JOURNAL NO. 1
Monday, July 28, 2003

CALL TO ORDER

This being the day fixed in accordance with the Constitution for the beginning of the Third Regular Session of the Twelfth Congress, Speaker Jose De Venecia Jr. called the session to order at ten o'clock in the morning.

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PRAYER

Subsequently, pursuant to Section 71, Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the House Chorale led the singing of the National Anthem and thereafter, the Chair recognized Rep. Emmanuel Joel J. Villanueva for the following invocation:

Father God in heaven, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God who said in His Word that those who honor Him, He will honor; but those who despise Him, they shall be disdained.

We are gathered here today to honor and glorify Your Holy name as we continue to acknowledge that apart from You, we can do nothing. We thank and praise You for this wonderful time and opportunity to once again serve You, our country and our people. We pray that You continue to cleanse our hearts, our minds and our entire being with Your most precious blood shed in Calvary. Help us to do what we ought to do for the greatest interest of our country and people and for Your glory alone.

As we open this Third Regular Session of the Twelfth Congress, let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to You, our Lord, our God, our Savior Jesus Christ. I pray that you bless every Member of this august Chamber, including our families and loved ones more than ever before.

Bless our country and people exceedingly, abundantly, and our ability to think and pray to the power of Your Holy Ghost. We continue to proclaim that Jesus is Lord over this country, and I pray that the love of God and the blessing of His Son, Jesus, and the sweet fellowship of the Holy Spirit be upon each and everyone of us now and forevermore as we carefully give back to You all the glory, all the honor, and all the praise in the name that is above every name.
In the name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen and Amen.

OPENING REMARKS OF
SPEAKER DE VENECIA

At the outset, Speaker De Venecia stated that the Body is opening its last crucial regular session of the Twelfth Congress. He said that only the previous day, the country was faced by the specter of the guns of a few soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) who had been misled into breaking away from the chain of command and rebelling against the State. He added that with the support and the courageous and determined leadership of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, together with the support of the leaders of Congress, the different political parties, the church, various denominations and civil society, the tragic adventure launched by a few misguided elements of the AFP came to an end without bloodshed.

The Speaker then congratulated each and every Member of the House representing all the political parties, including those in the Opposition, for their declared support for the leadership and constitutional authority of the civil government.

He also praised the leaders and officers of the AFP for their wise and determined response to the tragic action launched by a few misguided elements of the AFP.

The Speaker then encouraged the Members of the House to address the legitimate grievances of the rebel soldiers, officers and enlisted men who mounted the coup. He said that in less than 22 hours, the attempt to destabilize the government had come to an end and the House was praised by President Macapagal-Arroyo for the decisive support and action taken by the Members.

The Speaker stressed that the House must make good its claim that politics is not about winning elections but about making governance work for the people. He recalled that over the last two years, the House has carried out its task creditably to initiate meaningful economic, social, political and electoral reforms to strengthen Philippine recovery and confront international terrorism behind an alliance of nations in the region.
For the record, he continued, the House had written and approved 178 bills of national application and 554 bills on local concerns demanded by the people who cry out for immediate action.

The Speaker then cited the following bills that the House had passed which are now landmark economic and social reform laws that will make this Twelfth Congress truly memorable and worthy of the people's trust:

1. The Special Purpose Asset Vehicle Act;

2. The Electronic Procurement Act which has, in the judgment of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), already cut down corruption by imposing greater transparency in the awarding of public works contracts;

3. The amended version of the Anti-Money Laundering Act which ensures the Philippines' compliance with the structures of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and assures the unhampered flow of remittances - which average $6 to $8 billion annually - from overseas Filipino workers;

4. The Dangerous Drugs Act - the passage of which by the House propelled President Macapagal-Arroyo and the leaders of Southeast Asia to mount a powerful and nationwide campaign against drug lords and drug syndicates that are plaguing millions of Filipino youth;

5. The National Government Center Land Disposition and Utilization Act; and

6. The Magna Carta for Home and Micro-Enterprises.

Thereafter, the Speaker said that for the first time in history, the House had enabled Filipinos, working and living abroad, to cast their votes in the national elections starting with the May 2004 elections even when there were those who doubted its constitutionality, as the Supreme Court has affirmed the same as approved by the House and the Senate.

In fighting to reduce poverty, Speaker De Venecia stressed that the House had initiated a parallel strategy to fight terrorism. He added that the leadership of the House had led the creation of the tri-nation and anti-terrorist coalition between the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia that has now been approved by the three governments. He also added that the alliance has been bolstered this year by the accession of Thailand and Cambodia and by three other nations in Southeast Asia.

