriano would like the Committee to hear and try new allegations or continue from the previous case. In response, Rep. Valeriano left the matter to the discretion of the Committee for appropriate action.

Thereafter, the House of Representatives, in plenary, ordered the Committee to:

(1) conduct a hearing at its next scheduled meeting and conduct a thorough assessment on the conduct of Rep. Francisco "Kiko" A. Barzaga during the period of his sixty (60)-day suspension as contained in the adopted findings and recommendations in Committee Report No. 28 on Committee Case No. SC-2025-03;

(2) require the respondent Member, Rep. Barzaga, to appear in the Committee hearing; and

(3) immediately report to the House its findings and recommendations after such hearing.

Pursuant to the Order of the House, the Chairperson scheduled the hearing on the matter in the Committee's 4th Regular Meeting on 3 February 2026. The parties in the case were sent a Notice of Hearing and furnished with a copy of the Committee Rules of Procedure on 28 January 2026.[2] Additionally, a Transmittal Notice[3] was sent to Rep. Barzaga, furnishing him with a copy of the transcript of the Privilege Speech of Rep. Valeriano delivered on 27 January 2026, including the interpellations thereon, docketed

[2] Copy of the **Notice of Hearing** is attached as Annex "B".

[3] Copy of the **Transmittal Notice** is attached as Annex "C".

as Committee Case No. PS-2026-12. The Transmittal Letter also included: (1) a copy of the Manifestation and Motion filed by complainants through counsel, Atty. Joter Lobo under Committee Case No. SC-2025-03 entitled: "Rep. Ronaldo V. Puno, et. al. vs. Rep. Francisco A. Barzaga" for violation of the House Code of Conduct,[4] received on 13 January 2026; and (2) a copy of the Motion filed by complainants through counsel, Atty. Joter Lobo in Committee Case No. SC-2025-03.[5]

The Committee Deliberations

Pursuant to the Order of the House and the referral of the Privilege Speech, the Committee Chairperson called a meeting and set the hearing on the matter on 3 February 2026, at 1:00 PM, with due notice to both the proponent Rep. Valeriano and the subject, Rep. Barzaga. Rep. Barzaga was furnished with copies of the referral and the transcript of the Privilege Speech, including the interpellations thereon. He was also given a directive to personally appear before the Committee and to present contrary evidence, with a warning that failure to appear thereon will be considered a waiver of the right to a hearing, to present evidence, and to conduct cross-examination, if any.[6]

During the conduct of the hearing, the Committee noted that the sixty (60)-day suspension of Rep. Barzaga expired on 30 January 2026. The Committee observed that Rep. Barzaga, while serving his suspension, committed acts similar to those for which he had previously been sanctioned. The Committee Members agreed to consider the acts of Rep. Barzaga during the period of his sixty (60)-day suspension as a continuing violation, in relation to the prior disciplinary action which the Committee have decided upon and reported out to the plenary through Committee Report No. 28.

The Committee found precedence in a case decided by the Committee in the 19th Congress for which the Committee have had the occasion to (1)

[4] Copy of the **Manifestation and Motion filed by Complainants in Committee Case No. SC-2025-03** is attached as Annex "D".
[5] Copy of the **Motion filed by Complainants in Committee Case No. SC-2025-03** is attached as Annex "E".
[6] See Annex "B".

continue to assume jurisdiction over the repeated misconduct even after the imposition of the penalty by the House and (2) treat the subsequent related misconduct of the same House Member as escalations of a prior misconduct, and for which the Committee recommended a more severe penalty. The Committee Members were in agreement that jurisdiction to conduct hearing anew on the subsequent similar acts were reacquired by the Committee upon the order of the House expressly directing the Committee to conduct a hearing to assess the conduct of Rep. Barzaga during the period of his suspension pertaining to Committee Report No. 28. Hence, the Committee decided to consider the allegations of repeated misconduct in the Privilege Speech not as a separate and independent matter, but a continuation of his prior misconduct, as ordered by the House.

Thereafter, during the deliberations, Rep. Valeriano sponsored his privilege speech, invoking that respondent Rep. Barzaga committed serious violations during his sixty (60)-day suspension, and presented his case before the Committee. Respondent Rep. Barzaga, however, did not appear at the hearing and was thus considered by the Committee to be in default.

The Committee, in executive session, considered the following evidence submitted by Rep. Valeriano:

(1) Privilege Speech, delivered by Rep. Valeriano on 27 January 2026;
(2) Manifestation and Motion, filed by complainants through counsel, Atty. Joter Lobo, in Committee Case No. SC-2025-03, entitled: “Rep. Ronaldo V. Puno, et. al. vs. Rep. Francisco A. Barzaga” for violation of the House Code of Conduct, including all of its attachments (Annexes “A” to “E”); and
(3) Motion filed by complainants through counsel, Atty. Joter Lobo in Committee Case No. SC-2025-03, including all of its attachments (Annexes “A” to “F”).

After exhaustive deliberation on the matter, and upon a unanimous vote of all the members present, there being a quorum, the Committee concluded that a violation of a law, rule, or regulation of the House, relating to the conduct

of a House Member and within the jurisdiction of the Committee, had occurred. The Committee found that there is substantial evidence to establish the violation, warranting the imposition of one of the disciplinary actions listed in paragraph (b) of Sec. 52, pursuant to Sec. 41, Rule VII of the Committee Rules. In the same meeting, the Committee approved to adopt a Committee Report detailing its findings and recommendations on the matter to the plenary.

II. ISSUE

The sole issue to be resolved is whether Rep. Francisco A. Barzaga flagrantly violated Section 141, Rule XX of the Rules of the House of Representatives when he posted several social media contents during the period of his suspension from office, from 1 December 2025 to 30 January 2026, which acts allegedly constitute disorderly behavior that reflect adversely upon the House.

III. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The House of Representatives' Power of Collegial Self-Discipline

Time and again, we have underscored that the House of Representatives is the sole judge of what constitutes disorderly behavior "not only because the Constitution has conferred jurisdiction upon it, but also because the matter depends mainly on factual circumstances of which the House is in better position to determine and for which cannot be depicted in black and white for presentation to, and adjudication by the Courts.[7] It is by this reason that courts refrain from interfering with the judgment of this august body when enforcing its power of self-discipline among its Members.

The power of the House of Representatives to punish its Members for disorderly behavior and other contempt of its authority is enshrined in Section 16 (3) Article VI of the 1987 Constitution, which provides:

> "(3) Each House may determine the rules of proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly behavior, and with the concurrence of two-thirds of

[7] *Osmeña Jr. v. Pendatun*, GR No. L-17144, October 28, 1960

> all its Members, suspend or expel a Member. A penalty of suspension, when imposed, shall not exceed sixty days."

The framework for legislative self-discipline is left to the legislature, and is limited only insofar as the manner of the exercise of the power. The Constitution provides that (1) the only ground under which the House may discipline a member is "for disorderly behavior"; (2) the House may impose the penalty of suspension or expulsion only with the concurrence of two-thirds of all its members; and (3) the penalty of suspension, when imposed, shall not exceed the period of sixty (60) days. It is worth noting that there is no qualification in the constitutional legislative power to discipline that disorderly behavior must be related to official conduct, committed within the halls of Congress, undertaken in pursuance of legislative functions, or arise in the course of legislative proceedings or activities.

The Proponent alleged that Respondent Rep. Barzaga repeated the misconduct for which he was previously sanctioned and in fact, escalated and intensified the unruly behavior to include vilification of a deceased colleague and defamatory imputations against colleagues and a private citizen through his official social media platform, thereby mocking the name and besmirching the honor of the House of Representatives. The Complainant stressed that the defiant acts of Rep. Barzaga, while suspended from office, clearly demonstrated that suspension from office as a disciplinary measure has failed and that Rep. Barzaga's post-suspension conduct reflects his unfitness for legislative duties. All these, the complainant argues, warrant the imposition of further suspension, and if appropriate, the penalty of expulsion from office.

We find bases in the arguments of the complainant.

Respondent Rep. Barzaga has been sanctioned for previous misconduct – for disorderly behavior – when he posted incendiary social media content, retained, and failed to remove, publicly viewable inappropriate and indecent photos in violation of Sec. 141 (a), Rule XX of the House Rules and Section 4 (c) of Republic Act No. 6713.

Respondent violated Sec. 141(a), Rule XX (Code of Conduct) of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Sec. 141 (a), Rule XX of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides:

> "Section 141. Code of Conduct. – There is hereby established in the House the following Code of Conduct:
>
> (a) A Member shall act at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House."
>
> x x x"

Sec. 141 (a), Rule XX of the Rules of the House of Representatives directs the Members of the House of Representatives to act in a certain manner that reflects the honor and stature of the institution. The inclusion of the phrase "at all times" signify that the conduct should not only pertain to a Member's public life but also to the Member's private life.

In the case of *Osmena v. Pendatun*,[8] the High Court ruled that while parliamentary immunity "guarantees the legislator complete freedom of expression without fear of being made responsible in criminal or civil actions before the courts or any other forum outside the Congressional Hall, however it does not protect him from responsibility before the legislative body itself whenever his words and conduct are considered by the latter disorderly or unbecoming a member thereof."

The Committee filed Committee Report No. 28, detailing its findings and recommendation as to the Respondent's misconduct, which was adopted in its entirety by the House of Representatives on 1 December 2025. The Committee's recommendation included a stern warning to Respondent that "a repetition of similar misconduct will result to a more severe disciplinary action." We agree with the complainant that the stern warning was made clearly and unequivocally and served as an express caution against repetition of the misconduct. The period of suspension was set at sixty (60) days to

[8] GR No. L-17144, October 28, 1960

afford Rep. Barzaga sufficient time to pause and reflect upon his actions, with a view to instill the institutional standards of decorum, propriety, and professionalism fitting for a legislative representative. At the very least, the Committee expects Rep. Barzaga to have exercised restraint and prudence while suspended from office. Instead, the contrary happened. It appears that reform is not forthcoming as Rep. Barzaga once again demonstrated utter disregard for institutional standards. The malicious commentaries made against his colleagues are indeed conduct incompatible with the dignity expected of a legislator, further aggravated by the fact that they were made through his official social media account bearing the title of "Congressman". The Committee finds it contemptuous to disparage the name and memory of the dead, especially a colleague, who can no longer defend his name and honor before a large audience as Rep. Barzaga now has.

Disciplinary Proceedings are Aimed at Improvement of Public Service and Preservation of Public's Confidence in the Government.

Disciplinary proceedings involve no private interest and afford no redress for private grievance. They are undertaken and prosecuted solely for the public welfare.[9] When an officer or employee is disciplined, the object is the improvement of the public service and the preservation of the public's faith and confidence in the government.[10] The punishment of the erring public officials and employees is secondary, but is nonetheless in accord with the Constitution, which stresses in Section 1 of its Article XI that a public office is a public trust, and commands that public officers must at all times be accountable to the people, whom they must serve with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency.[11]

Respondent violated Section 4 (c) of Republic Act No. 6713

Complainant alleged that Respondent demonstrated continued objectification of women for which he had been previously disciplined, and thus further violated norms of behavior for public officials by acting contrary to

[9] *Bautista v. Bernabe*, A.C. No. 6963, February 9, 2006
[10] *Civil Service Commission v. Cortez*, G.R. No. 155732, June 3, 2004, 430 SCRA 593, citing *Bautista v. Negado*, 108 Phil. 283, 289 (1960)
[11] *Ganzon vs. Arlos*, G.R. No. 174321, 22 October 2013

good morals, public order, and public interest.

Section 4 (c) of RA 6713, or the "Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees" provides:

> **Section 4.** *Norms of Conduct of Public Officials and Employees.* - (A) Every public official and employee shall observe the following as standards of personal conduct in the discharge and execution of official duties:
>
> > (c) Justness and sincerity. - Public officials and employees shall remain true to the people at all times. <u>They must act with justness and sincerity and shall not discriminate against anyone, especially the poor and the underprivileged. They shall at all times respect the rights of others, and shall refrain from doing acts contrary to law, good morals, good customs, public policy, public order, public safety and public interest.</u> xxx
> >
> > xxx
> >
> > (underscoring supplied)

Section 4 (c) of RA 6713 expressly mandates public officials to "refrain from doing acts contrary to good morals, public order, and public interest". The Committee finds the Respondent to have breached the standards of propriety, professionalism and decency for which he was sanctioned prior to this matter. Respondent's continued objectification of women, especially after having been previously disciplined for similar behavior**,** demonstrates not an isolated lapse but a pattern of willful disregard of the ethical restraint demanded by public office. His repetition of the same improper conduct after prior sanction is a strong indicator of incorrigibility, showing that corrective discipline failed and that Respondent remains unwilling to conform his behavior to the standards of propriety and decency that attach to his position.

Considering that public office is a public trust, conduct that degrades women and normalizes disrespect, whether committed inside or outside the immediate performance of official functions, tarnishes the dignity and credibility of the institution, and undermines the public's confidence that

government officials will act with "justness and sincerity" and respect the rights and dignity of others, particularly of women. The Committee finds that Respondent's persistence in the same objectionable behavior aggravates his liability and warrants a finding that his conduct has tarnished the dignity of his position and the House of Representatives.

Administrative Due Process was afforded to the Respondent.

The Committee iterated that disciplinary proceedings involve no private interest and afford no redress for private grievance. They are undertaken and prosecuted solely for the public welfare.[12] We find the Court's ruling in *Avenido v. Civil Service Commission*[13] particularly instructive when it stated "[t]he charge against the respondent in an administrative case not be drafted with the precision of an information in a criminal prosecution. It is sufficient that he is apprised of the substance of the charge against him; What is controlling is the allegation of the acts complained of, not the designation of the offense."

The Committee afforded Respondent Rep. Barzaga the opportunity to present his defense and contrary evidence. He was duly notified of the hearing and were furnished with copies of the allegations against him. He, however, chose to completely ignore the Committee's directive. The Committee, in fact, took note of Rep. Barzaga's social media post circulating online, which proves that he was aware of the subsequent allegations against him and that he was expected to attend the Committee hearing. Rep. Barzaga, however, stated that he would not attend the hearing and had the audacity to post through the same social media account under his name:

> "*I will be ignoring the summons of the Ethics Committee, expel me if they want, but the Philippine Congress has done nothing but destroy the lives of the Filipino People*"

The Committee condemns Rep. Barzaga's brazen disregard for its authority. All Members of the House of the Representatives have the sworn

[12] Bautista vs. Bernabe, A.C. No. 6963, February 9, 2006
[13] G.R. No. 177666, April 30, 2008

duty to respect the Committee Rules and to recognize the authority of the House of Representatives in the exercise of its disciplinary powers. Deliberate refusal to participate in the disciplinary proceedings of the Committee, in a manner that undermines its work, ultimately undermines the authority and integrity of the House of Representatives as an institution. The Committee shall not in any way tolerate conduct that brings the Committee and the entire House into disgrace and contempt.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

After a thorough deliberation on the case, the Committee finds that Respondent Representative Francisco "Kiko" A. Barzaga of the Fourth District of Cavite committed repeated and escalating misconduct during the period of his suspension from office, from 1 December 2025 to 30 January 2026, which reflected negatively upon the dignity, integrity, and reputation of the House of Representatives as an institution and of its Members, and recommends the imposition of another penalty of **SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE FOR SIXTY (60) DAYS without the benefit of salaries and allowances**. **The imposition of the penalty carries with it a stern warning that a repetition of another misconduct would warrant a more severe disciplinary action, including expulsion from office.**

Respectfully submitted, 03 February 2026.

Copy furnished:

Hon. Rolando M. Valeriano
Proponent, Privilege Speech delivered on 27 January 2026
Committee Case No. PS-2026-12

Hon. Francisco "Kiko" A. Barzaga *Respondent,*
Committee Case No. PS-2026-12 Room. No. 412,
Ramon Mitra Bldg.,
House of Representatives

ANNEX "A"

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

January 27, 2026

HON. JC M. ABALOS
Chairperson
Committee on *ETHICS AND PRIVILEGES*
House of Representatives

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith the transcript of the question of privilege of Rep. Rolando M. Valeriano, delivered on January 27, 2026, including the interpellations thereon, which was referred by the Plenary on even date to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.

Respectfully yours,

FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL:

ATTY. DAVID ROBERT U. AMORIN
Deputy Secretary General
Legislative Operations Department

encl.: a/s

(PO – Deputy Speaker Emano)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). ... 130, 560, 819, 2660, 6097, 6166, and 6333; and House Bill No. 6229; and House Bill No. 5934.

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

Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BAUTISTA (J.M.). Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend session for a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). Session suspended. *(Gavel)*

It was 5:45 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). Session resumed. *(Gavel)*

Majority Leader.

REP. VALERIANO. Mr. Speaker, may I be recognized?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). The Gentleman—Congressman Valeriano is hereby recognized. *(Gavel)*

REP. VALERIANO. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues—colleagues, I rise today on a matter of personal and collective privilege.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). May the House know the nature of the personal and collective privilege.

REP. VALERIANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to defend the honor and dignity of this institution.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). The Gentleman has 10 minutes. Please proceed. *(Gavel)*

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. VALERIANO

REP. VALERIANO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Last December 1, 2025, this House imposed a 60-day suspension upon Honorable Francisco A. Barzaga for serious violation of the House with a stern warning that repetition of similar misconduct would merit more severe sanctions. Despite this, Congressman Barzaga has continued his defiance. Mr. Speaker, his defiance, these acts committed through his official Congressional platforms flagrantly violate Section 141 or Rule XX of our Rules.

Mr. Speaker, discipline without enforcement renders our authority meaningless. The continuing defiance of Congressman Barzaga must be addressed immediately.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. TANJUATCO. Mr. Speaker—Mr. Speaker, may we know …

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). May we know the pleasure of the Gentleman.

REP. TANJUATCO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, may we know from the Gentleman from the Second District of Manila, if he will be amenable to some questions for interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). Is the Gentleman willing to answer some questions and interpellation?

REP. VALERIANO. Yes, gladly, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). The Gentleman may proceed. *(Gavel)*

REP. TANJUATCO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, may we know from the Second—from the Gentleman from the Second District of Manila the rationale or the basis for his request that the Committee on Ethics be—to continue to investigate the contents of his privilege speech.

REP. VALERIANO. Mr. Speaker, Gentleman from Rizal, ang ilan po sa mga violation at nakita namin na pang-aabuso muli ni Congressman Barzaga, babasahin ko lamang po na ito ay pinost niya: NUP Congressman received bribes from Enrique Razon in various gatherings in Solaire prior to the 2025 election in exchange for supporting Speaker Martin Romualdez. Isa pong malaking kalokohan at kasinungalingan.

At ang isa pa po: Congressman Romeo Acop's death will not stop him from facing justice. He must be investigated for involvement in the flood control corruptions. …

/ljc

(PO – Deputy Speaker Emano)

REP. VALERIANO. ... flood control corruptions.

Ito pa po: Corruption and plunder against the Filipino people is a sin against the Lord. Congressman Romeo Acop is now suffering through eternal damnation. He has left the comfort of his luxurious mansion in exchange for a fit of eternal hellfire. That is the fate of all corrupt politicians.

Mr. Speaker, ako po'y naniniwala na hindi dapat, at he violates iyong kaniyang suspension. So, I move, Mr. Speaker, na sa susunod na committee hearing ng Ethics, siya po ay mapatawan muli ng another suspension without allowance and salaries.

I move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TANJUATCO. Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, napakaangkop at napakasariwa pa ang pagkayumao ng ating dating kasamahan na si Congressman Romeo Acop, at nabanggit ng Kinatawan ng Ikalawang Distrito ng Maynila, ang isa sa mga naging basehan niya para magsalita ngayong hapon ay ang mga pahayag ng nasuspendeng kasamahan natin tungkol sa pagkatao ni Congressman Romeo Acop pagkatapos na po ng kaniyang pagkayumao.

Sa ating lipunan, Mr. Speaker, ang respeto na ibinibigay ng bawat Pilipino sa isang taong namatay ay napakahalaga. Kung baga, kapag isang tao ay yumao o namatay, naging kaugalian ng ating lipunan na iyan ay no touch. Bigyan na natin po ng katahimikan at karapat-dapat na respeto. Huwag na nating ungkatin pa kung ano pa ang nangyari sa isang taong na— yumao na wala naman pong pinal na paghuhusga.

At iyong nabanggit po ng ikalawang—ng Kinatawan ng Ikalawang Distrito na Maynila na may mga pahayag si Congressman Kiko Barzaga tungkol sa—kay Congressman Acop pagkatapos ng kaniyang pagkamatay ay masakit po, mas lalo na po sa amin na mga taga-Rizal. Kalalawigan ko po, Mr. Speaker, ang yumaong Congressman Romeo Acop. Hindi po katanggap-tanggap na makarinig o makakita sa social media ang mga posts na binabastos, yinuyurak, at iniinsulto ang isang taong namatay na.