The Speaker stressed that the House had responded to the nation's call for deeper and more meaningful reforms to advance the national agenda. However, he lamented that a staggering total of 732 bills approved by the House out of which 178 are national and 554 are local bills are still pending in the Senate with two-thirds

of the Twelfth Congress already gone. He said that although these local bills are viewed by some national leaders as irrelevant and insignificant, for the House Members who have specific constituencies, these bills represent the collective aspirations, hopes and voices of the provinces, cities, towns and villages. He added that he wished the Senate will treat these local bills, not with dismissive contempt, but with unflagging attention. He then encouraged the Members to use their influence on their colleagues in the Senate to ensure that the major bills passed by the House will get Senate approval before the end of the Twelfth Congress.

The Speaker stated that among the bills pending in the Senate are the Farm Collateral Act which will benefit 2.7 million land reform farmers; the Securitization Act which will finance the requirements of the national economy, the National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) Law which will modernize and bring down the cost of the electricity transmission system; and the National Railways Modernization Act which will build the country's first modern railway backbone in 35 years from Manila to Northern Luzon.

The Speaker then informed the Body of the following railroad projects initiated by the House:

1. Construction of a railroad from Manila to Bulacan, to Pampanga, to Tarlac, to Pangasinan and La Union which will begin before the end of the year;

2. Construction of a railroad from Manila to Calamba City funded by the Korean government which will also begin before the end of the year;

3. Construction of a railroad from Calamba City across Laguna, Batangas, Quezon, across Camarines Sur to Legaspi, Albay and then through the mountains of Sorsogon, funded by the Chinese government; and

4. Construction of a railroad from Iligan City to Cagayan de Oro funded by the German, Austrian, French and Thai governments which contributed more than P53 million.

The Speaker also informed the Body of the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the French, Austrian and German governments and the Department of Transportation and Communications with the grant of a feasibility study leading to the start of the construction of a railway from Roxas City to Iloilo City in the Visayas.

Speaker De Venecia pointed out that the House has a crowded and potentially epoch-making agenda in the last regular session of the Twelfth Congress. He said that the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) has prioritized the proposed Anti-Terrorism Act which will enable intelligence agencies and law enforcers to respond more effectively to this deadly threat to the Filipino people and Southeast Asia. The Members of the House from Mindanao, he continued, are appealing to the Body for the final passage of this landmark legislation.

The Speaker thereafter underscored the need to reverse the historical decline in the country's revenue to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio which is down from a high of 19% in 1997 to 13% -- the lowest level in East Asia. However, he informed the Body that because of the dynamic reforms in the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC), the revenue collections had been strengthened significantly, thereby enabling the authorization by the President and the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management for the release of the public works entitlements of the Members of the House. He maintained that the House must continue to strengthen and increase the revenue capability of the government.

In addition, he cited the proposals to index the so-called "sin" taxes to

inflation and to "corporatize" the BIR, the latter of which was passed by the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Speaker further disclosed that another high priority measure is the Dual Citizenship Bill which the House and the Senate had already approved and which the Bicameral Conference Committee is expected to approve by August or early September 2003.

He then informed the Body that through the initiative of the House, a proposal was presented before the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) seeking the establishment of an ASEAN Anti-Poverty Fund which hopes to benefit the entrepreneurial poor of the country and the poorest families in Southeast Asia's urban and rural slums. He added that the House had also initiated the beginnings of an ASEAN Parliament by preparing a feasibility study which will be presented to the AIPO in Jakarta, Indonesia in September 2003.

Whereupon, the Speaker disclosed that over the last few months, the Committee on Constitutional Amendments chaired by Rep. Eduardo Antonio B. Nachura has been working with local government officials and representatives of civil society to realize the House vote on Concurrent Resolution No. 16. This concerted effort, he continued, has moved the Philippines closer to a historic shift to a unicameral parliamentary government and a federal state system.

Speaker De Venecia recognized that it is still uncertain as to whether or not the Senate will concur with the House decision to convert Congress into a constituent assembly to consider constitutional amendments. He however recalled that as pointed out by Deputy Speaker Raul M. Gonzalez, the tragic events that happened the previous day had compelled the Senate and the House to assign the highest political priority to the mother of all reforms which is the constitutional revision to bring about a unicameral parliament and a federal state system. He stressed that charter change is imperative because the inefficiency and inflexibility of the present system has begun to affect the people's daily lives.

The Speaker maintained that the two Houses of Congress have until September 15 at the latest to convene themselves into a constituent assembly. At the moment, he said, the measure is pending before the Senate for its plenary deliberation and should the Senate insist on a constitutional convention, the initiative will be decided upon at the level of the conference committee. He expressed hope that a constituent assembly will eventually be convened to consider the two drafts of a revised Constitution which were presented by two groups of leaders of civil society. He revealed that said drafts were to be presented to the House the following morning and to the Senate, later in the afternoon. He hoped that the Committee on Constitutional Amendments of both Houses will reconcile the two drafts so the people will say that Congress has done its duty and that it was civil society which crafted the constitutional amendments.