Kaya bilang isang pagdagdag na katanungan sa Kinatawan ng Ikalawang Distrito ng Maynila, sa tingin po ba, Mr. Speaker, ng kagalang-galang na Congressman Valeriano, iyan po ba'y sapat na para iatas ang Komite ng Ethics na magkaroon ng pag-imbestiga o pagsusuri sa mga nabanggit niyang mga gawain ng ating kasamahang Congressman Barzaga, Mr. Speaker?

REP. VALERIANO. Mr. Speaker, ulitin ko po, malinaw rin naman po ang nakasaad sa kaniyang suspension, with a stern warning that repetition of similar misconduct would merit more severe sanctions. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, he violated iyong sanction niya po or iyong suspension niya.

With that, Mr. Speaker, ako po'y nakikiusap dito sa Kongreso na ito na patawan muli ng another suspension si Congressman Barzaga para maturuan ng tamang aral iyong batang iyan.

REP. TANJUATCO. Mr. Speaker, this Representation is satisfied with the answers or by the replies given by the Gentleman from the Second District of Manila and I concur with his request, Mr. Speaker.

No more questions, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VALERIANO. That's all, Mr. Speaker.

Maraming, maraming salamat po.

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

Majority Leader.

REP. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to refer the ...

REP. DE LIMA. Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). Yes, Representative De Lima.

REP. DE LIMA. Okay, just one or two questions to the honorable Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). If the Gentleman would wish to reply. ...

/mems

(PO – Deputy Speaker Emano)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). … If the Gentleman would wish to reply and answer the questions.

REP. VALERIANO. Sige po, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). The Gentlelady may proceed.

REP. DE LIMA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Do I take it that the honorable Sponsor is—is it now a new complaint or is it just a continuation of the previous case, …

REP. VALERIANO. A continuation …

REP. DE LIMA. … to be referred …

REP. VALERIANO. Yes, because …

REP. DE LIMA. … to be referred to the Ethics Committee?

REP. VALERIANO. Yes.

REP. DE LIMA. Because we know that the jurisdiction of a committee, and especially the Ethics Committee, is either motu proprio or upon complaint. So, we have had that previous case which resulted to the 60-day suspension, which is about to expire. Now, we have all these new allegations which I think are really good basis for a new complaint or a new investigation by the Ethics Committee.

Now, we heard the honorable Sponsor deliver a sponsorship speech. Can we now say that the sponsorship speech is, in fact, the trigger for the acquisition again of jurisdiction by the Ethics Committee or is this just a continuation because of what you pointed out, as a colatilla there, that similar acts would merit harsher penalties?

So, just that point of clarification, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VALERIANO. That is my contention, Mr. Speaker, with a stern warning that repetition of similar misconduct would merit more severe sanction. However, it is up to the Committee on Ethics to decide whether it is a new allegations or it will continue his suspensions.

REP. DE LIMA. So, the plea now of the good Gentleman is to just refer the matter to the Ethics Committee for appropriate action.

REP. VALERIANO. Tama po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DE LIMA. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). Thank you very much, Madam and Mr. Sponsor.

REP. VALERIANO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to refer the speech of the Honorable Valeriano and its interpellations to the—refer to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). There is a motion to refer the speech of Honorable Valeriano and those who interpellated to the Committee on Rules—Committee on Ethics. Is there any objection? Is there any objection? *(Silence)* Chair hears none; motion is carried. *(Gavel)*

Majority Leader.

REP. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to authorize the Committee on Ethics and Privileges to conduct a hearing at its next scheduled meeting, with first, to conduct a thorough assessment on the conduct of the Respondent-Member, Mr. Francisco Barzaga, during the period of his

suspension, per adopted the findings and recommendation of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, as contained in Committee Report No. 28, regarding Committee Case No. SC-2025-03;

Second, to require the Respondent-Member to the case, Mr. Barzaga, to appear in the hearing of the Committee; and

Third, to immediately report to the House its findings and recommendations after the scheduled hearing, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* Chair hears none; motion is carried. *(Gavel)*

Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, motion to suspend.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). Session suspended. *(Gavel)*

It was 5:58 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:59 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). Session resumed. *(Gavel)*

Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend session until tomorrow, January 28, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Emano). There is a motion to suspend session until January 28, year 2026, at ...

REP. GUTIERREZ. Three o'clock in the afternoon.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND PRIVILEGES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

ANNEX "B"

FILE COPY

In the matter of the order of the House through the referral of the privilege speech of Rep. Rolando M. Valeriano and its interpellations in the House plenary session on 27 January 2026 relative to Rep. Francisco A. Barzaga's conduct during the period of his 60 days suspension on the adopted findings and recommendations as contained in Committee Report No. 28 on Committee Case No. SC-2025-03 on 1 December 2025
X - X

Committee Case No. PS-2026-12

HON. FRANCISCO "KIKO" BARZAGA
Representative, 4th District of Cavite
RECEIVED
28 JAN 2026
BY: HERCIE JOY C. BELTRAN 2:19p
Political Affairs Assistant II

Hon. Rolando M. Valeriano
Representative, 2nd District of Manila
Complainant, Committee Case No. PS-2026-12
Rm. 418, Ramon V. Mitra Building
House of Representatives

Hon. Francisco A. Barzaga
Representative, 4th District of Cavite
Respondent, Committee Case No. PS-2026-12
Room No. 402, Ramon V. Mitra Building
House of Representatives

NOTICE OF HEARING

The parties are hereby notified that upon order of the House of Representatives on 27 January 2026 referring the Privilege Speech of Rep. Rolando M. Valeriano relative to the above-captioned matter, the Committee will conduct a hearing on the assessment on the conduct of Rep. Francisco A. Barzaga during the period of his suspension from office on 2 December 2025 to 30 January 2026 as imposed by the House of Representatives upon the adoption of Committee Report No. 28 on 01 December 2025 containing the findings and recommendations of the Committee on Ethics on Committee Case No. SC-2025-03.

In view thereof, the parties are hereby directed to attend the hearing of the above-captioned case on **03 February 2026 (Tuesday), 1:00 PM** at the **Speaker Villar Hall, South Wing Annex (SWA) Building, House of Representatives**. Failure to appear personally during the said hearing will be tantamount to a waiver of the rights to be heard, to present evidence and to cross-examine the witness.

Finally, pursuant to Section 41, paragraph (a) of the Committee Rules on adjudicatory hearing, the parties are hereby directed to submit to the **Committee on or before the hearing on 3 February 2026,** copy furnished the adverse party, the following information and documents, to wit:

1) a list of proposed witnesses to be called at the hearing;
2) copies of all documents expected to be introduced as exhibits at the hearing; and
3) affidavits of witnesses intended to be presented by the parties during the hearing, which shall constitute as their direct testimony.

Attached herewith is a copy of the Committee Rules for your reference and guidance.

NOTED 1/28/26 2:15 pm

HON. JC M. ABALOS
Chairperson

FILE COPY

ANNEX "C"

received:
Rep. Valeriano Jelena Sebastia
Feb 2, 2026
11:08 AM

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND PRIVILEGES

HON. FRANCISCO "KIKO" BARZA
Representative, 4th District of Cavite
RECEIVED
29 JAN 2026
BY: HERCIE C. BELTRAN 1:31 pm
Political Affairs Assistant II

29 January 2026

The Honorable FRANCISCO A. BARZAGA
Representative, 4th District of Cavite
Rm. 412, RVM Building, House of Representatives

SUBJECT: Transmittal Notice re: In the matter of the order of the House through the referral of the privilege speech of Rep. Rolando M. Valeriano and the interpellations thereon in the House plenary session on 27 January 2026 relative to Rep. Francisco A. Barzaga's conduct during the period of his 60 days suspension on the adopted findings and recommendations as contained in Committee Report No. 28 on Committee Case No. SC-2025-03 on 1 December 2025 , docketed as **Committee Case No.PS2026-12**

Dear **Hon. Barzaga:**

Please be informed that the Committee on Ethics and Privileges is in receipt of a transmittal from the Deputy Secretary General David Robert U. Amorin, Legislative Operations Department of the House of Representatives relative to the question of privilege of Rep. Rolando M Valeriano, delivered on January 27, 2026, including the interpellations thereon, which was referred by the Plenary on even date to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, consisting of ten (10) pages and **docketed as Committee Case No. PS-2026-12**. The privilege speech contains information of allegations of misconduct during the period of your 60-days suspension on the adopted findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 28 on Committee Case No. SC-2025-03.

Hence, the Committee is transmitting to you a copy of the said privilege speech and the interpellations thereon wherein there were alleged violations and abuses you committed through your social media posts during the period of suspension, namely:

(1) "NUP Congressmen received bribes from Enrique Razon in various gatherings in Solaire prior to the 2025 election in exchange for supporting Speaker Martin Romualdez".

(2) "Congressman Romeo Acop's death will not stop him from facing justice. He must be investigated for involvement in the flood control corruptions."

Address: Committee Technical Support Service 5 (Legal/Political 1), Committee Affairs Department, 3/F Ramon V. Mitra Bldg., Batasan Pambansa Complex, National Government Center, 1126 Constitution Hills, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (02) 8951-39-45 **e-mail address:** committee.ethics@house.gov.ph

(3) "Corruption and plunder against the Filipino people is a sin against the Lord. Congressman Romeo Acop is now suffering through eternal damnation. He has left the comfort of his luxurious mansion in exchange for a pit of eternal hellfire. That is the fate of all corrupt politicians."

Based on these social media posts which the proponent considered false and baseless, you **allegedly violated** the very essence of the **"penalty of suspension with stern warning that a repetition of similar conduct would merit more severe sanctions"** as contained in Committee Report No. 28 on Committee Case No. SC-2025-03 on 1 December 2025.

Additionally, I would to inform you, and provide you a copy of, the pleadings submitted to the Committee relevant to the above-mentioned case, as follows:

(1) **MANIFESTATION AND MOTION** filed by complainants through counsel, Atty. Joter Lobo under **Committee Case No. SC-2025-03** entitled: "Rep. Ronaldo V. Puno, et. al. vs. Rep. Francisco A. Barzaga" *for violation of the House Code of Conduct,* received on 13 January 2026

(2) **MOTION** filed by complainants through counsel, Atty. Joter Lobo under **Committee Case No. SC-2025-03** entitled: "Rep. Ronaldo V. Puno, et. al. vs. Rep. Francisco A. Barzaga" *for violation of the House Code of Conduct,* received on 26 January 2026

which we would like you to respond to during the hearing of the Committee scheduled on 3 February 2026 (Tuesday), 1:00 PM at the Speaker Villar Hall, South Wing Annex Bldg., House of Representatives.

Therefore, pursuant to the directive of the House on 27 January 2026, the undersigned has sent you a Notice of Hearing yesterday, 28 January 2026, copy of which is hereto attached for your easy and ready reference.

Very truly yours,

HON. JC M. ABALOS
Chairperson
Committee on Ethics and Privileges

Copy furnished:

HON. ROLANDO M. VALERIANO
Proponent
Committee Case No. PS-2026-12
Room 418, Ramon V. Mitra Building, House of Representatives

ANNEX "D"

HON. FRANCISCO "KIKO" BARZAGA
Representative, 4th District of Cavite

RECEIVED
13 JAN 2026
BY: Angelica L. Mascariola

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
House Committee on Ethics and Privileges
Quezon City

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND PRIVILEGES
RECEIVED
DATE: Jan. 13, 2026
TIME: 3:07 PM
BATASAN HILLS, QC

HON. RONALDO V. PUNO, et al.,
Complainants,

-versus-

Case No. SC-2025-03
For: Violation of the House Code of Conduct

HON. FRANCISCO A. BARZAGA,
Respondent.
x----------x

MANIFESTATION AND MOTION

COMPLAINANTS, by counsel, unto this Honorable Committee, most respectfully manifest that:

1. On 1 December 2025, the House of Representatives adopted this Committee's Report No. 28 (hereafter, the "Report"), finding Respondent Rep. Francisco "Kiko" A. Barzaga guilty of misconduct under *Section 141(a), Rule XX of the House Rules and Section 4(c) of Republic Act No. 6713*. The House imposed upon Respondent the penalty of suspension for sixty (60) days without the benefit of salaries, and allowances.[1]

2. The House of Representatives likewise adopted the recommendation of this Committee sternly warning the Respondent that a repetition of similar misconduct shall result to a more severe disciplinary action.[2]

3. Subsequent to the suspension imposed, Respondent has exhibited a continuing pattern of disorderly behavior, marked by unpredictable withdrawals from public discourse followed by sudden re-emergence with new social media posts. These posts, issued from his official and verified congressional social media accounts, are grave,

[1] Committee Report No. 28 dated 01 December 2025, p. 26.
[2] *Ibid.*

irresponsible, and fail to reflect creditably upon the House of Representatives.

a. **Vilification of the late Hon. Romeo "Romy" Acop.** Respondent repeatedly mocked and condemned his deceased colleague, declaring that the late Representative Romeo "Romy" Acop ("Rep. Acop") is "in hell" and "suffering eternal damnation" for alleged corruption. He posted digitally altered images portraying Rep. Acop as a crocodile engulfed in flames, and published meme-style graphics ridiculing tributes from other Members, suggesting they were guided by the devil. Most gravely, Respondent even posted a video of himself delivering a speech in which he claimed that the death of Rep. Acop was "the Lord's way of delivering us from evil since the justice system has failed us." Respondent further mocked his own suspension by cruelly ridiculing Rep. Acop, posting: *"Ako wala dahil suspended, at si Congressman Acop wala dahil nasa impyerno* 😂😹."

   These statements are not only disrespectful—they are unwarranted attacks against a departed colleague who served the nation with honor and integrity. Rep. Romeo "Romy" Acop was a police officer, lawyer, and legislator who represented Antipolo's Second District from 2010 to 2019, and again from 2022 until his death in 2025. His long record of public service deserves respect, not vilification. Whatever political differences that may have existed, Rep. Acop, does not deserve these baseless attacks, nor does his family deserve to suffer renewed pain from such reckless words. His memory, like that of all Members who have served, should be treated with dignity and respect. By desecrating the memory of a departed colleague, Respondent not only committed a flagrant violation of the House Code of Conduct, which requires Members to act at all times in a manner that reflects creditably on the House, but more so offended Filipino cultural norms of respect for the dead. Of all people, Respondent should have known better. Having himself succeeded his late father, Rep. Elpidio "Pidi" Frani Barzaga Jr., who also passed away while in office, his attacks on Rep. Acop's death are not only hypocritical but profoundly insensitive.

   - Screenshots of Respondent's posts vilifying the late Rep. Acop are hereto attached as ***Annexes "A" and series.***

- Video post of Respondent about the death of Rep. Acop is hereto attached as ***Annex "B".***

b. **Inappropriate content concerning women.** On New Year's Eve, Respondent posted: *"New Year's Resolution ko? More Chinita Eababs mwehehehe"* with a colorful background.[3]

This crude remark once again shows his disdain for the opposite sex and illustrates the same pattern of conduct involving objectifying language directed at women that formed part of the basis for this Honorable Committee's finding of misconduct in its Report. Such conduct is incompatible with the dignity expected of legislator and constitutes a continuing breach of the House Code of Conduct.

- Screenshot of Respondent's New Year's post containing vulgar and objectifying language against women is hereto attached as ***Annex "C".***

c. **Inflammatory political commentary.** Respondent accused President Marcos of theft with the caption: *"Bagong taon, bagong nakawan ulit si Marcos* 😻😻😻 *#IkulongSiMarcos."* He also posted satirical rebuttals to presidential statements, including: *"We do not pray for those that serve the Devil" and "Sa tamang proyekto? o sa bulsa mo?"*

While robust criticism of government is part of democratic discourse, Respondent's use of vulgar imagery, ridicule, and incendiary language crosses the line from legitimate dissent into reckless demagoguery. Issued from his official congressional accounts, these posts degrade the dignity of his office, erode public trust in the institution, and betray the ethical obligation of Members to uphold the honor of the House. Such conduct is not merely unbecoming, it is a direct affront to the standards of propriety and responsibility expected of legislators entrusted with the public's confidence. Members of Congress bear a special responsibility to maintain standards of discourse that preserve public confidence in the legislative branch, even while engaging in healthy political debate.

[3] "Eababs" is contemporary slang referring to women.

- Screenshots of Respondent's posts attacking the President with inflammatory rhetoric are hereto attached as ***Annexes "D" and series.***

d. **Exploitation of a public official's death to advance unfounded conspiracy.** Respondent posted a video linking the accidental death of Vice Mayor Aimee Paz Lamasan of Dueñas, Iloilo to the flood control scandal, suggesting without evidence that she was silenced by corrupt individuals. This baseless and inflammatory claim, made without evidence, exploits a tragic death to cast aspersions on unnamed actors and institutions.

Congressmen are not gossip-mongers; they are entrusted with the solemn duty of responsible discourse. Making serious allegations of criminal conduct without factual basis, particularly in connection with a tragic death, falls below the standard expected of Members of this House. To exploit the death of a public servant as a political ploy is profoundly indecent, as it not only demeans the dignity of the House but also risk causing unnecessary distress to the bereaved family while undermining public confidence in the integrity of governmental processes.

- Video post of Respondent's post linking Vice Mayor Lamasan's death to alleged corruption is hereto attached as ***Annex "E".***

4. Taken together with Respondent's prior posts already in the record of this case, these acts reveal not isolated lapses but a deliberate and continuing pattern of erratic and contemptuous conduct. They show a Member who has learned nothing from discipline and who treats suspension not as correction but as a license to further degrade the institution. This behavior does not merely tarnish his own reputation—it directly assaults the dignity of the House of Representatives, erodes public trust in its Members, and mocks the very authority of this Committee. They constitute continuing violations of the Code of Conduct, which demands that Members uphold the integrity of the institution and act in a manner befitting their office of trust. If such conduct is allowed to persist unchecked, the House itself risks becoming complicit in its own humiliation. Discipline without enforcement is no discipline at all, and the Respondent's defiance makes a mockery of the solemn processes of this body. The credibility of the House is at stake, and silence in the face of repeated misconduct is itself a betrayal of the institution.

5. The House's constitutional power under ***Article VI, Section 16(3) of the Constitution*** to discipline its Members is a continuing authority that extends to monitoring compliance with disciplinary sanctions and addressing subsequent violations. The stern warning contained in this Committee's Report, as adopted by the plenary, expressly provides for Committee action in response to repeated misconduct. Furthermore, under its Rules of Procedure, this Committee is vested with continuing jurisdiction over matters relating to the conduct, dignity, integrity, and reputation of the House and its Members.

6. To ensure that the disciplinary process serves its corrective purpose and that Members returning from suspension are prepared to discharge their duties in accordance with the standards of this House, Complainants respectfully move that Respondent be subjected to a **comprehensive fitness determination <u>prior</u> to resumption of his legislative functions.** This determination would assess whether Respondent is physically, mentally, emotionally, and behaviorally prepared to fulfill his responsibilities as a Member of Congress in a manner consistent with the House Code of Conduct.

7. This request is made pursuant to the Committee's authority to give effect to the stern warning already issued and adopted by the House. The suspension period imposed by the plenary remains unchanged; however, the fitness determination would implement the plenary's directive that repetition of similar misconduct would merit more severe sanctions. By requiring such an assessment, the Committee ensures that Respondent's return to duty is consistent with the integrity and dignity of the institution, thereby giving practical effect to the disciplinary measure and stern warning previously adopted by the House on 01 December 2025.

8. To be sure, this Motion does not seek the imposition of a new penalty, which remains the prerogative of the plenary. Rather, it invokes the Committee's continuing supervisory and fact-finding jurisdiction under the House Rules to monitor compliance with disciplinary sanctions and to verify that the corrective purpose of such sanctions has been achieved. Under ***Section 141, Rule XX of the House Rules*** and the Committee's Rules of Procedure, the Committee possesses inherent authority to ensure that disciplinary measures serve their intended corrective function. Without the ability to assess whether a sanctioned Member has internalized the lessons of discipline and is prepared to adhere to ethical standards going forward, disciplinary action becomes hollow, and the Committee's function is reduced to merely noting repeated violations. Congress cannot afford to be reduced to a passive observer of its own

degradation. The purpose of discipline is to restore dignity and order; if misconduct simply recurs, then the integrity of the institution is gravely undermined, and the authority of this Committee is fatally weakened.