Furthermore, the Speaker opined that the latest coup d'etat was another reminder of how rigid the presidential system is as compared to the parliamentary system of dealing with the people's dissatisfaction and grievances. He shared the pride of the Members in knowing that the House has been the first to note the growing consensus for Charter change and act on it decisively despite the opposition of an influential minority from the Senate. He noted that the trend of public opinion in recent weeks is already turning in favor of constitutional change.

At this point, the Speaker cited another necessary political reform in the Campaign Finance Reform Act which allows state funding of political parties to reduce the role of interest groups and "money politics" and generally, to level the political playing field. He remarked that those who say that political change can wait deny the urgency of the country's need for a new beginning. He noted that the Members see leading the people toward that new beginning as their sacred duty.

In closing, the Speaker declared the Third Session of the Twelfth Congress open.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY
OF REP. PADILLA

Upon recognition by the Chair, Minority Leader Carlos M. Padilla initially commended the Speaker for his opening statement. He then raised a parliamentary inquiry regarding the internal security of the House in connection with the opening of the Third Regular Session and the President's State of the Nation Address (SONA).

Thereupon, he narrated that he entered the premises of the Batasan complex at eight-thirty that morning and that his vehicle was stopped and searched upon reaching the gate. He said that he does not mind being searched if it is necessary in the name of national security, like when he was bodily searched upon boarding a plane in Cagayan de Oro City a few days back.

In questioning the procedure adopted by the House in the matter of its internal security, Rep. Padilla expressed his surprise as to why the people who were manning the gates of the Batasan complex and who were searching the vehicles entering the same do not belong to the House security contingent headed by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Gen. Bayani Fabic but instead belong to the Presidential Security Group (PSG). He inquired whether the House has become subservient to the Executive branch, adding that his inquiry does not only involve a House procedure but constitutional issues as well.

Rep. Padilla opined that he had to bring the matter to the attention of the House leadership because it is the height of discourtesy. He explained that this is like a Member entering his own house but being searched by the guard of his neighbor. He believed that the matter involves courtesy among equal and independent branches of government.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. MARTINEZ

Thereafter, Rep. Clavel A. Martinez sought recognition from the Chair.

Before the Chair could recognize Rep. Martinez, Majority Leader Neptali M. Gonzales II however asked that the Body first dispense with the parliamentary inquiry of Rep. Padilla.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

In reply to the inquiry of Rep. Padilla, the Chair underscored that the House is not and will never be subservient to the other branches of government. He however disclosed that in the light of the recent rebellion that struck the country in the last several hours, General Fabic had requested that the House's limited security force be beefed up by a composite security force coming from elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

The Chair emphasized that the request was made considering that the House will play host to the President, the Members of the Senate, the Cabinet and the Judiciary, local government officials, and other dignitaries. He however gave the assurance that the Chamber will look into the concerns of Rep. Padilla.

REMARKS OF REP. AQUINO (A.)

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Agapito A. Aquino remarked that the Members do not mind being searched by the security contingent of the House. If the House security however needs some augmentation, he suggested that the outsiders should just act as observers to what the men of General Fabic are doing. He said that

the outsiders should not act as inspectors.

The Chair took note of Rep. Aquino's suggestion.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Rep. Martinez.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. MARTINEZ

In reaction to the point raised by Rep. Padilla, Rep. Martinez manifested that she felt affected, being one of those who suggested that extra security measures should be taken within the House premises that day in view of the unusual circumstances that had transpired and the fact that all the officers of the government hierarchy will be in the House that day. She explained that the security procedure was not intended to humiliate or subject the Members to unnecessary searches but rather to adopt precautionary measures. She expressed hope that her colleagues will view the matter in a positive way rather than cast aspersion against the House leadership.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. ABLAN

Whereupon, Rep. Roque R. Ablan Jr. sought recognition from the Chair.

The Chair however first recognized Rep. Jacinto V. Paras.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. PARAS

Rep. Paras concurred with Rep. Martinez on the need to beef up the House security contingent.

Before Rep. Paras could continue with his manifestation, the Chair recognized Rep. Padilla on a point of order.

POINT OF ORDER OF REP. PADILLA

Rep. Padilla pointed out that the Chair had already properly responded to his parliamentary inquiry. He however opined that Rep. Paras can take the floor on another point if he so desires but not on the point which he had earlier raised.