9. The results of such assessment shall not bind the plenary nor operate to automatically impose penalties. They shall merely serve as an evidentiary basis for the Committee to determine whether further proceedings, guidance, or recommendations are warranted to ensure that Respondent's return to duty does not frustrate the corrective purpose of the suspension or expose the institution to further ethical violations.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, premises considered, Complainants most respectfully pray that this Honorable Committee to:

1. **ORDER** the examination of Respondent Rep. Francisco "Kiko" A. Barzaga by qualified professionals, including a Congress-appointed physician and appropriate mental health and behavioral specialists, to conduct a comprehensive fitness determination assessing his physical, mental, emotional, and behavioral capacity to resume legislative duties in a manner consistent with the House Code of Conduct; provided that refusal or obstruction by Respondent shall constitute defiance of this Committee's directive and a continuing violation of ethical standards;

2. **ADOPT** guidelines and procedures for post-suspension fitness determinations in cases where the House has issued a stern warning regarding future conduct, consistent with the Committee's continuing jurisdiction under *Article VI, Section 16(3) of the Constitution*, and *Section 141, Rule XX of the House Rules*, and

3. **DETERMINE** appropriate measures to be taken in the event that the fitness determination reveals that Respondent is not prepared to resume duties in accordance with the standards of conduct required of Members of this House.

Other reliefs as may be just and proper under the circumstances are likewise prayed for.

Quezon City, 08 January 2026.



JOTER M. LOBO
Counsel for Complainants
PTR No. 39858AA; 01-07-2026; Pasig City
IBP No. INV-566396; 12-16-2025; RSM
Roll No. 69937
MCLE Compliance No. VIII-0007875; 04/03/24

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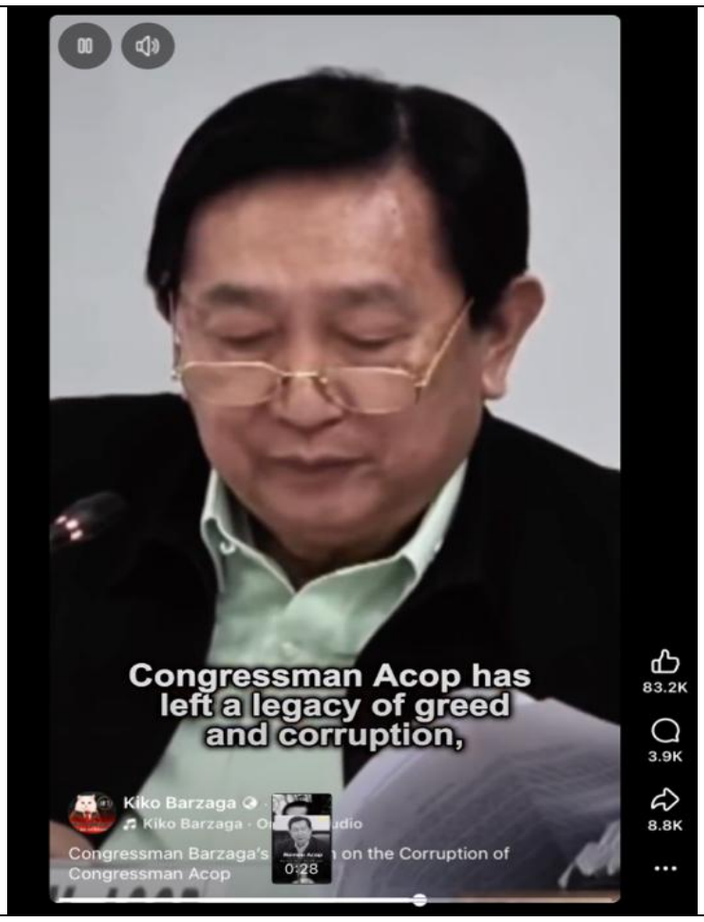
Representative FRANCISCO A. BARZAGA
Fourth District of Cavite,
Room 402, Ramon V Mitra Building, House of Representatives,
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

"Annex A" and series

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"Annex C"



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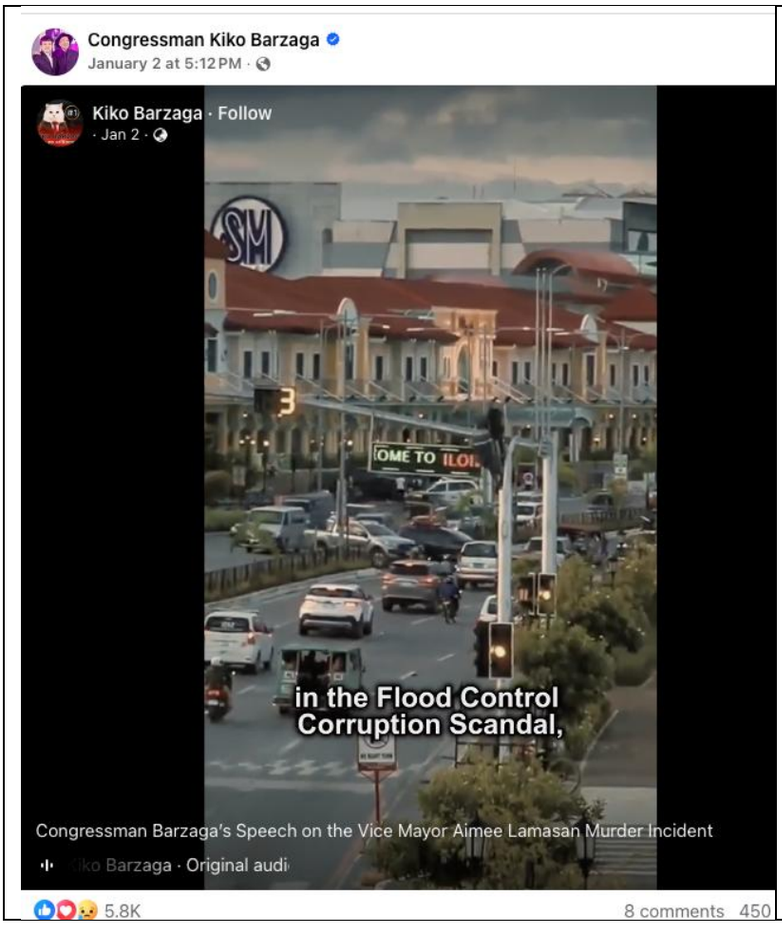
"Annex D" and series



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"Annex E"



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ANNEX "E"

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
House Committee on Ethics and Privileges
Quezon City



HON. RONALDO V. PUNO, et al.,
Complainants,

-versus-

Case No. SC-2025-03
For: Violation of the House Code of Conduct

HON. FRANCISCO A. BARZAGA,
Respondent.
x----------x

MOTION

COMPLAINANTS, by counsel, unto this Honorable Committee, most respectfully move for the imposition of an additional sixty (60)-day suspension upon Respondent Rep. Francisco "Kiko" A. Barzaga and state:

1. On 1 December 2025, the House of Representatives adopted this **Committee's Report No. 28** (hereafter, the "Report"), finding Respondent Rep. Francisco "Kiko" A. Barzaga guilty of misconduct under *Section 141(a), Rule XX of the House Rules and Section 4(c) of Republic Act No. 6713*. The House imposed upon Respondent the penalty of suspension for sixty (60) days without the benefit of salaries, and allowances.[1]

2. **The House of Representatives likewise adopted the recommendation of this Committee sternly warning the Respondent that a repetition of similar misconduct shall result to a more severe disciplinary action.**[2]

3. Subsequent to the suspension imposed, Respondent has not merely continued his prior pattern of misconduct—he has escalated it into a systematic campaign of institutional sabotage that

[1] Committee Report No. 28 dated 01 December 2025, p. 26.
[2] *Ibid.*

warrants the additional disciplinary action explicitly contemplated in the stern warning.

4. The suspension period, intended as an opportunity for reflection and reform, has instead been weaponized by Respondent as a platform for intensified attacks. His post-suspension conduct reveals five distinct categories of misconduct, each independently sufficient to justify additional suspension, and collectively demonstrating a Member who has learned nothing from discipline and views institutional authority with open contempt. These acts are not isolated lapses. They constitute a coordinated assault on the dignity of the House, published through his official and verified congressional social media accounts with a combined following of over **two (2) million** people, and amplified by national news media, thereby inflicting reputational damage on the institution before a mass audience.

5. This is precisely the "repetition of similar misconduct" against which the stern warning was issued, and it now demands the "more severe disciplinary action" that warning promised.

I. RESPONDENT'S CONTINUING AND ESCALATING VIOLATIONS

---

i. Vilification of the late Hon. Romeo "Romy" Acop.

6. Between 21 December 2025 to 31 December 2025, Respondent repeatedly and viciously attacked the memory of his deceased colleague, the late Representative Romeo "Romy" Acop ("Rep. Acop"). Respondent publicly declared that Rep. Acop is **"in hell"** and **"suffering eternal damnation"** for alleged corruption. He posted digitally altered images portraying Rep. Acop as a crocodile engulfed in flames in a grotesque and deeply offensive visual attack designed to humiliate the deceased and his grieving family. Respondent published meme-style graphics ridiculing tributes paid to Rep. Acop by other Members, suggesting that those honoring their departed colleague were **"guided by the devil."** Most gravely, Respondent posted a video of himself delivering a speech in which he claimed that the death of Rep. Acop was **"the Lord's way of delivering us from evil since the justice system has failed us."** Respondent further mocked his own suspension by cruelly ridiculing Rep. Acop, posting: ***"Ako wala dahil suspended, at si Congressman Acop wala dahil nasa impyerno*** 😂😹." These statements are not only disrespectful---they are unwarranted attacks against a departed colleague who served the nation with honor and integrity.

7. Rep. Acop was a police officer, lawyer, and legislator who represented Antipolo's Second District from 2010 to 2019, and again from 2022 until his death in 2025. His long record of public service deserves respect, not vilification. Whatever political differences that may have existed, Rep. Acop does not deserve these baseless attacks, nor does his family deserve to suffer renewed pain from such reckless words. His memory, like that of all Members who have served, should be treated with dignity and respect.

8. By desecrating the memory of a departed colleague, Respondent not only committed a flagrant violation of the House Code of Conduct, which requires Members to act at all times in a manner that reflects creditably on the House, but more so offended Filipino cultural norms of respect for the dead, a value deeply ingrained in our culture and observed across communities. Of all people, Respondent should have known better. Having himself succeeded his late father, Rep. Elpidio "Pidi" Frani Barzaga Jr., who also passed away while in office, his attacks on Rep. Acop's death are not only hypocritical but profoundly insensitive. Such desecration violates both the House Code of Conduct and the deeply rooted Filipino custom of *paggalang sa yumao*, replacing collegiality with cruelty, mutual respect with vindictiveness, and civil discourse with character assassination.

8.1. *Screenshots of Respondent's posts vilifying the late Rep. Acop* are hereto attached as ***Annexes "A" and series.***

8.2. *Video post of Respondent celebrating the death of Rep. Acop* is hereto attached as ***Annex "B".***

ii. Inappropriate content concerning women.

9. On New Year's Eve, 31 December 2025, Respondent posted: ***"New Year's Resolution ko? More Chinita Eababs mwehehehe"*** with a colorful background.

10. This crude remark once again shows his disdain for the opposite sex and illustrates the same pattern of conduct involving objectifying language directed at women that formed part of the basis for this Honorable Committee's finding of misconduct in its Report.

11. This crude, objectifying remark demonstrates that Respondent learned nothing from his suspension as it is the exact type of misconduct for which Respondent was found guilty in Committee Report No. 28. Such conduct is incompatible with the dignity expected

of a legislator and constitutes a continuing breach of the House Code of Conduct. This is not a lapse; it is proof of incorrigibility, showing Respondent's contempt for discipline and for women alike. Such conduct violates *Section 4(b) of RA No. 6713*, which mandates that public officials perform their duties with the highest degree of professionalism. Instead, Respondent has chosen vulgarity and demagoguery, transforming personal misconduct into official pronouncements carrying the imprimatur of legislative authority.

11.1. *Screenshot of Respondent's New Year's post* is hereto attached as ***Annex "C".***

iii. Inflammatory political commentary.

12. On New Year's Day, 01 January 2026, Respondent accused President Marcos of theft with the caption: ***"Bagong taon, bagong nakawan ulit si Marcos*** 🐷🐷🐷 ***#IkulongSiMarcos".*** On 04 and 05 January 2026, he also posted satirical rebuttals to presidential statements, including: ***"We do not pray for those that serve the Devil" and "Sa tamang proyekto? o sa bulsa mo?"***

13. While robust criticism of government is part of democratic discourse, Respondent's use of vulgar imagery, ridicule, and incendiary language crosses the line from legitimate dissent into reckless demagoguery.

14. Issued from his official congressional accounts, these posts degrade the dignity of his office, erode public trust in the institution, and betray the ethical obligation of Members to uphold the honor of the House. Such conduct is not merely unbecoming, it is a direct affront to the standards of propriety and responsibility expected of legislators entrusted with the public's confidence.

15. Members of Congress bear a special responsibility to maintain standards of discourse that preserve public confidence in the legislative branch, even while engaging in healthy political debate. These posts employed inflammatory rhetoric, baseless accusations of criminality, and vulgar mockery, all issued from official congressional social media accounts, which do not merely criticize but degrade the dignity of the House and erode public trust in its Members.

15.1. *Screenshots of Respondent's inflammatory posts* are hereto attached as ***Annexes "D" and series.***

iv. Exploitation of a public official's death to advance unfounded conspiracy and defame fellow Members.

16. Respondent posted a video linking the accidental death of Vice Mayor Aimee Paz Lamasan of Dueñas, Iloilo ("Vice Mayor Lamasan") to the flood control scandal, suggesting without evidence that she was silenced by corrupt individuals.

17. More egregiously, in this video, Respondent specifically insinuated that Representative Janette L. Garin, Representative of Iloilo's First District, and Representative Lorenz R. Defensor, Representative of the Third District of Iloilo Province, may possibly be involved in Vice Mayor Lamasan's death or in the alleged corruption that purportedly led to her silencing.

18. This baseless and inflammatory claim, made without evidence or investigation, exploits a tragic death to cast aspersions on fellow Members of this House.

19. Congressmen are not gossip-mongers; they are entrusted with the solemn duty of responsible discourse. Making serious allegations of criminal conduct without factual basis, particularly in connection with a tragic death, falls below the standard expected of Members of this House. To exploit the death of a public servant as a political ploy is profoundly indecent, as it not only demeans the dignity of the House but also risks causing unnecessary distress to the bereaved family while undermining public confidence in the integrity of governmental processes. Such conduct violates *Section 4(a) of RA No. 6713*, which requires public officials to uphold the public interest above personal interest and to refrain from acts prejudicial to public order and safety.

20. To weaponize a tragic death for baseless conspiracy is not dissent; it is indecency. It inflicts renewed grief on the bereaved while dragging colleagues into unfounded insinuations of murder and corruption.

20.1. *Video post exploiting Vice Mayor Lamasan' s death and insinuating involvement of Representatives Garin and Defensor* is hereto attached as ***Annex "E"***.

v. False accusations of corruption and bribery that undermine institutional integrity.

21. In direct retaliation for the filing of the instant ethics complaint that resulted in his suspension, Respondent has publicly made false accusations of corruption and bribery against Complainants, fellow Members, and private citizens, which cast the House itself and its processes in a false and damaging light.

22. On 9 January 2026, while still under suspension, Respondent posted on his Facebook page "Congressman Kiko Barzaga" the following statement: ***"NUP Congressmen received bribes from Enrique Razon in various gatherings in Solaire prior to the 2025 elections in exchange for supporting Speaker Martin Romualdez."***

23. On even date, Respondent posted that: ***"Enrique Razon is the mastermind behind the corruption in Congress, I will disclose everything in a speech once I return on the first week of February #IkulongSiRazon."***

24. On 13 January 2026, Respondent posted the following statement directed at Complainant Hon. Ronaldo V. Puno (hereafter, "Complainant Puno"): ***"Congressman Puno may file a case against me, it will only prove that he was bought by Enrique Razon in court."***

25. On 16 January 2026, Respondent posted the following statement concerning Complainant Puno: ***"Kala naman ni Congressman Puno ang laki ng ambag niya sa Pilipinas, may mga kilala akong SK na mas marami pang natulungan sa kanya."*** On the same day, Respondent posted on his Facebook page "Kiko Barzaga" the following statement directly accusing Complainant of thievery: ***"Puro pananakaw lang ang ginagawa niyo sa Kongreso, walang kinabukasan ang ating bansa sa inyo."***

26. These posts were published to Respondent's over 2 million followers and were picked up by multiple news organizations amplifying the damage to the institution's reputation.

27. These accusations are categorically false. No NUP Congressman received bribes; neither were any of them "bought" to elect Former Speaker Martin Romualdez ("Former Speaker Romualdez"). Likewise, Mr. Razon is not the "mastermind behind the corruption in Congress." These are fabrications made without investigation, evidence, or basis in fact. **More significantly, these false accusations directly undermine public confidence in the House of Representatives and its constitutional processes.**

28. The election of Former Speaker Romualdez was legitimate and overwhelming. Former Speaker Martin Romualdez was elected by a supermajority of 269 votes, running unopposed for re-election as Speaker of the 20th Congress. This was not a contested election requiring influence or bribery. It was an overwhelming demonstration of institutional consensus. **Respondent himself participated in and voted for Former Speaker Romualdez.** It is fact of public record that Respondent joined the supermajority and voted for Former Speaker Romualdez at the start of the 20th Congress.

29. By falsely claiming that this election was the product of bribery, Respondent impugns his own vote and suggests that the House's most fundamental constitutional function - the election of its Speaker - is corrupt. **These accusations suggest the House is institutionally corrupt.**

30. To claim that an entire political party accepted bribes, that a private citizen controls the House through corruption, and that the Speaker was elected through criminal means is to tell the Filipino people that their legislature is illegitimate. **This is not political criticism; it is institutional sabotage.** He is making demonstrably false factual accusations that impugn the integrity of the institution itself.

30.1. *Screenshots of Respondent's post accusing NUP, Complainant Puno, and Enrique Razon of corruption and bribery* are as hereto attached as ***Annexes "F" and series.***

31. Taken together with Respondent's prior posts already in the record of this case, these acts reveal not isolated lapses but a deliberate and continuing pattern of erratic and contemptuous conduct. They demonstrate a Member who has learned nothing from prior discipline and who treats suspension not as a corrective measure but as an opportunity to further degrade the institution. Such conduct does not merely tarnish Respondent's personal reputation; it directly assaults the dignity of the House of Representatives, erodes public trust in its Members, and undermines the authority of this Honorable Committee. These acts constitute continuing violations of the House Code of Conduct, which requires Members to uphold the integrity of the institution and to act in a manner befitting their office of public trust.

32. These acts further constitute clear and unequivocal violations of the stern warning issued by this Committee and adopted by the House on 01 December 2025. Respondent's post-suspension

conduct demonstrates a deliberate and continuing defiance of disciplinary authority, reflecting a view of suspension not as correction but as provocation. **By openly disregarding the stern warning, Respondent mocks the authority of this Committee and the judgment of the plenary, signaling that discipline may be ignored without consequence and rendering the House's disciplinary processes vulnerable to contempt.**

33. If such conduct is allowed to persist unchecked, the House itself risks becoming complicit in its own humiliation. Discipline without enforcement is no discipline at all, and the Respondent's defiance makes a mockery of the solemn processes of this body. The credibility of the House is at stake, and silence in the face of repeated misconduct is itself a betrayal of the institution.

34. If a Member can be found guilty, suspended, and warned, and then return to commit violations of equal or greater severity without consequence, then the House's constitutional power to discipline its Members becomes a nullity. Such defiance does not merely challenge the authority of this Committee; it sabotages the very framework of self-regulation upon which the House depends.

35. The stern warning issued by this Committee, as adopted by the plenary, was not mere rhetoric; it was a binding directive that mandated escalated sanctions in the event of repetition. **That event has now occurred, and this Committee is duty-bound to act.** The stern warning explicitly provided that "a repetition of similar misconduct shall result in more severe disciplinary action." Respondent's conduct since suspension has been precisely that - a repetition of the same pattern of offensive, demeaning, and unethical behavior that formed the basis of the original finding of misconduct. The vilification of a deceased colleague, the objectification of women, the inflammatory attacks on public officials, the propagation of baseless conspiracy theories, and the gratuitous defamation of colleagues and private citizens are all cut from the same cloth as the misconduct for which he was initially sanctioned.

36. Under ***Article VI, Section 16(3) of the Constitution***, the House possesses inherent disciplinary authority over its Members. Under ***Section 141, Rule XX of the House Rules***, Members who violate the Code of Conduct are subject to penalties including suspension. The stern warning adopted by the plenary on 01 December 2025 expressly contemplated additional disciplinary action in response to repeated violations. Respondent's conduct since his initial suspension demonstrates not only a failure to reform but an active contempt for the disciplinary process itself.