POINT OF ORDER OF REP. ABLAN

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Ablan requested for a Roll Call before the Members discuss anything in the Chamber.

ROLL CALL

Thereupon, upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General called the Roll of Members elected by legislative districts, apportioned among the provinces, cities and party-list affiliations, to wit:

ROLL OF MEMBERS

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGIONAL (NCR)

CITY OF MANILA

First District

ERNESTO “BANZAI” NIEVA

Second District

JAIME C. LOPEZ

Third District

HARRY C. ANGPING***

Fourth District

RODOLFO C. BACANI

Fifth District

JOEY D. HIZON*

Sixth District

MARK “MJ” JIMENEZ***

QUEZON CITY

First District

_____

Second District

ISMAEL “CHUCK” G. MATHAY III*

Third District

MA. THERESA T. DEFENSOR*

Fourth District

NANETTE CASTELO DAZA

CALOOCAN CITY

First District

ENRICO R. ECHIVERRI*

Second District

EDGAR R. ERICE*

MAKATI CITY

First District

TEODORO L. LOCSIN JR.*

Second District

AGAPITO A. AQUINO

PASAY CITY

Lone District

CONSUELO A. DY

MANDALUYONG CITY

Lone District

NEPTALI M. GONZALES II

PASIG CITY

Lone District

HENRY P. LANOT*

MARIKINA CITY

Lone District

DEL R. DE GUZMAN

LAS PIÑAS CITY

Lone District

CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

MUNTINLUPA CITY

Lone District

ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON*

PARAÑAQUE CITY

Lone District

EDUARDO C. ZIALCITA

VALENZUELA CITY

First District

SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN*

Second District

MAGTANGGOL T. GUNIGUNDO I

SAN JUAN

Lone District

RONALDO B. ZAMORA

MALABON/NAVOTAS

Lone District

FEDERICO S. SANDOVAL II*

PATEROS/TAGUIG

Lone District

ALAN PETER S. CAYETANO*

REGION I

ILOCOS NORTE (with the City of Laoag)

First District

ROQUE R. ABLAN JR.

Second District

IMEE R. MARCOS

ILOCOS SUR (with the Cities of Vigan and Can-don)

First District

SALACNIB F. BATERINA

Second District

ERIC D. SINGSON*

LA UNION (with the City of San Fernando)

First District

MANUEL C. ORTEGA*

Second District

TOMAS M. DUMPIT*

PANGASINAN (with the Cities of Dagupan, San Carlos, Urdaneta and Alaminos)

First District

ARTHUR F. CELESTE*

Second District

AMADO T. ESPINO JR.*

Third District

GENEROSO DC. TULAGAN

Fourth District

JOSE DE VENECIA JR.

Fifth District

MARK O. COJUANGCO*

Sixth District

CONRADO M. ESTRELLA III*

REGION II

BATANES

Lone District

FLORENCIO B. ABAD

CAGAYAN (with the City of Tuguegarao)

First District

JACK ENRILE***

Second District

CELIA TAGANAS LAYUS

Third District

MANUEL N. MAMBA*

ISABELA (with the Cities of Santiago and Cauayan)

First District

RODOLFO B. ALBANO

Second District

EDWIN C. UY

Third District

FAUSTINO “BOJIE” G. DY III*

Fourth District

GIORGIDI B. AGGABAO*

NUEVA VIZCAYA

Lone District

CARLOS M. PADILLA

QUIRINO

Lone District

JUNIE E. CUA

REGION III

BATAAN (with the City of Balanga)

First District

ANTONINO P. ROMAN

Second District

ENRIQUE T. GARCIA JR.

BULACAN (with the Cities of San Jose del Monte and Meycauayan)

First District

WILHELMINO M.
SY-ALVARADO

Second District

WILFRIDO B. VILLARAMA

Third District

LORNA C. SILVERIO*

Fourth District

REYLINA “NENENG” G.
NICOLAS

NUEVA ECIJA (with the Cities of Cabanatuan, Palayan, San Jose, Gapan and Science City of Muñoz)

First District

JOSEFINA M. JOSON

Second District

ELEUTERIO R. VIOLAGO
Third District

AURELIO M. UMALI

Fourth District

RAUL L. VILLAREAL*

PAMPANGA (with the Cities of Angeles and San Fernando)

First District

FRANCIS “BLUEBOY” L.
NEPOMUCENO***

Second District

ZENAIDA G. CRUZ-DUCUT

Third District

OSCAR S. RODRIGUEZ

Fourth District

JUAN PABLO “RIMPY” P.
BONDOC

TARLAC (with the City of Tarlac)

First District

GILBERTO C. TEODORO JR.*

Second District

BENIGNO C. AQUINO III*

Third District

JESLI A. LAPUS

ZAMBALES (with the City of Olongapo)

First District

JAMES J. GORDON JR.