37. The imposition of an additional sixty (60)-day suspension is both warranted and necessary. It gives effect to the stern warning previously adopted by the House. It vindicates the authority of this Committee and the institution it serves. And it sends an unequivocal message that the dignity of the House of Representatives will not be sacrificed at the altar of one Member's uncontrolled behavior. Congress cannot afford to be reduced to a passive observer of its own degradation. The purpose of discipline is to maintain institutional standards and to correct errant behavior. When correction demonstrably fails, when warning is openly defied, the institution must act to protect itself.

II. PROCEDURAL MATTER: CONTINUING JURISDICTION OF THIS COMMITTEE

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38. This Motion is filed within the continuing jurisdiction of this Committee over ***Committee Case No. SC-2025-03***. The case is not closed but remains under the Committee's supervisory authority pursuant to the stern warning adopted by the plenary on 1 December 2025.

39. The stern warning expressly provided that "a repetition of similar misconduct shall result in more severe disciplinary action." This language creates a conditional directive that contemplates future Committee action upon the occurrence of specified conduct. It is not advisory; it is a binding mechanism for escalated enforcement.

40. When this Committee issues a stern warning as part of its disciplinary order, it retains jurisdiction to monitor compliance and to act when the warned-against conduct occurs. To hold otherwise would render stern warnings meaningless, as Members could violate them with impunity while the Committee is forced to start entirely new proceedings each time.

41. **This Motion seeks implementation and enforcement of the Committee's prior order, not adjudication of an unrelated matter. The conduct complained of is precisely what the stern warning anticipated—repetition of similar misconduct. This Committee need not treat each violation as a wholly new case when it has already established jurisdiction, found a pattern of misconduct, and issued explicit warning that continuation would merit escalated sanctions.**

42. Under ***Section 141, Rule XX of the House Rules*** and the Committee's inherent supervisory authority, this Committee possesses continuing jurisdiction to ensure that disciplinary sanctions achieve their corrective purpose. Where a Member defies a stern warning through conduct that falls squarely within the warned-against category, the Committee's jurisdiction is not only retained but activated.

43. The alternative interpretation—that each new violation requires a completely new case filing despite an existing stern warning—would reduce disciplinary warnings to empty formalism and encourage serial violators to exploit procedural delays. The House cannot have intended such an absurd result when it authorized this Committee to issue stern warnings as part of disciplinary orders.

44. Accordingly, this Motion properly invokes the Committee's continuing jurisdiction over this matter and seeks enforcement of the stern warning through the additional suspension it explicitly contemplated.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, premises considered, Complainants most respectfully pray that this Honorable Committee:

1. **FIND** Respondent Rep. Francisco "Kiko" A. Barzaga guilty of repeated violations of the House Code of Conduct, in direct contravention of the stern warning issued by this Committee and adopted by the House on 01 December 2025;

2. **RECOMMEND** to the House of Representatives the imposition of an additional **SUSPENSION of sixty (60) days without the benefit of salaries and allowances**, pursuant to *Section 141(a), Rule XX of the House Rules* and in accordance with the stern warning previously adopted; and

3. **ISSUE** a final and unequivocal warning that any further violations of the House Code of Conduct shall result in proceedings for expulsion from the House of Representatives.

Other reliefs as may be just and proper under the circumstances are likewise prayed for.

Quezon City, 26 January 2026.

JOTER M. LOBO
Counsel for Complainants
PTR No. 39858AA; 01-07-2026; Pasig City
IBP No. INV-566396; 12-16-2025; RSM
Roll No. 69937
MCLE Compliance No. VIII-0007875; 04/03/24

Copy Furnished:

Representative FRANCISCO A. BARZAGA
Fourth District of Cavite,
Room 402, Ramon V. Mitra Building, House of Representatives,
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

HON. FRANCISCO "KIKO" BARZAGA
Representative, 4th District of Cavite
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Political Affairs Assistant II

"Annex A" and series



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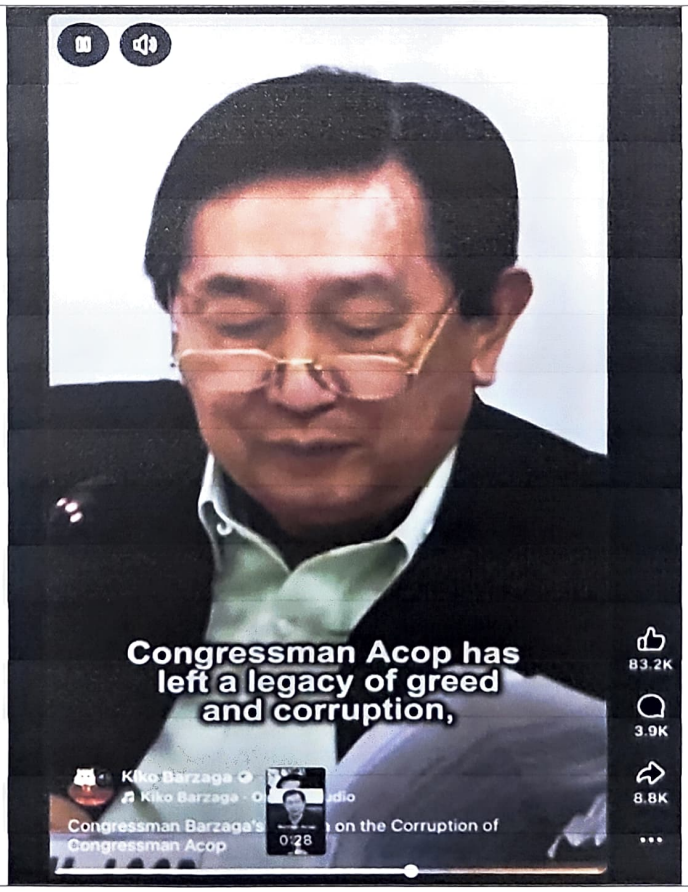


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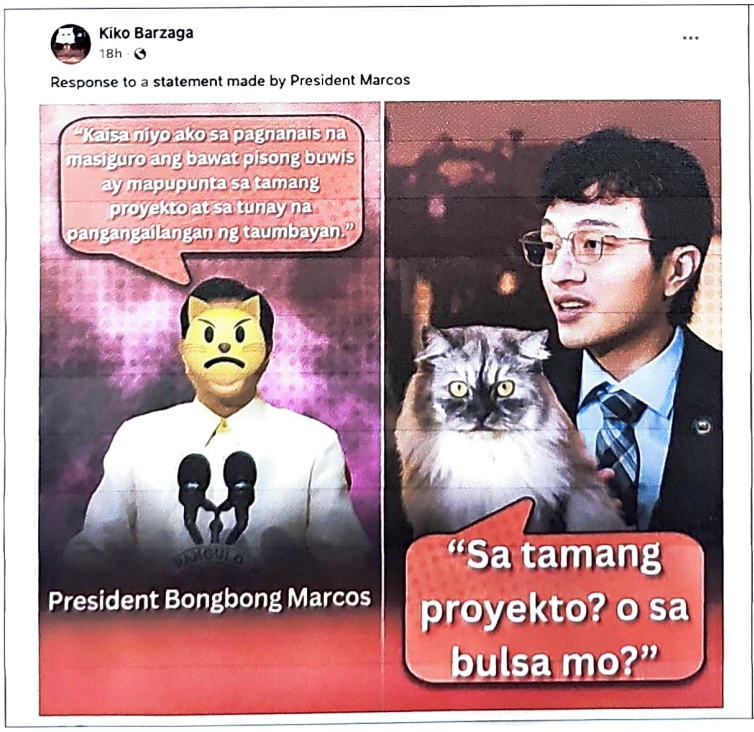
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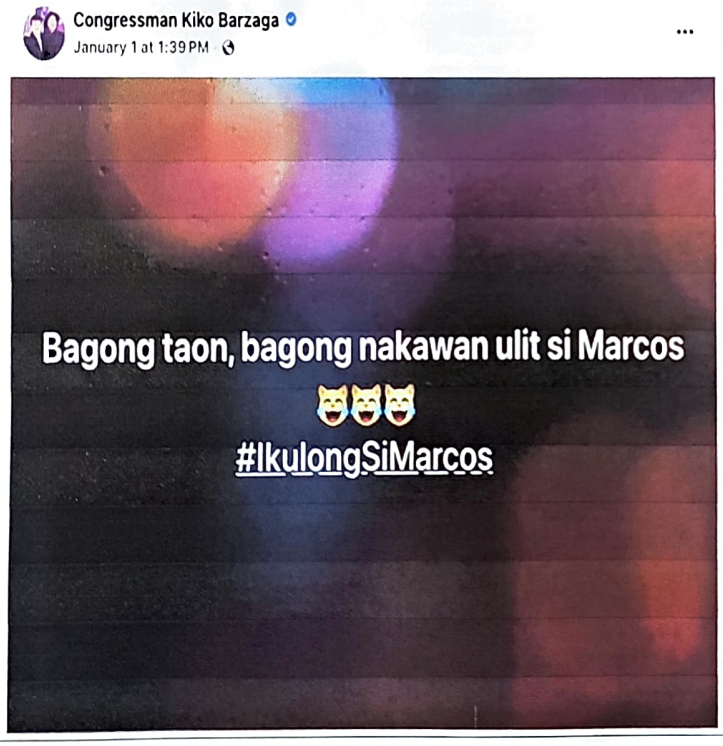