Second District

RUBEN D. TORRES

REGION IV

AURORA

Lone District

BELLAFLOR J. ANGARA
CASTILLO*

BATANGAS (with the Cities of Batangas, Lipa and Tanauan)

First District

EILEEN ERMITA-BUHAIN*

Second District

FRANK PEREZ

Third District

VICTORIA HERNANDEZ REYES

Fourth District

OSCAR L. GOZOS*

CAVITE (with the Cities of Tagaytay, Cavite and Trece Martires)

First District

PLARIDEL M. ABAYA*

Second District

GILBERT C. REMULLA

Third District

_____

LAGUNA (with the Cities of San Pablo and Calamba)

First District

ULIRAN T. JOAQUIN

Second District

JOAQUIN M. CHIPECO JR.

Third District

DANTON Q. BUESER

Fourth District

RODOLFO S. SAN LUIS*

MARINDUQUE

Lone District

EDMUND O. REYES JR.*

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

Lone District

JOSEPHINE Y. RAMIREZ-SATO

ORIENTAL MINDORO (with the City of Calapan)

First District

CHARITY P. LEVISTE

Second District

ALFONSO V. UMALI JR.

PALAWAN (with the City of Puerto Princesa)

First District

VICENTE A. SANDOVAL

Second District

ABRAHAM KAHLIL B. MITRA*

QUEZON (with the City of Lucena)

First District

RAFAEL P. NANTES

Second District

LYNNETTE A. PUNZALAN*

Third District

ALETA C. SUAREZ

Fourth District

GEORGILU R. YUMUL-HERMIDA

RIZAL (with the City of Antipolo)

First District

MICHAEL JOHN “JACK” R. DUAVIT*

Second District

ISIDRO S. RODRIGUEZ JR.

Antipolo City

VICTOR R. SUMULONG

ROMBLON

Lone District

PERPETUO B. YLAGAN

REGION V

ALBAY (with the Cities of Legaspi, Ligao and Tabaco)

First District

CIELO KRISEL LAGMAN-LUISTRO

Second District

CARLOS R. IMPERIAL***

Third District

JOEY SARTE SALCEDA*

CAMARINES NORTE

Lone District

RENATO J. UNICO JR.*

CAMARINES SUR (with the Cities of Naga and Iriga)

First District

ROLANDO G. ANDAYA JR.

Second District

CHO ROCO

Third District

FELIX WILLIAM B. FUENTEBELLA*

Fourth District

FELIX R. ALFELOR JR.

CATANDUANES

Lone District

JOSEPH A. SANTIAGO*

MASBATE (with the City of Masbate)

First District

VIDA V. ESPINOSA

Second District

EMILIO R. ESPINOSA JR.

Third District

FAUSTO L. SEACHON JR.*

SORSOGON (with the City of Sorsogon)

First District

FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

Second District

JOSE G. SOLIS

REGION VI

AKLAN

Lone District

GABRIELLE V. CALIZO*

ANTIQUE

Lone District

EXEQUIEL B. JAVIER

CAPIZ (with the City of Roxas)

First District

RODRIGUEZ D. DADIVAS

Second District

FRED H. CASTRO*

GUIMARAS

Lone District

EDGAR T. ESPINOSA

ILOILO (with the City of Passi)

First District

OSCAR G. GARIN*

Second District

AUGUSTO “BOBOY” SYJUCO*

Third District

ARTHUR D. DEFENSOR

Fourth District

NARCISO D. MONFORT

Fifth District

ROLEX T. SUPLICO*

ILOILO CITY

Lone District

RAUL M. GONZALEZ

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL (with the Cities of San Carlos, Cadiz, Bago, La Carlota, Silay, Kabankalan, Sagay, Victorias, Escalante, Sipalay and Himamaylan)

First District

JULIO A. LEDESMA IV*

Second District

ALFREDO G. MARAÑON JR.*

Third District

JOSE CARLOS V. LACSON**

Fourth District

CARLOS O. COJUANGCO***

Fifth District

J. APOLINARIO L. LOZADA JR.

Sixth District

GENARO M. ALVAREZ JR.

BACOLOD CITY

Lone District

MONICO O. PUENTEVELLA*

REGION VII

BOHOL (with the City of Tagbilaran)

First District

EDGAR M. CHATTO

Second District

ROBERTO C. CAJES

Third District

ELADIO “BOY” JALA

CEBU (with the Cities of Danao, Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue, Toledo and Talisay)

First District

JOSE R. GULLAS

Second District

SIMEON L. KINTANAR

Third District

ANTONIO P. YAPHA JR.*

Fourth District

CLAVEL A. MARTINEZ*

Fifth District

JOSEPH “ACE” H. DURANO

Sixth District

NERISSA CORAZON SOON-RUIZ
CEBU CITY

First District

RAUL V. DEL MAR

Second District

ANTONIO V. CUENCO*

NEGROS ORIENTAL (with the Cities of Bais, Canlaon, Dumaguete, Bayawan and Tanjay)

First District

JACINTO V. PARAS

Second District

EMILIO C. MACIAS II

Third District

HERMINIO G. TEVES

SIQUIJOR

Lone District

ORLANDO A. FUA JR.

REGION VIII
BILIRAN

Lone District

GERARDO S. ESPINA SR.*

LEYTE (with the Cities of Tacloban and Ormoc)

First District

TED FAILON

Second District

TRINIDAD “EBBIE” G. APOSTOL

Third District

EDUARDO K. VELOSO

Fourth District

EUFROCINO M. CODILLA SR.*

Fifth District

CARMEN L. CARI

SOUTHERN LEYTE (with the City of Maasin)

Lone District

ANICETO G. SALUDO JR.

EASTERN SAMAR

Lone District

MARCELINO C. LIBANAN*

NORTHERN SAMAR

First District

HARLIN CAST. ABAYON*

Second District

ROMUALDO T. VICENCIO

SAMAR (with the City of Calbayog)

First District

REYNALDO S. UY

Second District

ANTONIO EDUARDO B.
NACHURA

REGION IX

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE (with the Cities of Dapitan and Dipolog)

First District

CECILIA G. JAJOSJOS-
CARREON*

Second District

ROSELLER L. BARINAGA

Third District

ANGEL M. CARLOTO

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR (with the City of Pagadian)

First District

ISIDORO E. REAL JR.*

Second District

FILOMENA 'NENET S.
SAN JUAN, M.D.*

ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY

Lone District

BELMA A. CABILAO

ZAMBOANGA CITY

Lone District

CELSO L. LOBREGAT*

REGION X

BUKIDNON (with the Cities of Malaybalay and Valencia)

First District

J. R. NEREUS O. ACOSTA

Second District

BERTHOBAL R. ANCHETA

Third District

JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI*

CAMIGUIN

Lone District

JURDIN JESUS M. ROMUALDO

LANAO DEL NORTE (with the City of Iligan)

First District

ALIPIO CIRILO V. BADELLES*

Second District

ABDULLAH D. DIMAPORO

MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL (with the Cities of Oroquieta, Ozamiz and Tangub)

First District

ERNIE DULALAS CLARETE

Second District

HERMINIA M. RAMIRO

MISAMIS ORIENTAL (with the City of Gingoog)

First District

OSCAR S. MORENO*

Second District

AUGUSTO H. BACULIO*

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

Lone District

CONSTANTINO G. JARAULA

REGION XI

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

First District

MANUEL “WAY KURAT” E. ZAMORA

Second District

PROSPERO S. AMATONG

DAVAO DEL NORTE (with the Cities of Tagum, Panabo and Island Garden City of Samal)

First District

ARREL R. OLAÑO*

Second District

ANTONIO R. FLOIRENDO JR.*

DAVAO DEL SUR (with the City of Digos)

First District

DOUGLAS RA. CAGAS

Second District

CLAUDE P. BAUTISTA*

DAVAO ORIENTAL

First District

CORAZON N. MALANYAON

Second District

J. MAYO Z. ALMARIO

DAVAO CITY

First District

PROSPERO C. NOGRALES

Second District

VINCENT J. GARCIA*

Third District

RUY ELIAS C. LOPEZ*

REGION XII

NORTH COTABATO (with the City of Kidapawan)

First District

EMMYLOU J. TALIÑO-SANTOS

Second District

GREGORIO T. IPONG

SARANGANI

Lone District

ERWIN L. CHIONGBIAN*

SOUTH COTABATO (with the Cities of General Santos and Koronadal)

First District

DARLENE R. ANTONINO-CUSTODIO

Second District

ARTHUR “DODO” Y. PINGOY JR., MD.*

SULTAN KUDARAT (With the City of Tacurong)

Lone District

ANGELO O. MONTILLA

CORDILLERA AUTONOMOUS REGION (CAR)

ABRA

Lone District

LUIS P. BERSAMIN JR.

APAYAO

Lone District

ELIAS C. BULUT JR.