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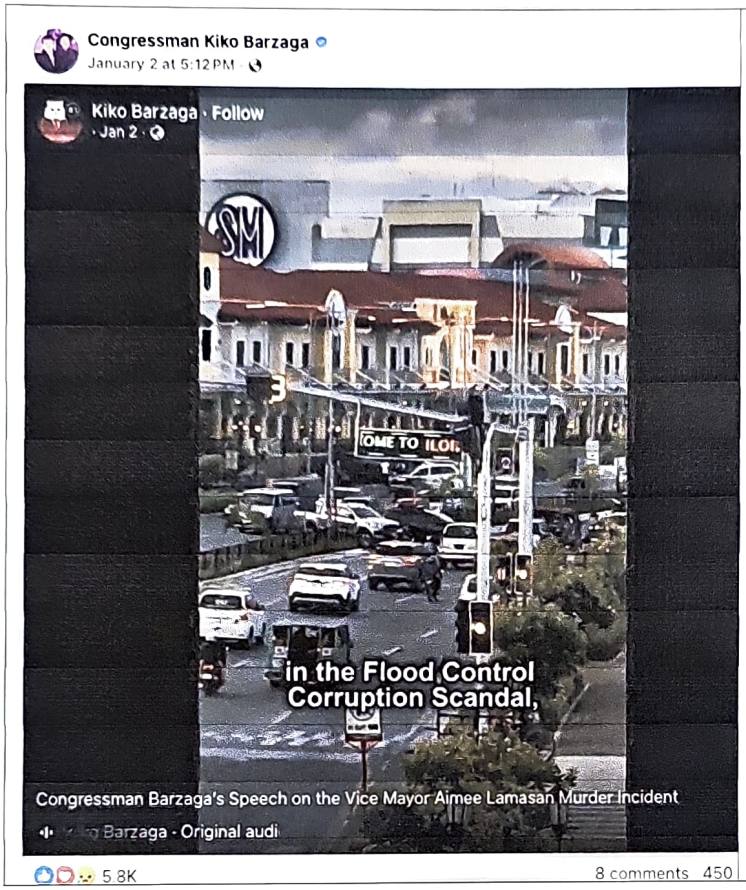
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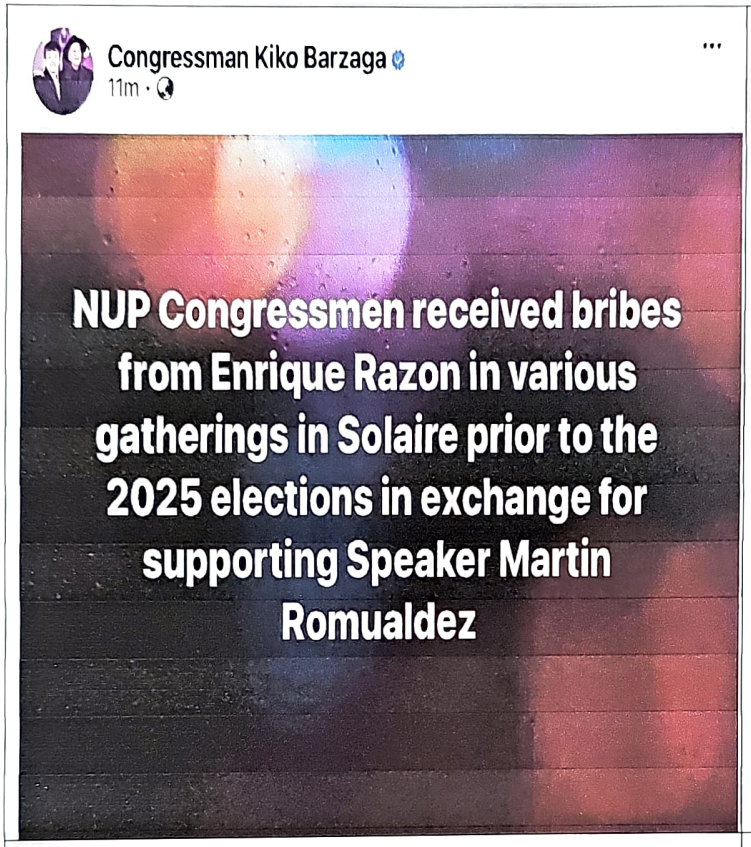
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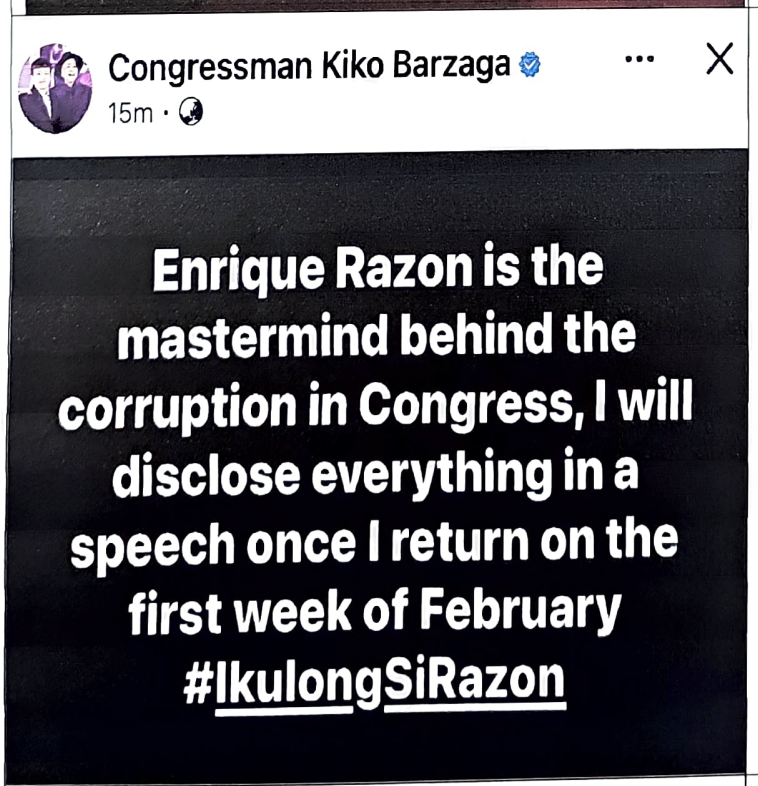
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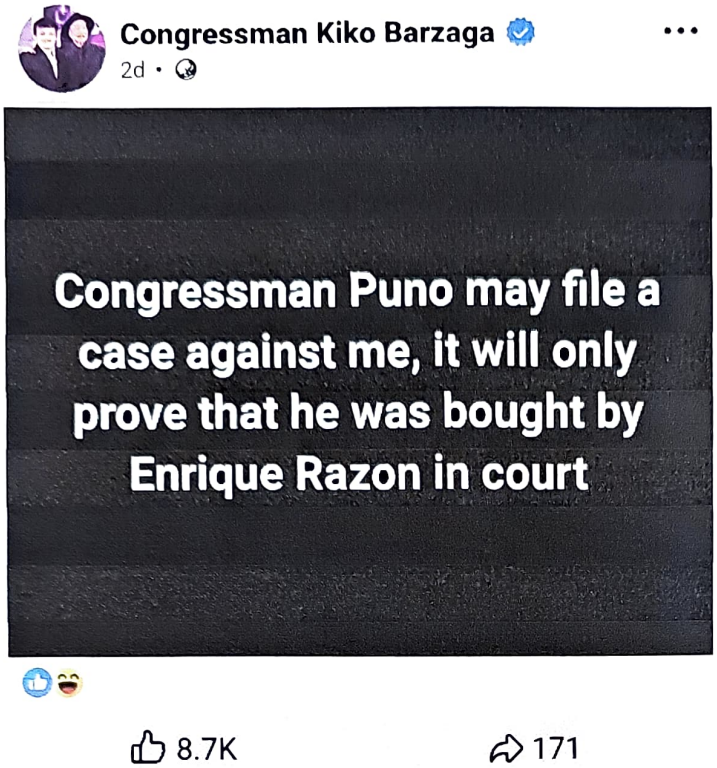
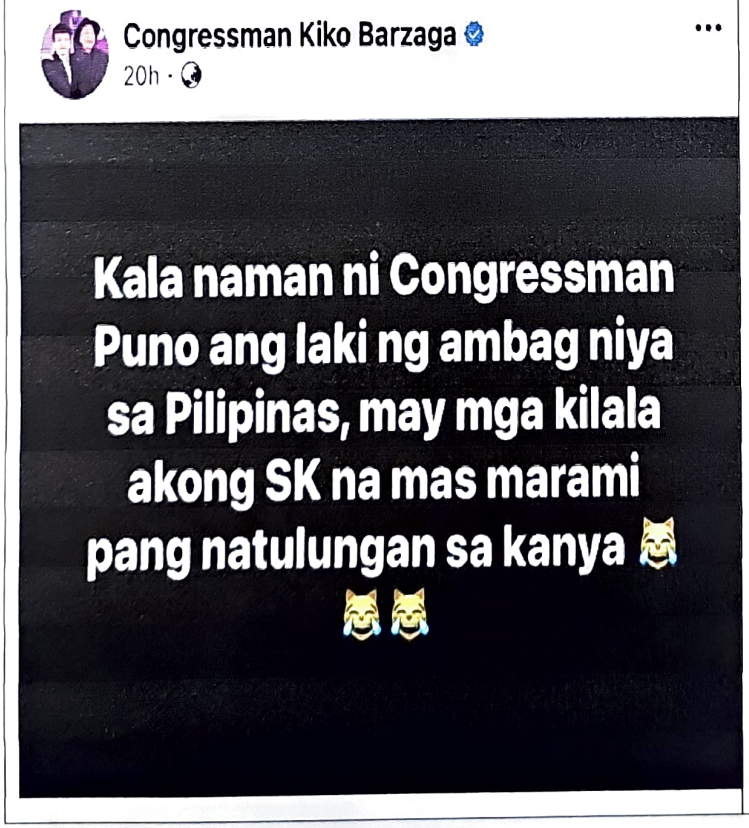


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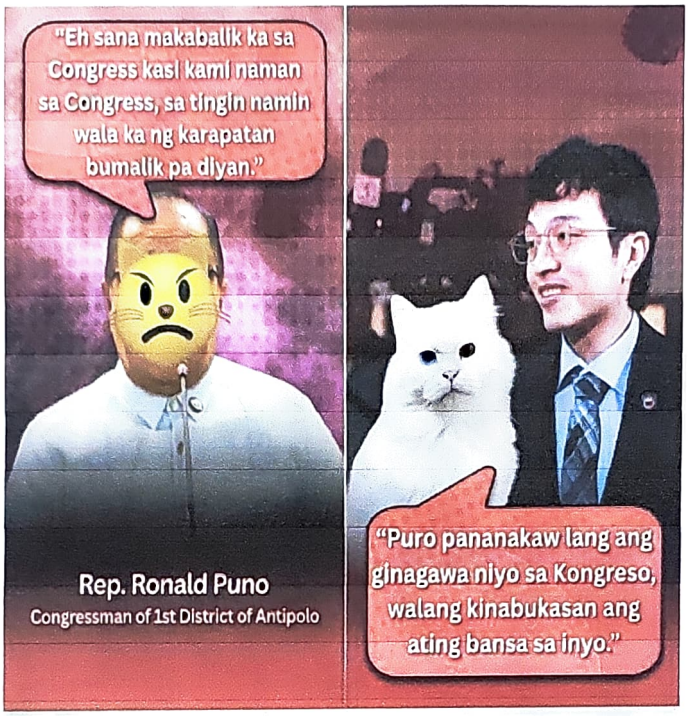




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Kiko Barzaga
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Response to a statement made by Congressman Puno



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