BENGUET (with the City of Baguio)

First District

MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN

Second District

SAMUEL M. DANGWA***

IFUGAO

Lone District

SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO

KALINGA

Lone District

LAURENCE B. WACNANG

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

Lone District

ROY S. PILANDO
AUTONOMOUS REGION IN
MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM)

BASILAN (with the City of Isabela)

Lone District

GERRY A. SALAPUDDIN*

LANAO DEL SUR (with the City of Marawi)

First District

FAYSAH MANIRI RACMAN
DUMARPA

Second District

BENASING O. MACARAMBON JR.

MAGUINDANAO

First District

DIDAGEN P. DILANGALEN

Second District

GUIMID P. MATALAM***

SULU

First District

HUSSIN U. AMIN

Second District

MUNIR M. ARBISON***

TAWI-TAWI

Lone District

SORAYA C. JAAFAR*

CARAGA REGION

AGUSAN DEL NORTE (with the City of Butuan)

First District

LEOVIGILDO B. BANAAG*

Second District

EDELMIRO A. AMANTE
AGUSAN DEL SUR

Lone District

RODOLFO “OMPONG” G. PLAZA***

SURIGAO DEL NORTE (with the City of Surigao)

First District

GLENDA B. ECLEO*

Second District

ACE S. BARBERS

SURIGAO DEL SUR (with the City of Bislig)

First District

PROSPERO A. PICHAY JR.

Second District

JESNAR R. FALCON

PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES

1. MARIO JOYO AGUJA - AKBAYAN
2. LORETTA ANN P. ROSALES - AKBAYAN
3. ERNESTO DELA CRUZ PABLO - APEC
4. SUNNY ROSE A. MADAMBA- APEC
5. EDGAR L. VALDEZ - APEC
6. CRISPIN B. BELTRAN* - BAYAN MUNA
7. LIZA L. MAZA* - BAYAN MUNA
8. SATUR C. OCAMPO* - BAYAN MUNA
9. LEONILA CHAVEZ - BUTIL
10. BENJAMIN A. CRUZ - BUTIL
11. MA. BLANCA KIM BERNARDO-LOKIN - CIBAC
12. EMMANUEL JOEL V. VILLANUEVA - CIBAC

With 133 Members present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

---

* Appeared after the Roll Call
** On official mission (abroad)
*** Officially notified the House, through the Secretariat, of his/her absence

REMARKS OF REP. PARAS

At this point, Rep. Paras sought permission to comment on the concern raised by Rep. Martinez.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Gonzales, the session was suspended at 10:53 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:55 a.m., the session was resumed.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. PARAS

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Paras stated that while he fully agrees with Rep. Martinez, he had personally experienced indignities while entering the gates of Congress. He pointed out that the car pass provided to the Members with the order from the Speaker that it should be displayed in front of their vehicles, should have served as enough notice to the security. Despite this, he observed that the Members still had to be searched, which connotes that they were not supreme in their own jurisdiction.

He pointed out that even if the President was set to deliver her State of the Nation address that day, the dignity of the Members should not be compromised at any time.

He thereafter proposed that as a corrective measure, one entrance at the gate should be provided solely for the Members, and another for non-Members and guests alike.

The Speaker duly noted Rep. Paras' observation.

MOTION TO CONSIDER
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1208

Rep. Gonzales moved for the consideration of House Resolution No. 1208. He then requested the Secretary General to read the title of the Resolution.

REMARKS OF REP. DILANGALEN

Before the Body could proceed, Rep. Didagen P. Dilangalen noted that in the Order of Business, Item No. 8 concerns the oathtaking of new Members of the House.

He pointed out that if the Members start with Item No. 3 which is the consideration of House Resolution No. 1208, it would mean that the Body is already in the process of deliberation. In this case, he pointed out that the seven new Members would merely act as part of the audience or as spectators rather than as participants in the deliberation.

With due respect to Rep. Gonzales, Rep. Dilangalen moved that the oathtaking of the new Members be administered immediately to enable them to participate in the deliberations of the House on that day.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

At this juncture, the Chair motu proprio suspended the session at 10:58 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:59 a.m., the session was resumed.

WITHDRAWAL OF
REP. GONZALES' MOTION

Whereupon, Rep. Gonzales withdrew his motion to consider House Resolution No. 1208.

MANIFESTATION OF REP. GONZALES

In response to the statement of Rep. Dilangalen, and with the permission of the Chair, Rep. Gonzales informed the Members that the House has received Resolution No. NBC 03-001 of the National Board of Canvassers (NBC) of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) proclaiming the election of the following nominees of the Party-List: Reps. Rene M. Velarde of Buhay Hayaang Yumabong (BUHAY); Mujiv Hataman of Anak Mindanao (AMIN); Dioscoro A. Granada of Alyansang Bayanihan ng mga Magsasaka at Manggagawang Bukid at Mangingisda (ABA); Emerito S. Calderon of the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation (COCOFED); Renato B. Magtubo of Partido ng Manggagawa (PM); Jose Virgilio L. Bautista of SANLAKAS; and Patricia M. Sarenas of ABANSE! PINAY. He added that the aforesaid Party-List nominees were all present in the gallery and were ready to take their oaths of office.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Gonzales, the session was suspended to enable the Party-List nominees and their respective families to ascend to the rostrum.

It was 11:01 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 11:04 a .m., the session was resumed.

OATH-TAKING OF NEW MEMBERS

At this juncture, the following new Members took their oaths of office as Party-List Representatives before the Body with Speaker De Venecia officiating: Reps. Velarde, Hataman, Granada, Calderon, Magtubo, Bautista and Sarenas.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

At 11:08 a.m., the Speaker suspended the session to enable the Members of the House to welcome the Party-List Representatives.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 11:09 p.m., the session was resumed.

CONSIDERATION OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1208

On motion of Rep. Gonzales, there being no objection, the Body considered House Resolution No. 1208.
Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title and text of the Resolution, to wit:
"RESOLUTION INFORMING THE SENATE THAT A QUORUM BEING PRESENT, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS."

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That the Senate be informed that a quorum being present, the House of Representatives has entered upon the exercise of its functions.

ADOPTION OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1208

On motion of Rep. Gonzales, there being no objection, the Body adopted House Resolution No. 1208.

CONSIDERATION OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1209

On motion of Rep. Gonzales, there being no objection, the Body considered House Resolution No. 1209.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title and text of the Resolution, to wit:

"RESOLUTION INFORMING HER EXCELLENCY, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS."

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That Her Excellency, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines, be informed that the House of Representatives has entered upon the exercise of its functions.

ADOPTION OF
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1209

On motion of Rep. Gonzales, there being no objection, the Body adopted House Resolution No. 1209.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

On motion of Rep. Gonzales, there being no objection, the Body considered House Concurrent Resolution No. 23.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title and text of the Resolution, to wit:

"CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO HOLD A JOINT SESSION TO HEAR THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES."

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That both Houses of the Congress of the Republic of the Philippines hold a Joint Session on July twenty-eighth, Two Thousand and Three, at four o'clock in the afternoon in the Session Hall of the House of Representatives, to hear the message of the President of the Philippines.

ADOPTION OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

On motion of Rep. Gonzales, there being no objection, the Body adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 1208.

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the following Messages from the Senate which were consigned to the Archives or included in the Calendar of Business for the Day:

Message dated July 28, 2003 informing the House of Representatives that the Senate adopted Senate Resolution No. 636, informing the House that a quorum is present in the Senate and that this Body has entered upon the exercise of its functions for the Third Regular Session of the Twelfth Congress of the Philippines;

TO THE ARCHIVES

Message dated July 28, 2003 informing the House of Representatives that the Senate concurred with House Concurrent Resolution No. 23; and

TO THE ARCHIVES

Message dated July 28, 2003 informing the House of Representatives that the Senate adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 15 to which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE CALENDAR OF BUSINESS FOR THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

On motion of Rep. Gonzales, there being no objection, the Body considered Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 15.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary General read the title of the Senate Concurrent Resolution, to wit:

"CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CREATING A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT CONGRESS, NOW CONVENED FOR ITS THIRD REGULAR SESSION OF THE TWELFTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES, IS READY TO HEAR HER STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS IN A JOINT SESSION OF BOTH HOUSES."

ADOPTION OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

On motion of Rep. Gonzales, there being no objection, the Body adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 15.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE
COMMITTEE ON NOTIFICATION

In view of the House's adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 15, on motion of Rep. Gonzales, there being no objection, the Body designated the following Members to notify the President that Congress is now convened and ready to hear her message: Reps. James J. Gordon Jr, Clavel A. Martinez, Narciso D. Monfort, Darlene R. Antonino-Custodio and Constantino G. Jaraula.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

In order to give the Members of the Joint Committee time to perform their assigned task and until the House contingent is ready to report back the accomplishment of the House, on motion of Rep. Gonzales, the session was suspended at 11:04 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 11:15 a.m., the session was resumed.

REMARKS OF REP. GONZALES

Upon resumption of session, Rep. Gonzales informed the Members that the Body has just received
the report from the Joint Committee that the President had been informed that Congress will be convened in Joint Session at four o'clock in the afternoon to hear her State of the Nation Address.

Whereupon, Rep. Gonzales reminded the Members that for this occasion, they must be present in the House an hour before the Joint Session.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

On motion of Rep. Gonzales, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until four o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, July 29, 2003.

It was 11:16 a.m.

- - - -